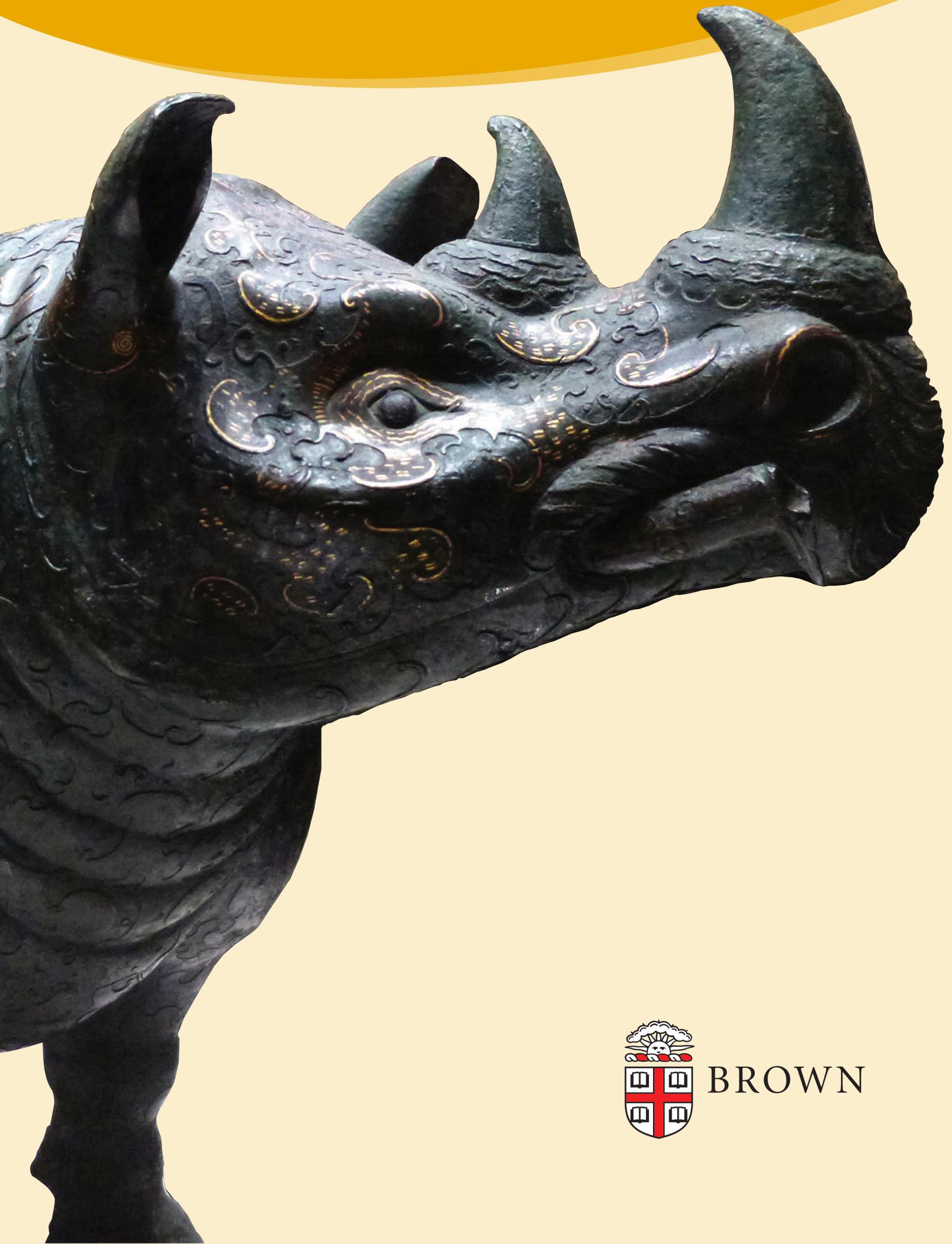


# HISTORY

MATTERS

Brown University Department of History

Volume 36 / Spring 2022



BROWN

# History Matters

Brown University Department of History / Volume 36 / Spring 2022

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### A Note to Our Readers

Those familiar with this publication may notice some improvements to this year's edition, including larger and clearer fonts, more space on the page, and links that allow readers to navigate to specific articles and external sites. These changes were designed with our readers in mind, to make the publication more accessible and easier to read on mobile devices and to enhance your ability to engage with the content and learn about our programs.

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Brown University Department of History

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## Cover Image

Before the bronze vessel shown on the cover was excavated in 1963, only ancient historians were aware that there had once been rhinoceroses in North China, occasionally mentioned in early texts because their hides made good armor. “Sumatran” rhinoceroses are named after the island where they happen to survive, but they once roamed across much of East Asia, including areas that are not much warmer than Rhode Island. This vessel was cast in the first or second centuries BCE in Chang’an, the capital of the Han Empire. The Han was as large and populous as the Roman Empire on the other end of Eurasia, both having about 60 million people. The dense populations in the lowlands of North China had long since eliminated rhinoceroses, so we can assume that this rather lifelike vessel depicted one that had been imported from the south for the emperor’s hunting park or private zoo. By then there was a long tradition of casting exquisite bronze vessels in the shape of wild animals, such as the elephant shown above, which was cast 1000 years earlier in the Yangzi River valley to the south.



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The history of the disappearance of rhinoceros in China is the history of how human societies have expanded and prospered. My book *The King's Harvest* argues that agriculture lies at the center of the story, since it allows us to build our own ecosystems, replacing biodiverse landscapes with ones that produce what we need. As farmers accumulated domesticated plants and animals and became more adept at raising them, they became capable of producing more food than they needed. This productivity allowed political organizations to form, and the more powerful they became, the better they became at mobilizing the resources of their societies to transform their environments: reorganizing river systems, colonizing new territory, and mining copper, lead, tin, silver and gold and using them to cast inlaid rhinoceros-shaped wine vessels. More generally, their economies were almost entirely based on agriculture, so agrarian states tended to encourage their subjects to convert more and more of it to farming and other taxable economic activities.

Along with early poems and excavated bones, bronze artefacts are useful sources for studying the ancient distribution of wild animals, and the processes that gradually eliminated them from centers of civilization. Just a few thousand years ago, the largest human settlements on earth were small outposts of our species in landscapes dominated by other animals. Now humans and our domesticated animals comprise over 95% of the mammals on earth by weight, and remaining large wild animals are mostly found in protected areas surrounded by a sea of agricultural humanity. Environmental historians work at the intersection of the social and natural sciences, combining the insights of both to understand how humans have interacted with and transformed their environments. Brown's history department is a leading center of research on environmental history.

## **Brian Lander**

Assistant Professor of History and Environment and Society



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# A Word from the Chair

**THE ACADEMIC YEAR BEGAN** with the U.S. military's withdrawal from Afghanistan and the rapid return of the Taliban to power. In February, Russia began a brutal war against Ukraine. And all the while the pandemic raged, wildfires spread, anti-Black violence and other forms of racial discrimination persisted, and the political divisions in the United States seemed to widen. This spring, word of an impending Supreme Court decision that promises to upend abortion laws is dominating the news and our thoughts. This confluence of events turned many people's attention to history, in search of explanations and context.

The History Department has been front and center in efforts in the university and beyond to understand and address these issues, providing informed analysis in popular and scholarly venues. And yet, speaking for myself, I'm aware of the danger in only turning our historical gaze to places and people when disaster strikes. We run the risk of mistaking a specific crisis for the whole story and misunderstanding the complex lives of those who continue struggling even after the headlines shift to something else. I welcome the interest in my area of expertise — Russia and the former Soviet Union — even as I am sickened by the reason for it and fear that what is happening in Ukraine, as important as it is, may distract us from the myriad other places and topics that deserve our attention. There is hope. I am inspired by what my colleagues and our students have done this past year. Their scholarship, teaching, and mentorship highlight the full spectrum of the human — and even non-human — experience. We can't possibly cover the whole globe and all of history. But for a department of our size, we manage to do an awful lot.

In the pages that follow, you will find a brief overview of some of the activities our faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates have been up to this year. You can learn about new books, recent Ph.D.s awarded, recent undergraduate theses completed, and



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much more. I hope you get a sense of a vibrant community engaged with the world, its inhabitants, and their pasts. Rest assured, there is far more going on in the department than can fit in these pages. To get a consistent update on our talks, articles, books, awards, etc., please consider joining us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), or [Instagram](#).

In the departments coming and goings, we welcomed two new faculty members, Chris Grasso and Karin Wulf, both in American History. Karin also joins Brown as the new director of the John Carter Brown Library, which houses an unmatched collection of rare books and manuscripts on the Americas from the 15th to 18th centuries. Adding Chris and Karin to our existing faculty makes us one of the best places in the world to study early American History. We have also hired, in cooperation with the Anthropology Department, a new staff member, Dana Sutcliffe. Dana is in charge of communications and has already transformed the way we share news and information with one another, with our alums, and with our far flung Brown History Department community. We welcome Chris, Karin, and Dana.

Two stalwarts of the department retired this year — Joan Richards and Mary Gluck — and we commemorated each departure in style. In October 2021, faculty, former students, and colleagues from around the country gathered to launch Joan's retirement and, just as importantly, to celebrate the release of her new book *Generations of Reason: A Family's Search for Meaning in Post-Newtonian England*. In April 2022 the department hosted a one-day conference that explored Mary Gluck's contributions to European intellectual history, with many of her former undergraduate and Ph.D. students in attendance, presenting scholarly papers and sharing fond reminiscences. We will miss having both Joan and Mary's wisdom, experience, and perspectives on campus. They were trailblazers as scholars, as women in our department, and as leaders in the effort to encourage a culture of inclusion and cooperation in our daily affairs. I thank them for their guidance and support and, on behalf of everyone in the department, wish them fulfilling retirements.

Such is the cycle of academia that our ranks were also replenished by the tenure and promotion to associate professor of two faculty members — Bathsheba Demuth and Jeremy Mumford. I extend the department's congratulations to them.

The tremendous challenges of the last year have served to further clarify the importance of the scholarship and teaching that I hope you will find reflected in the following pages. As the academic year comes to a close, we are grateful for the support of our alumni, both graduate and undergraduate, and the many friends of our department in Providence and around the globe.

## **Professor Ethan Pollock**

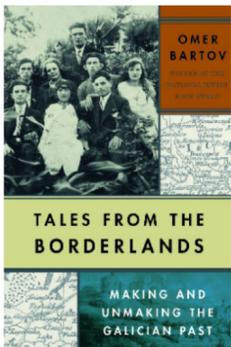
Chair, Department of History



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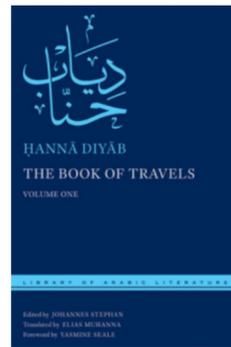
# Recent Faculty Books

## New Books



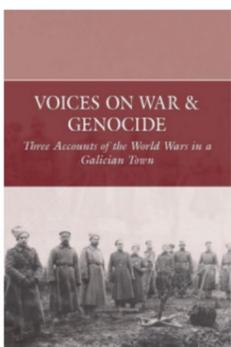
### [Omer Bartov](#)

*Tales from the Borderlands: Making and Unmaking the Galician Past*, Yale University Press (2022)



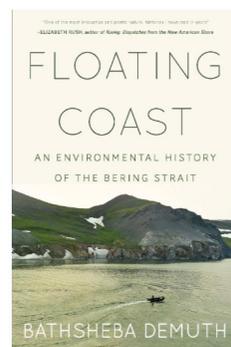
### [Elias Muhanna](#)

With Hannā Diyāb, Johannes Stephan, eds.  
*The Book of Travels: Two-Volume Set*, NYU Press (May, 2021)



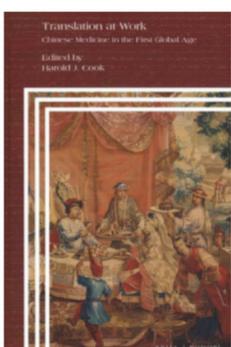
### [Omer Bartov](#)

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



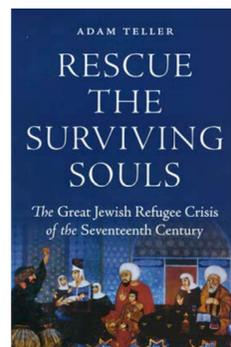
### [Bathsheba Demuth](#)

*Floating Coast: An Environmental History of the Bering Strait*, W. W. Norton & Company (August, 2020)



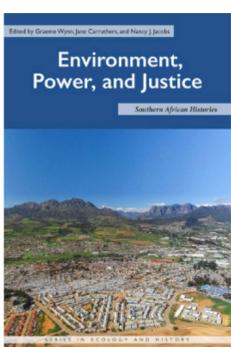
### [Harold J. Cook](#)

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



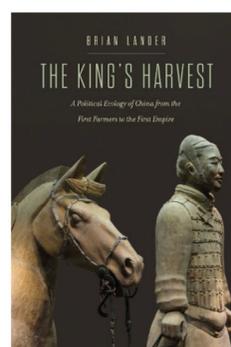
### [Adam Teller](#)

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



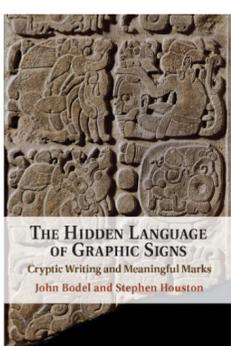
### [Nancy Jacobs](#)

A co-edited volume  
*Environment, Power, and Justice*, Ohio University Press (2022)



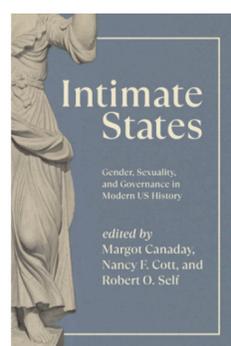
### [Brian Lander](#)

*The King's Harvest*  
Yale University Press (November, 2021)



### [John Bodel](#)

(Co-edited with Stephen Houston, Brown University)  
*The Hidden Language of Graphic Signs: Cryptic Writing and Meaningful Marks*, Cambridge University Press (August, 2021)



### [Robert Self](#)

*Intimate States: Gender, Sexuality, and Governance in Modern U.S. History*  
co-edited with Margot Canaday and Nancy F. Cott, University of Chicago Press, (September, 2021)



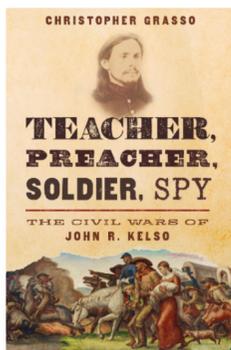
### [James N. Green](#)

With Thomas E. Skidmore  
*Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*, Third Edition, Oxford University Press (June, 2021)



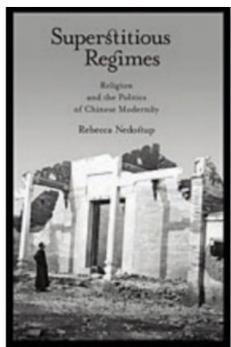
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## FACULTY BOOKS | NEW BOOKS



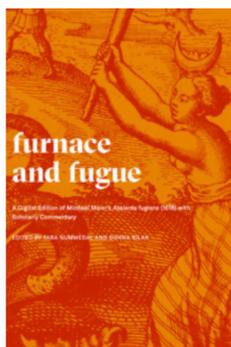
### **Christopher Grasso**

*Teacher, Preacher, Soldier, Spy: The Civil Wars of John R. Kelso*, Oxford University Press (2021)



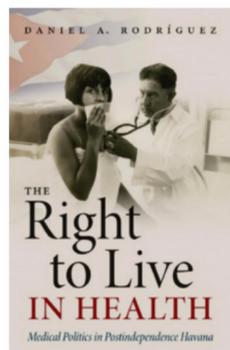
### **Rebecca Nedostup**

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



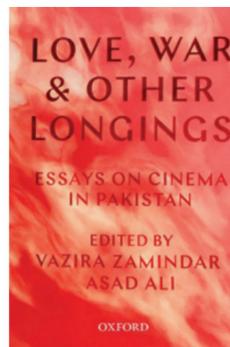
### **Tara Nummedal**

and Donna Bilak, eds.  
*Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier's Atalanta fugiens (1618)*, University of Virginia Press (Summer, 2020)



### **Daniel A. Rodríguez**

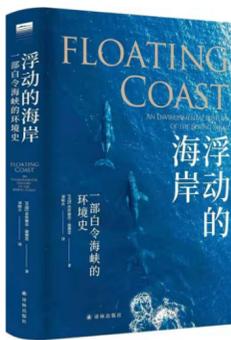
*The Right to Live in Health: Medical Politics in Postindependence Havana*, The University of North Carolina Press, (July, 2020)



### **Vazira Zamindar**

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

## Reprints, Paperback Editions & Translations



### **Bathsheba Demuth**

*Fudong de hai'an*  
(Nanjing: Yilin chubanshe, 2022)  
Translated by Liu Xiaohui



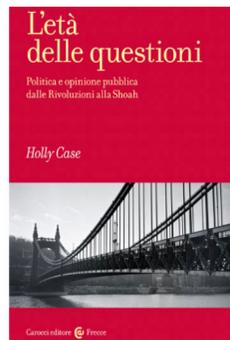
### **Kenneth Sacks**

*Political Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson*  
Turkish translation  
Timas Publishing (2023)



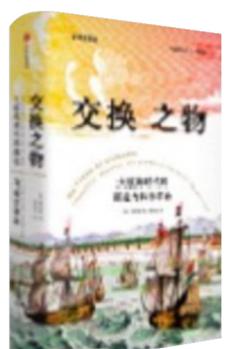
### **Seth Rockman**

*Der alte und der neue Materialisms in der Geschichte der Sklaverei*  
German translation  
(Walter de Gruyter, November, 2021)



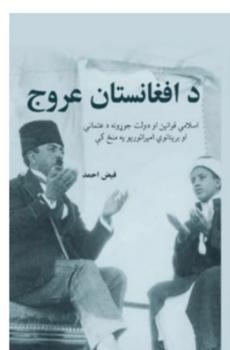
### **Holly Case**

*The Age of Questions*  
Italian translation  
Frecce (2021)



### **Harold J. Cook**

*Matters of Exchange:*  
柯浩德 (Kē Hàodé)  
Yale University Press (2022)

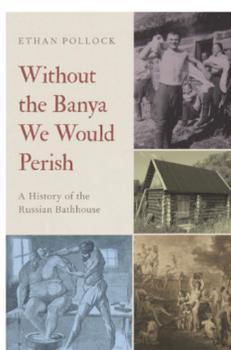


### **Faiz Ahmed**

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



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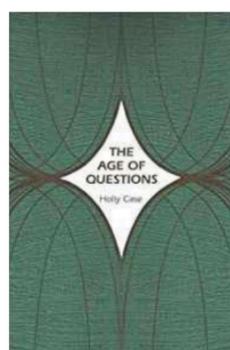
**Ethan Pollock**

*Without the Banya We Would Perish: A History of the Russian Bathhouse*, Oxford University Press pbk. (2022)



**Ethan Pollock**

*Without the Banya We Would Perish: A History of the Russian Bathhouse*, Russian translation, Corpus Books (2021)

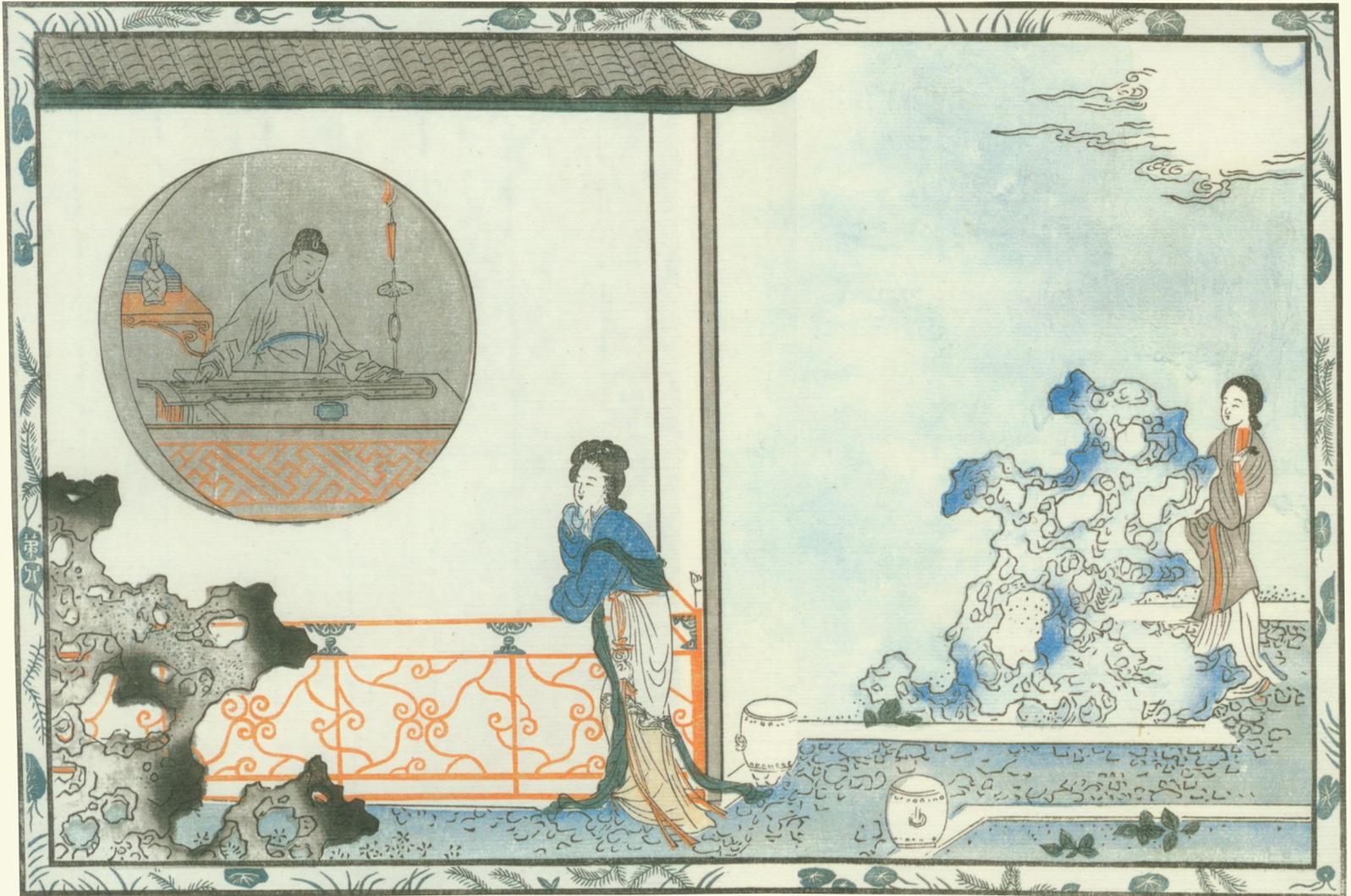


**Holly Case**

*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)



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“Zhang Junrui’s nocturnal music making” from the 1640 edition of *Romance of the Western Wing* (Xixiang ji 西廂記), published by Min Qiji 閔齊伋. Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons. Public U.S. Domain.

# Exploration

## [Cynthia Brokaw](#) Delivers Panizzi Lectures at the British Library

After teaching a hybrid lecture course during the summer semester, I was on leave in the fall. Unable to travel for research to either China or Japan, I spent part of the semester in Cambridge as a visiting fellow at Magdalene College. Most of my time there was spent preparing *Spreading Culture Throughout the Land: Woodblock Publishing and Chinese Book Culture in the Early Modern Era*, for the Panizzi Lecture series at the British Library. In the spring, I returned to the classroom to teach a freshman seminar on the Silk Roads and a lecture course on East Asia’s early modern empires, the Ming and Qing dynasties.

2021 was only the second time in its thirty-five year history that the series, dedicated to scholarship on the book, highlighted East Asian book culture; I was honored to be invited to introduce pre-modern Chinese printed books to an audience comprised largely of Western book historians. Although a COVID surge reduced the size of the in-person audience, via live-streaming the lectures reached a much larger international audience, with viewers from the Americas and Asia, as well as Europe.



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# Long Walk to Freedom: A Historio-Graphic Collaboration

## [Vazira Zamindar](#)

*The Long Walk to Freedom: A Historio-Graphic Collaboration* is a public humanities collaboration between historian Vazira Zamindar and independent graphic novelist Sarnath Banerjee to create a graphic novel and animated short about a long walk that Mahatma Gandhi and Abdul Ghaffar Khan (affectionately called Frontier Gandhi) took in 1946/47 across a landscape of intense religious strife, to heal its wounds and restore faith in our capacity to live together as part of a multi-religious society again.



By literally drawing from these forgotten scenes of an extraordinary friendship, this project is imagined as an intervention in 1) historiographic debates on anticolonialism and ‘freedom,’ 2) public memory where such friendships can become ‘anti-national’ heresy, and 3) ethno-religious nationalisms that target religious minorities, and continuously produce and naturalize an irreconcilably divided South Asia. While archival material for this project is drawn from my monograph *The Ruin Archive*, as a collaboration between a historian and an artist, we draw on our own friendship to walk with Gandhi and Khan, and in so doing we push against the historian’s craft and the artist’s, to reconstitute a shared inheritance beyond Hindu/Muslim, beyond nation/state. This project captures Brown’s commitment to public and collaborative humanities, and we hope will speak to the historical imagination for another kind of South Asia.



[This collaboration received the 2022 Solomon Award for Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.](#)



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## EXPLORATION

# Archival Research Spotlight: Morgan De Lancy '22

In January 2022, Morgan De Lancy '22, a history concentrator with a focus on human rights and displacement, traveled to London to conduct archival research for her thesis on the Black Supplementary School Movement. In this spotlight interview, Morgan tells the History Department what it was like to transition from conducting research remotely to studying archival material first-hand at the George Padmore Institute.

“My thesis examined the work of Afro-Caribbean immigrant families from Britain’s Windrush generation, who came together in the late 1960s to provide their children with academically rigorous and culturally affirming education outside the British public school system. I was interested in how this predominantly Black women-led movement countered the systemic racism that Black youth experienced in state schools and what their work could tell us about the often invisibilized political work of Black women. My project also explored how this community, rooted in the larger Black diasporic world, carved out a space of belonging for themselves within a hostile environment of British exclusion. Ultimately, I argued that the families, teachers, and activists of the

  
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Black Supplementary School Movement carved out both physical and discursive space for their community, countering the exclusion and unbelonging they experienced in Britain. Their work was not a project of inclusion, but rather one of radical belonging, through which Afro-Caribbean immigrant families occupied space in Britain by rooting themselves in the power of the larger Black diasporic world.

The success of this project is owed in no small part to the research I conducted at the George Padmore Institute in London, made possible in part by the research grant I received from the history department to travel to the UK this past winter break. After a year of conducting research remotely, the experience offered an exciting opportunity to engage with primary sources I couldn't access digitally. While in London, I got to see first-hand the schoolwork of children within Black Supplementary Schools, grant applications that articulated the schools' mission, and even individual correspondences between teachers and students. The Padmore is special because it was created by the very community activists whose papers it holds, which enabled me to engage with my subjects in a multitude of ways: not only through the archival material itself, but through the choices they made about how to present their work, by exploring the neighborhoods in which they lived, and by meeting with their children, friends, and community members, who continue to play a role in running the George Padmore Institute, as well as the New Beacon bookstore which sits below it.

It all had a profound impact on my understanding of the everyday experiences of families, teachers, and activists within the Black Supplementary School Movement, as well as my sense of connection to this work. Growing up as an American-born, only child, of half white British and half Afro-Trinidadian descent, the only example of British and Caribbean cultural overlap I knew of was me. Through this project, however, I've had the opportunity to dive into the history of an entire community whose identity encompasses both British and Afro-Caribbean culture. I've gotten to examine the ways that this immigrant community navigated the fraught relationship between their British and Afro-Caribbean identities and how they insisted on their survival in the face of colonial violence. Traveling to the George Padmore Institute in London's diverse, Afro-Caribbean influenced Finsbury Park neighborhood brought this history alive in ways I could never have imagined. Having now completed my thesis, I am left with immense gratitude for the opportunity I had to travel to London. The experience was immensely beneficial not only academically, but also personally, allowing me to deepen my connection to my Afro-Caribbean-ness, while also reckoning in some small way with my British heritage."



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# Graduate Research Spotlight: Indigenous Struggles in Brazil (1964-1985)

My name is Luiz Paulo, and I am from Recife, the capital of Pernambuco, in Brazil. My current research focuses on the intersections of debates regarding the environment and the Indigenous struggles in Brazil that emerged during the military dictatorship (1964-1985).

By historicizing Brazil's Indigenous peoples' mobilizations, discourses, networks, and strategies, my research hopes to reassess the role of the Indigenous peoples in debates regarding environmental protection and Indigenous rights from a national and transnational perspective.



More broadly, I aim to explore how Latin American Indigenous movements became an international force shaping and influencing debates and organizations on environmental and Indigenous rights. My goal is not only further historical knowledge of Indigenous and environmental history but also to enhance visibility to their ongoing struggles for land, rights, and the environment.

I recently found out that I have been selected by the Department of History as a Peter Green Doctoral Scholar for the 2022-2023 academic year. This generous support will allow me to expand my project through archival research and interviews in cities in the Amazon region that are often outside the purview of historians. The Amazonian region's immense territory, larger than the size of the European Union, poses logistical and financial challenges to any research. In this way, my work will also go beyond common historical narratives focused on large urban centers and capitals near the Brazilian coast.



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## New Faculty Profiles

**Karin Wulf** joined the History Department and the John Carter Brown Library as Director and Librarian in October 2021. She previously directed the Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture at William & Mary.

“I’m an early Americanist with a research specialty in gender, family, and politics in eighteenth-century British America, and a commitment to a more expansive public understanding of and engagement with the complexity of the early American past. I write for public and academic audiences about history and the humanities, and I have two forthcoming books from Oxford University Press: *Lineage: Genealogy and the Power of Connection in Early America* and *Genealogy: A Very Short Introduction*.

I’m so excited to be joining both the history department and the wider early Americas and early modern communities at Brown, and to find more ways to connect the extraordinary collections and capacity at the John Carter Brown Library with our collective work.”



**[Christopher Grasso](#)** joined the History Department in January 2022 as a historian of American culture, religion, and politics.

Grasso grew up in Connecticut and earned his Ph.D. at Yale, later teaching at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. From 2000 - 2013 he was the editor of *William and Mary Quarterly* — the leading journal of early American history. More recently, Grasso was the Pullen Professor of History at William & Mary. His latest books are *Skepticism and American Faith: From the Revolution to the Civil War* (Oxford University Press, 2018), which won the SHEAR Best Book Prize, and [Teacher, Preacher, Soldier, Spy: The Civil Wars of John R. Kelso](#) (Oxford University Press, 2021). For the latter, he also developed a [website](#), which includes a “graphic history” version of Kelso’s story.

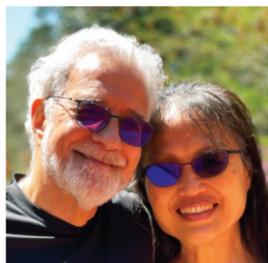
At Brown, Grasso hopes to continue to broaden and deepen his work as a historian of culture, politics, and religion in North America before 1900.



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# Faculty Activities

## Omer Bartov



The inability to travel proved to be a blessing in disguise, making this a very productive year. September 2021 saw the publication of my edited volume, [Israel-Palestine, Land and People](#), which sums up the eponymous research project I had conducted at the Watson Institute between 2015 and 2018. My new monograph, [Tales from the Borderlands: Making and Unmaking the Galician Past](#), will be published as a featured trade book by Yale University Press in June 2022, and a French translation will follow.

Providing a multi-century and multi-perspective view of Europe's eastern borderlands, especially of what is now West Ukraine, the book will help readers understand some of the conflicting historical narratives at the root of the current conflict. Additionally, In the coming weeks I will also be submitting the final manuscript of a collection of my own previously published essays, scheduled for publication with Bloomsbury Publishers under the title *Genocide, the Holocaust, and Israel-Palestine: First Person History in Times of Crisis* in May 2023. Finally, to my great joy, the first novel I have written since publishing two works of fiction in Israel in the 1980s, *The Butterfly and the Axe*, will be coming out with Amsterdam Publishing in January 2023. The book attempts to fill in the gaps left in the historical record of the murder of members of my own family in Ukraine, and to trace the long-term effect of that event on three generations of Jews and Ukrainians. Throughout this year, I have also immensely enjoyed my teaching, not least the course "Modern Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity" I was fortunate to co-teach with my former student James Wang and the brilliant TAs Ola Morehead and Jorge Rosario Rosario. Going on sabbatical leave next fall, I hope to make progress on my new book, *Remaking the Past: Israel, Palestine, a Personal Political History*, which tells the story of the first generation of Jews and Palestinians born in the immediate aftermath of the War of 1948 and the Nakba, the expulsion of the majority of the Palestinian population from what became the state of Israel.

## Cynthia Brokaw



"Zhang Junrui's nocturnal music making" from the 1640 edition of *Romance of the Western Wing* (Xixiang ji 西廂記), published by Min Qiji 閔齊伋. Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons. Public U.S. Domain.

After teaching a hybrid lecture course during the summer semester, I was on leave in the fall. Unable to travel for research to either China or Japan, I spent part of the semester in Cambridge as a visiting fellow at Magdalene College. Most of my time there was spent preparing "Spreading Culture Throughout the Land": Woodblock Publishing and Chinese Book Culture in the Early Modern Era," for the Panizzi Lecture series at the British Library. 2021 was only the second time in its thirty-five year history that the series, dedicated to scholarship on the book, highlighted East Asian book culture; I was honored to be invited to provide introductory lectures for an audience comprised largely of Western book historians. In the spring, I returned to the classroom to teach a freshman seminar on the Silk Roads and a lecture course on East Asia's early modern empires, the Ming and Qing dynasties.

## Holly Case



Holly Case is Director of Undergraduate Studies for the department, in which capacity she has happily organized and attended numerous events with students and colleagues. Serving as faculty advisor to honors student Isobel McCrum was possibly a little *too* fun. Since summer 2021, she has been co-convening an interdisciplinary discussion group on artificial intelligence (together with faculty in Computer Science, Applied Math, Neuroscience, Philosophy, and History of Art and Architecture). Her book, *The Age of Questions*, came out in Italian translation in the fall. Since receiving in 2021 a Research Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Germany, she has been planning a Sommerfrische involving students from Brown, Germany, and elsewhere in East-Central Europe for 2022. This past year she has co-convened several formal and informal reading and discussion groups with students and colleagues (Philosophy of History, OstPol, SLOBS, the DUG reading group, and others). Finally, she was delighted to co-plan (together with Julian Bourg of Boston College) a retirement event for Professor Mary Gluck, whose legacy at Brown and beyond is both breathtaking and inspiring.



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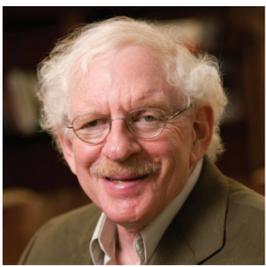
## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

### Caroline Castiglione



Caroline Castiglione is among the faculty who has been teaching continuously since January 2021 to de-densify the campus during the COVID pandemic service. She innovated methods to increase student engagement during discussion, including student-generated diagrams, charts, and drawings that increased participation and bridged the gap between breakout group discussions and the larger group. In spring 2021, she taught a new course, “Women, Gender, and Feminism in Early Modern Italy.” Following the COVID-imposed hiatus on research travel, she looks forward to returning to the archives to continue her research on the Venetian writer Moderata Fonte.

### Howard Chudacoff



During the past year, Howard Chudacoff has continued his research in the social history of sports in the United States. Following up on his 2015 book, *Changing the Playbook: How Power, Profit, and Politics Transformed College Sports*, he has been compiling materials on two important figures in the history of intercollegiate athletes: Walter Byers, the first executive director of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), who built the NCAA into a powerful organization during his term that lasted from 1951 to his retirement in 1987, but then published a memoir in which he criticized the state of college sports; and Tom McMillen, a former basketball star with the University of Maryland and the NBA, who served three terms as a U.S. Congressman in the 1980s and '90s (at 6'11" he is the tallest federal representative in U.S. history) and advocated for a National College Athlete Bill of Rights. Howard also is currently preparing a paper on the role of baseball, including baseball at Brown University, in nineteenth-century American culture, to be presented at a conference in November, 2022.

### Jonathan Conant



This year, my research focused on two main projects. One is my second book, *The Carolingians and the Ends of Empire, c. 795–840*, and the other is a draft article on warfare and trauma in early medieval Europe. As international travel once again became possible in 2021–22, research on these two projects took me from Providence to Paris and Barcelona, and in Summer 2022 it will bring me to Berlin, allowing me to consult manuscripts written by and for individuals working through the complex emotional and psychological legacies of violence that helped form the medieval world. (In Paris, I also got a chance to see how the rebuilding of Notre Dame is progressing.) I have been working on a number of smaller projects too, including one on the ephemeral Byzantine presence in western North Africa, and another on languages and communities in the late Roman and medieval Maghrib. My teaching this year dealt again with the late Roman empire and how its complex unraveling shaped the early medieval Mediterranean. I was also excited to teach two totally new classes. My seminar on “Globalism before Globalization” explored long-distance connections across Afro-Eurasia, Oceania, and the Americas between ca. 200 and ca. 1000 CE. My lecture class on “Violence: A Brief History” examined violence as a transhistorical phenomenon from an interdisciplinary and global perspective from the Paleolithic to the modern day. As usual, I have been impressed and inspired by the enthusiasm with which my students and TAs threw themselves into studying these difficult subjects.

### Harold Cook

Harold (Hal) Cook recently received a President’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Governance, apparently for serving on at least one university governance committee during each semester he has been at Brown (apart from semesters on leave) as well as various program and departmental committees. He is currently finishing a period of service on TPAC (the university’s tenure and promotion committee), which he chaired in 2021-22. More importantly, he has had his Chinese name appear on a recent translation of his 2007 book, *Matters of Exchange*: 柯浩德 (*Kē Hàodé*). The name, along with a chop for signing, was



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awarded to him by a former colleague in London, Dr. Ma Kanwen, who studied the history of medicine in China and Europe and contributed to projects attempting to translate the terminology between them. A revised version of one of his former articles also appeared in Dutch, and a new article appeared on “Princess Elisabeth’s Cautions and Descartes’ Suppression of the *Traité de l’Homme*.” Appropriately, he also presented papers on two related subjects at international zoom events, as “Bodies and Passions: Descartes’s Naturalized Ethics” and “The Movements of Chinese Medicine in the First Global Age.” But during this past period of COVID-related social-distancing it was the undergraduate students he taught and advised, the graduate students with whom he worked, and the visiting post-doctoral fellow from Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia he sponsored, Sabrina Minuzzi, as well as colleagues, who in the spirit of “we’re all in this together” made it all a cheerful journey.

### Bathsheba Demuth



Bathsheba Demuth spent 2021 on campus, teaching mostly first-year students during Brown’s special pandemic summer semester, and the graduate writing workshop in the fall. She’s now on academic leave for the 2022 calendar year, based in various parts of Alaska and Canada for work on an environmental history of the Yukon River watershed. In February and March, her research included time in multiple archives and visiting parts of the Yukon River by dogsled, which remains her favorite form of travel. So much so she even published a journal article, “Labors of Love: People, Dogs, and Affect in North American Arctic Borderlands, 1700-1900” in the *Journal of American History* about mushing this year. Demuth also had pieces in *The Presidency of Donald J. Trump: A First Historical Assessment*, an edited volume just out with Princeton University Press, and essays in *The Best American Science and Nature Writing and The Best American Travel Writing*, in addition to *Granta*, *The Atlantic*, and *The Washington Post*. When she’s not writing or traveling, her dogs Skye and Pebble keep her busy. Bathsheba is looking forward to her new role as an associate professor with tenure, which starts this July.

### Linford Fisher



Linford Fisher enjoyed his final year as Director of Graduate Studies and teaching three classes, including a larger lecture course on Native American history in Fall 2021 and an undergraduate capstone course on Atlantic slavery and the digital humanities. Fisher continued his work on *Stolen Relations: Recovering Stories of Indigenous Enslavement in the Americas*, which is a tribal community-collaborative database project that seeks to understand the histories and legacies of settler colonialism through the lens of Indigenous enslavement. During the summer of 2021, he co-hosted a four-day summer institute for regional tribal youth and leaders on the topic of settler colonialism and Indigenous enslavement. Cooking, sailing, and spending time with wife and four kids rounded out another strange COVID year. He looks forward to returning to work on his book in the coming year.

### Christopher Grasso



“The Battle of Neosho,”  
by Robert Davidson

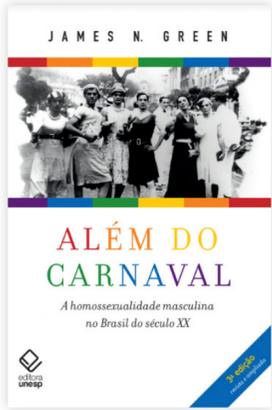
In September, Christopher Grasso published a biography of a fascinating nineteenth-century figure: *Teacher, Preacher, Soldier, Spy: The Civil Wars of John R. Kelso* (Oxford University Press). While that book was in production, he also worked on an accompanying website ([www.johnrkelso.com](http://www.johnrkelso.com)), which includes blog posts, a twitter feed, and a “graphic history” version of Kelso’s Civil War exploits. (The two dozen illustrations were drawn by an artist friend, Robert Davidson, an old pole-vaulting buddy from high school he hasn’t seen in forty years. They both enjoyed the collaboration). Beginning work on a new project in American religious history, Grasso finished teaching at William & Mary in December and joined Brown for the spring semester.



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### James N. Green



In March 2022, James N. Green arrived in Brazil as a Fulbright Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Institute for International Relations at the University of São Paulo, where he will teach a course entitled, U.S.-Brazilian Relations during the Brazilian Military Dictatorship (1964-84). He will also be doing research on a new book project, *Generation 77: Radicalized São Paulo Youth and the Demise of the Dictatorship*. While in Brazil, Green is launching the third revised and expanded edition of the Portuguese-language edition of *Beyond Carnival: Male Homosexuality in Twentieth-Century Brazil*. He will also be working with Brazilian film director Flávia Castro on a feature-length film adaptation of his book, *Exile within Exiles: Herbert Daniel:*

*Gay Brazilian Revolutionary*. As the President of the Board of Directors of the Washington Brazil Office, Green will also be lecturing at campuses throughout the country about the U.S. movement in defense of democracy in Brazil and in favor of a just U.S. foreign policy toward Brazil.

### Françoise N. Hamlin



This trying year, with all the challenges and losses on so many registers, brought many blessings for Françoise Hamlin. In 2021 she was named an Andrew Carnegie Foundation Fellow, and the first senior fellow selected from Brown. In addition, she is a 2021-22 Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics Fellow-in-Residence at Harvard University and a George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation Fellow. In 2021 she won the A. Elizabeth Taylor Prize for “Historians and Ethics: Finding Anne Moody” (*American Historical Review* 125:2), the best article in southern women’s history from the Southern Association for Women Historians, and the President’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Governance at Brown. Hamlin serves on the Committee on the Status of African American, Latino/a, Asian American, Native American Historians and ALANA Histories in the Organization of American Historians, continues to advise undergraduates and graduate students in both departments, and remains the co-chair of the Faculty of Color Working Group that she co-founded in 2015. This year she also launched Boundless South, as co-editor of a new book series with the University of North Carolina Press, and managed to complete the work for the republication of an autobiography by a now-deceased civil rights activist. With the wonders of technology, she gave multiple lectures this year to a variety of audiences ranging from the American Federation of Government Employees; Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceuticals (alongside consulting on their diversity and inclusion materials for their global employees); undergraduate classes throughout the country; the HistGeogUni Global Research Network, UK, and the Never Stop Learning Lecture Bureau. Luna Celeste makes sure she walks daily while she also constantly chauffeurs her son to sports practice and games.

### Tim Harris



Tim Harris published three articles this past academic year: “State Trials and the Rule of Law under the Later Stuarts and Early Hanoverians” (co-authored with Stephen Taylor), in Brian Cowan and Scott Sowerby, eds., “State Trials and the Politics of Justice in Later England” (Boydell, 2021), 24-49; “Scotophobia in Later Stuart England,” in Neil McIntyre and Alison Cathcart, eds., “Scotland the Wider World: Essays in Honour of Allan I. Macinnes” (Boydell, 2022), 84-98; and “Religious and National Stereotyping and Prejudice in Seventeenth-Century England,” in Koji Yamamoto ed., “Stereotypes and Stereotyping in Early Modern England: Puritans, Papists and Projectors” (Manchester University Press, 2022), 35-61. He also contributed to the book forum *A European Turn in Early American History? A Discussion of Evan Haefeli’s Accidental Pluralism: America and the Religious Politics of English Expansion, 1497-1662*, *Journal of American History*, 12 (2022), 37-79. In April 2022 he co-hosted (with his former Ph.D. student Jennifer Wells) a conference on Early Modern Ireland and the Wider World at the Huntington Library, San Marino, California; his own talk looked at Irish resistance to English rule in Ireland and the Caribbean in the Restoration period. His book series *Studies in Early Modern Cultural, Political*



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*and Social History* with Boydell Press has now published 47 titles, with more soon to come. He was re-appointed (for another three years) Honorary Professor in the Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Durham University, UK. He continues to serve as President of the American Friends of the Institute of Historical Research.

### Benjamin Hein



Much of the past year I spent readying for publication my manuscript on the history of Germany's industrial revolution. It's been gratifying to see the project come together, as well as to keep making unexpected discoveries along the way, some of which may well become books of their own one day. Teaching the History of Capitalism with Lukas Rieppel was once again a joy, not to mention a real tour de force through global history that featured a bowl of cowrie shells, which were a form of money used in the early modern slave trade. Meanwhile the Heins welcomed into the world our daughter Ilsa Mieko. Finally, her brother Enso has a buddy to share the sandbox with.

### Evelyn Hu-Dehart

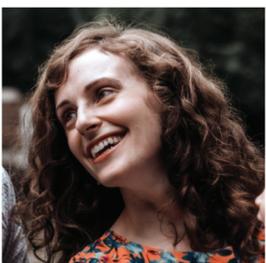
In May 2022, I will be an International Guest Professor at the University of Padua, Italy (think Romeo and Juliet!), where I will be co-teaching two courses: Sociology of Organization and Sociology of Education. In Italy, sociology as a field is very historical and qualitative, so I have been asked to lecture and lead discussions on these themes: "For the Sociology of Organization," on "diaspora as theory, method and model," and for "Sociology of Education," on the "controversies around teaching the 1619 project and critical race theory."

### Nancy Jacobs



This year Nancy taught full innings: summer 2021, fall 2021, and spring 2022. It's been great to get back into the classroom and see real people. Apart from that, 2021 saw the publication of the first piece from her current book project, an article in *Environmental History* on Grey Parrots in African forests as historical, rather than ecological, subjects. A co-edited volume, *Environment, Power, and Justice*, appeared in early 2022. It's been a year of a lot of reading, a lot of thinking, and a bit of birding. Next year's sabbatical will be quite a change.

### Jennifer Lambe



In spite of the pandemic's many twists and turns, Jenny Lambe has enjoyed the return to the classroom this year, especially in co-teaching a new graduate seminar on "Global Histories of Psychiatry and Anti-Psychiatry" with Leon Hilton. She has also continued to work on her new book manuscript on the Cuban Revolution, now under advance contract with the University of North Carolina Press, and presented about new and old projects in a variety of venues. Meanwhile, her two-year-old twins, Max and Tomás, did their best to participate in — some might say interfere with — all of the above activities.

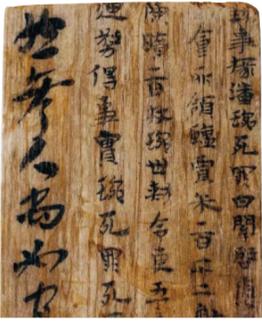
### Brian Lander

The main event in Brian Lander's academic year was the release of his book *The King's Harvest*, the first in English on the environmental history of ancient China. It combines evidence from multiple fields to trace the rise of agriculture and political organizations in China and show how people became the dominant force in the region's ecology. Brian gave several talks on the book as well as one the history of deer in China and another on the history of soybeans. After all the pandemic isolation, one of the highlights of the year was teaching a summer course called "Ecological Imperialism" that explored the environmental effects of various historical empires. Neither Brian nor many of the students had been in



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Document written in ink on wood, 230s CE

the classroom in a long time, and it was relaxing to teach in the summer. In the fall he taught a new course called “Colonization and Ethnicity in East Asian” history, which explored the violence and cultural hybridization that created the peoples now known as the Chinese and Japanese.

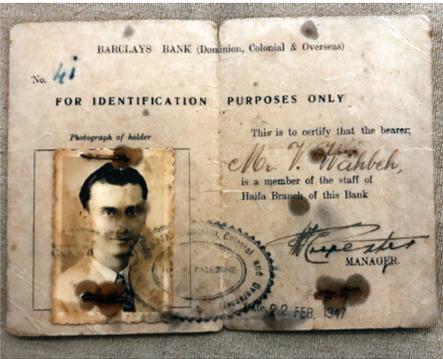
Since COVID has made China and Taiwan inaccessible to researchers, Brian is currently in France, where he is getting to know the European sinological community and working on two books. One is an introduction to a hoard of documents from China’s Three Kingdoms period that were excavated from a well in Hunan. The other is a history of the transformation of the wetlands of central China.

### Steven Lubar



Steven Lubar has been at work on an eclectic series of articles and is spinning up a new book project. Published or in press articles include a how-to article on building museum displays, for *History News*; a philosophical essay on ways that museums use images and objects to represent the human body in displays of historical trauma, for *Human Remains and Violence: An Interdisciplinary Journal*; and an article on lamp repair, an odd mix of the practical and philosophical, for *Repair: Sustainable Design Futures*. I spent most of my Fall sabbatical starting a new book project. *Tools: A Cultural History*, completing a draft of the first chapter, on the ways that tools have been used to define the human.

### Sreemati Mitter



The employee card of Victor Wehbe, a Palestinian employee of Barclays Bank Haifa branch, whose story of refugeehood and forced dismissal by the bank in 1948 Mitter uncovers in her book.

Sreemati Mitter devoted most of the year to inching forward on her book manuscript, *A History of Money in Palestine*, which pieces together the story of the systematic, supposedly legal, and largely unknown story of the expropriation, by Israeli authorities after the violent establishment of Israel in 1948, of financial assets belonging to ordinary Palestinians. She also revised a journal article on the financial impact, on Palestinians, of that other violent transition in modern Palestinian history, in 1917, from Ottoman to British colonial rule. She was pleased to see to publication a second journal article on the fate of Palestinian pensions after 1948. On the teaching front, she was excited to be back in the almost-normal, if masked and cautious, classroom, for an invigorating fall semester with students in her capstone seminar, “Debates in Middle Eastern History.” She advised and learned much from an excellent undergraduate thesis on the Baghdadi Jewish community in colonial Calcutta in the 19th/20th centuries. Though

she laments the COVID-related visa complications that led to that eventuality, she was grateful to have been granted an unplanned leave in the spring. The pandemic continued to pose an extraordinarily difficult set of challenges for Mitter, professionally and personally, and she is mostly grateful to have survived, and to have finally been reunited with her family and loved ones, when so many could not, and have not.

### Elias Muhanna



Elias Muhanna spent much of the 2021-22 academic year retooling old courses, designing new ones, and reconnecting with colleagues and students after the isolation of the pandemic. His monograph, *The World in a Book* was awarded the John Nicholas Brown prize from the Medieval Academy, and his translation of Hanna Diyab’s 18th-century memoir *The Book of Travels* was the subject of a fine review in *The New York Review of Books*. The weekends of 2021-22 were mostly devoted to playing keyboards with Funkademic, a Brown-based funk band, and discovering the ins and outs of Rhode Island’s live music scene.



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### Rebecca Nedostup



A letterpress at AS220

Like many colleagues, Rebecca Nedostup spent most of the past year working closely with students and offering service as the pandemic and its wider effects continued to play out in myriad ways. She took on a new role as Faculty Director for the Choices Program, in History chaired a special committee on partner hiring practices and served on a committee organizing a lecture series on diversifying historical epistemologies, and in East Asian Studies served on a DIAP committee. In the summer she worked with undergraduates Belinda Hu and Hsiao Shan Peck (Peck) respectively to build a new course, *China's Socialist Dreams*, and to integrate the field of Critical Refugee Studies more closely into her book on wartime displacement in mid twentieth century China and Taiwan. Ph.D. student Yu-chi Chang successfully defended his thesis on the role of maps in national identity formation in early twentieth century China, and started a visiting position at Oberlin. After a long pandemic-necessitated wait, advisee Richard Shih Yu-cheng finally gained permission to embark on archival and field research for his dissertation on the social and environmental history of fishers living on and around Lake Tai. In addition to the socialism course and her class on the social history of Chinese popular culture, she taught a new seminar, “Memory and Justice in East Asia”, and an independent study on research methods in Singaporean and Southeast Asian history. Although time-consuming, these ventures have renewed her energy for writing about the hard historical subjects she has been engaged with, which the pandemic had made more challenging (current article subjects include capital crime and the death penalty in martial-law Taiwan, and the historical lessons of the care of coworkers and other non-family networks during wartime.) But her very favorite activity this year was fulfilling a long-harbored dream to learn to set letterpress.

### Tara Nummedal



Although this was yet another challenging year on many levels, Tara Nummedal managed to launch two new directions in her teaching and research. In the fall, she served as Interim Faculty Director at the Center for Digital Scholarship, where she enjoyed helping nurture new digital scholarship and publications from Brown graduate students, staff, and faculty. Nummedal also was pleased to share her work in the history of alchemy with European scholars who are part of the Danish National Research Foundation Centre for Privacy Studies, as well as with the “Friends of History” at Portland State University. Inspired by conversations in a new graduate seminar she taught in the fall 2021 on “Histories of Sexualities,” Nummedal also presented at the wonderful Archival Kismet conference in December on the history of “Spanish fly,” an ancient drug that men and women have used in various historical contexts as a cure, poison, aphrodisiac, and agent of sexual assault. This is the first piece of a new research project “affective magic,” that is, a range of operations — including erotic necromancy, love magic, and political influence — designed to control the bodies, desires, and decision-making capacity of others in early modern Europe. Nummedal looks forward to getting back to European archives in the coming academic year, which she will spend on sabbatical in Berlin. Finally, she was honored to be recognized with a 2022 Mid-career Research Award from Brown. While this award will help support her ongoing research projects, it is also particularly meaningful as Nummedal celebrates twenty years on the Brown faculty this year.

### Mark Ocegueda



Mark Ocegueda spent the 2021-2022 academic year continuing his work on the history of Latinx communities in Southern California's Inland Empire. The start of the academic year was slightly bizarre for Ocegueda given that he *finally* met most of his colleagues in-person despite being in Providence for over a year! He continued his public history work and gladly contributed a segment of his research to a nationally broadcasted “CBS Sunday Morning” special on food. In Fall 2021, Ocegueda was a Faculty Fellow at Brown's Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America. He was grateful to workshop some of his research and receive important feedback from other fellows and colleagues.



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Ocegueda also joined the Scholars Council with the newly formed Mexican American Civil Rights Institute and gave various talks at conferences and universities. He was excited to teach his first in-person class in Spring 2022, where he taught a First Year Seminar entitled “Latinx Social Movement History.” Most importantly, Ocegueda and his spouse, Monse, welcomed a new member into the family when Olivia Pilar Ocegueda was born in October 2021. He looks forward to baby Olivia’s first trip to California in summer 2022.

### Emily Owens



Emily Owens spent this academic year on sabbatical, during which time she sent her first book, *Consent in the Presence of Force: Sexual Violence and Black Women’s Survival in Antebellum New Orleans*, into production with University of North Carolina Press. With the support of grants from the Institute for Citizens and Scholars and the Cogut Center for the Humanities, she began research for new projects on the intellectual history of American feminism, and on the intimate life of racism and misogyny in the present. She was also pleased to see an article on the history of consent in print (“Keywords in Gender and Sexuality Studies,” NYU Press), and was honored to have been included as an essayist in the second edition of Brown’s *Slavery and Justice Report*. She was glad to remember the joys of learning in public with a few in-person talks and conferences. And while she continued to advise thesis and graduate students this year away from teaching, she is eager to return to the (live and in living color!) classroom in Fall 2022.

### Ethan Pollock



Ethan Pollock made it through his second year as chair thanks to the remarkable support of his colleagues — the faculty, graduate students, and staff that make up the History Department. He taught two new courses — “The Russian Revolution” and “Americans in the USSR.” He also continued — in as much as his administrative duties and the pandemic allowed — to gather material on Robert Frost’s trip to the Soviet Union in the late summer of 1962. The recent Russian invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing war there make his research on the Cold War seem salient and distant at the same time.

### Amy G. Remensnyder



Amy G. Remensnyder was on sabbatical in 2021-22 and dedicated herself to working on her book about the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa and pre-modern slavery, piracy, and maritime culture. She gave talks about her work at the University of Lincoln (UK) and the spring meeting of the Mediterranean Seminar. In April, she embarked on her first air travel since 2019 and spent two weeks on Lampedusa and the Sicilian mainland doing archival and site research.

### Lukas Rieppel



Lukas Rieppel enjoyed co-teaching History of Capitalism with Benjamin Hein for a second time this year, as well as his regular graduate seminar — The Politics of Knowledge — alongside an undergraduate U.S. History lecture course. He also managed to finish drafting a long-running article project about the Central Asiatic Expedition in collaboration with Yu-Chi Chang. And he was excited to receive a New Directions fellowship from the Mellon Foundation to let him begin researching how the earth sciences contributed to the United States’ imperial expansion during the long nineteenth century.



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### Gabriel Rocha



Pleased to finally get his bearings in Rhode Island with his family, Gabriel Rocha's first full year of teaching in person at Brown went by in a flash. He taught courses on oceanic histories, global approaches to the early modern Portuguese empire, and graduate readings in *The Atlantic* field. Working with students has been a joy and inspiration in the midst of tumultuous times, as has collaborating with colleagues near and far. Some fruits of those labors are beginning to appear, including with a special issue of the Brazilian journal *Tempo* that he edited with Leonardo Marques on early modern colonial environments and histories of capitalism. Rocha's year was also enlivened by opportunities to give virtual talks across three continents, digging into newly digitized archival sources, and (last but not least!) making progress on his manuscript.

### Seth Rockman



Seth Rockman inaugurated a new undergraduate seminar this fall, "The Textile History of Atlantic Slavery." With a grant from the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, the course involved an experiential learning component and students tried their hands at adire dyeing. With his colleague Phil Gould of the English Department, Rockman co-taught a year-long lecture sequence of "The American Revolution and The Early Republic United States" — two classes that provided an opportunity to think through the largest issues facing American self-governance in the present day. This year also marked the fifteenth anniversary of the *Slavery & Justice Report*. In a reissued and expanded digital version, Rockman's essay, "[The Dialectics of Racism and Repair](#)" addresses some of the campus legacies of Brown's self-study of its institutional relationship to the transatlantic slave trade. Rockman also published his first essay in German, *Der alte und der neue Materialisms in der Geschichte der Sklaverei*, or *The Old and the New Materialism in the History of Slavery*. Opportunities to discuss the text will be greatly improved next fall when Rockman begins a year-long research leave in Berlin.

### Kenneth Sacks



Ken continues to work on *Emerson's Civil War*, an overly-long investigation of Emerson's more mature years and how he dealt with an evolving sense of self-reliance. His *Political Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson* (Cambridge University Press) was translated into Turkish by Timas Publishing.

### Neil Safier



Neil Safier spent the spring semester on sabbatical in Paris and was fortunate to be given a place to hang his hat at the Centre Alexandre Koyré, a center for the history of science located in the new Campus Condorcet (in Aubervilliers, France). In addition to reworking his book manuscript and conducting archival work in Lisbon, Madrid, and Paris, he received the good news that a volume he has co-edited with Joan-Pau Rubiés on "Cosmopolitanism and the Enlightenment" will be published next year with Cambridge University Press.

### Robert Self



Fresh from a yearlong sabbatical, in 2021-2022 Robert Self enjoyed more than ever being in the classroom. Students returned from their online pandemic year with a renewed appreciation for human interaction, and it showed in their embrace of a dialogical, primary-source heavy pedagogy. Teaching about political movements — from labor to feminism — the welfare state, and gender, sexuality, and the law in the age of Trump, BLM, and the new race- and gender/sexuality-based McCarthyism was alternately exhilarating and depressing. But never dull.



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Alongside feeling energized by the classroom, Self was proud to see his co-edited anthology *Intimate States: Gender, Sexuality, and Governance in Modern U.S. History* published in the fall by the University of Chicago Press. The fourteen essays and co-authored introduction represent years of patient effort by Self and his collaborators, Margot Canaday and Nancy Cott. *Intimate States* makes the important claim that in the decades following the end of slavery, the enlargement of state power (at all levels, from municipal to federal) came through governing the household and its frailties, as much as through economic regulation. The “rise and fall” of the New Deal state and other paradigms for studying American governance in the 20th century, this volume shows, must contend with the myriad ways gender, sexuality, and race have been embedded in the exercise of state power over intimate life.

Harnessing sabbatical-supplied momentum, Self also continued to draft chapters of his new book, *Driven: The Houses, Cars, and Children of the Hydrocarbon Middle Class*. Look for him at a conference or workshop near you, seeking critical feedback on this project, which explores the interlocking systems of energy, labor, infrastructure, and colonialism that provided the foundation for middle-class American life in the last century.

### Naoko Shibusawa



Naoko Shibusawa was on leave for the 2021 calendar year. During that time, she published two articles and submitted a third one, which was accepted for publication in 2022. One of the articles, “U.S. Empire and Racial Capitalist Modernity,” was the featured “concepts” article in the November issue of *Diplomatic History* and is the basis for a chapter in her book project on the enabling ideologies of U.S. Empire.

Now with a new working title, *Stories to Rule By*, it remains under contract with the University of North Carolina Press and its ever-patient editors. The article will also be the subject of a roundtable and discussed by three up-and-coming female scholars at this year’s SHAFR conference in June. The second article, “Another Pandemic,” used Samir Amin’s notion of the “liberal virus” to reflect on the inequities heightened and re-exposed during the lock-down and the revived BLM movement. The third article, “Where is the Reciprocity? Notes on Solidarity from the Field,” drew inspiration from Audre Lorde’s essay, “The Uses of Anger,” to reflect on the Atlanta Massacre and the random, violent attacks on Asians by their fellow Americans. During the spring 2022 semester, Naoko was back in a real classroom for a little over half the time when no one in either class had COVID. Students in both classes were as smart and engaging as ever, but she is still eager to enjoy spring and summer gardening and to be able to devote more time to the book.

### Kerry Smith

Kerry Smith spent a sabbatical year finishing work on a book about earthquake prediction and disasters in 20th century Japan, and (hopefully) laying the foundations for future projects, including one on the history of the very rich in Japan in that same era. “The Tōkai Earthquake and Changing Lexicons of Risk” appeared this past year as a chapter in *Critical Disaster Studies*, edited by Jacob A.C. Remes and Andy Horowitz, with the University of Pennsylvania Press. He also published a short commentary on disaster studies in post-3.11 Japan in *East Asian Science, Technology and Society*.

### Tracy Steffes



Tracy Steffes spent 2021-2022 on sabbatical working on her book, tentatively titled *Structuring Inequality: Schools, Housing, and Tax Policies in Metropolitan Chicago*. She is (hopefully) in the final stages of writing and revising it! She continues to co-edit the *Histories of American Education* book series at Cornell University Press and is currently serving on the program committee for the 2022

History of Education Society meeting. She has kept a low profile this year while relentlessly prioritizing the book, but looks forward to being back on campus in the fall.



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## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

### Adam Teller



This was undoubtedly one of the most exciting years in Adam’s Teller career. His book, *Rescue the Surviving Souls: The Great Jewish Refugee Crisis of the Seventeenth Century*, won the Rachel Feldhay Brenner Prize in Polish-Jewish History, awarded by the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America. It was also given an honorable mention for the Kulczycki Book Prize in Polish Studies awarded by the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. In terms of new publications, his chapter on the early modern Jewish community in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was published in a volume of annotated sources, *Sources on Jewish Government in the Polish Lands*, published by Brill. His article on early modern Jewish communal record books appeared in the journal *Polin*, and his review of Francesca Trivellato’s new book came out in the *American Historical Review*.

He presented his research in two international conferences (by zoom). The first was held by the University of Amsterdam and was entitled, “Refugee Politics in Early Modern Europe,” the second was organized by the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw and was entitled, “What’s New, What’s Next? Innovative Methods, New Sources, and Paradigm Shifts in Jewish Studies”. He actually gave a live(!) lecture, his first for over two years, at Tel Aviv University. Delivered in Hebrew, it dealt with Jewish refugees in eastern Europe following the Khmelnytsky Uprising. To round out this remarkable year for him, he was elected as a permanent fellow of the “American Academy of Jewish Research,” a singular honor.

### Michael Vorenberg



Michael Vorenberg completed an essay on a heretofore unknown incident involving the tragic drowning of twenty African American soldiers during the U.S. Civil War. He plans to submit his book manuscript on the many endings of the Civil War to Knopf for production during the coming months. Then he will turn full-time to a study of the largest military prison during the Civil War and Reconstruction, located in a fort in Dry Tortugas, Florida (pictured).

### Vazira Zamindar



Vazira working with her comic book collaborator.

It’s been another crazy busy year being back on campus, and I really loved being back in the classroom lecturing, even though COVID continued to have a huge impact. I wrote two essays for contemporary artists based in Berlin, and began a collaboration with a graphic novelist, for which we won two grants (including the Salomon) from Brown. The edited book *How Secular is Art? The Politics of Art, History and Religion in South Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2022) went into production, and an *Art Margins* journal special issue is also in the works. A whole array of other small projects got published — from an essay for a RISD book on repair, to another originally commissioned by the MOMA that got published on *e-flux architecture*, to a set of responses to Ariella Aisha Azoulay’s incendiary *Potential History* (2019) that got published on the *Verso* blog. I was also happy to chair, with the support of many colleagues, the lecture series “Diversifying Historical

Epistemologies” which took on the ways in which History itself has been implicated in systemic racism and violence, and I hope the intellectual questions that framed the series will remain important to the department in the years to come.



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## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

# Notable Lectures

### **The 42nd William F. Church Memorial Lecture**

**“Remembering Mediterranean Slavery  
in Early Modern France.”**

**Meredith Martin,  
New York University**

**Gillian Weiss,  
Case Western Reserve University**

*November 16, 2021*

Presented in Smith-Buonanno Hall, Room 106

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### **Marjorie Harris Weiss Memorial Lecture**

**“Is Marriage the Answer? Concerns about  
Marriage and Racial Inequality from  
W. E. B. Du Bois to Our Own Times.”**

**Professor Tera Hunter,  
Princeton University**

*March 23, 2022*

Glenn and Darcy Weiner Hillel Center  
(80 Brown Street), Winnick Chapel

# Undergraduate Program

## Reflections from Director of Undergraduate Studies

**LAST YEAR I** opened this message with the sentence “Historians are no better than others at predicting the future.” This remains true. Yet again we have woken up in a different world, with the war in Ukraine assuming the position in the headlines earlier taken up by the pandemic. And *yet again*, “Never Again” seems a fading dream.

And *yet again*, spring is everywhere. This year we returned to in-person courses, and since a few weeks ago we’re seeing each other’s full faces again, or in many cases for the first time. There are crowds of students on the main green, tables and tents, music, events in great profusion, flowers everywhere in bloom, and the eggs of the peregrine falcon nesting atop the Superman Building have hatched.

In the fall, students in HIST1240A Politics of Violence in 20C Europe learned a poem by heart: “Reality Demands,” written by the Polish Nobel laureate Wisława Szymborska.

One passage from it comes to mind often:

*This terrifying world is not devoid of charms,  
of the mornings  
that make waking up worthwhile.*

It has been a joy to sit in rooms with others again. Admittedly, it wasn’t quite “back to normal.” Many students and faculty fell ill in successive waves across the year, and re-emergence from isolation has come with some stress and weirdness. Students have commented on how the distance between seniors and first years somehow seems greater than hitherto, marking an experiential rupture that’s difficult to define but nonetheless evident.



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## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

We will finally have our graduation ceremony at the Congregational Church again, complete with faculty in pompous regalia, proud parents, extended families, and a lovely reception afterwards (thanks to History Department staff!). The applause and enthusiastic shouts of support and solidarity will be heard and felt, rather than silently appearing as clapping-hands icons on a screen. And we'll welcome some graduates from 2020 and 2021 back with a reception, too.

This past year I've put back many a slice of Piezoni's pizza at events like the departmental Halloween party, various reading and discussion groups, and with members of the History DUG and honors cohort. Often it was hard to book a room because events were happening all over campus: debates, dancing, sports, clubs, DUGs, plays, talks, celebrations, receptions, workshops, reading groups, conferences, panel discussions, and not to mention classes(!). It's been a great frenzy since re-emergence, and close to overwhelming at times, but also such an unforgettable ride.

Warmest thanks to our History faculty, our dedicated and creative grad student TA's, Dean's Fellows, Visiting Assistant Professors, and above all to our concentrators and other students for your energy, hard work, ideas, engagement with the broader community, and for your excellent good humor.

Greetings to alumni near and far, and heartiest congratulations to our 2022 graduates!

### **Holly Case**

Director of Undergraduate Studies



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## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

# The History Department Undergraduate Group

### **Connor Jenkins '22, Gemma Ryu '22 and Alexandra Blitzer '22**

The History DUG dove headfirst into resuming live programming and cultivating community amongst undergraduate historians across the University. Convening in person for the first time in two years and meeting the classes of 2024 and 2025, the DUG focused on rekindling the sense of community and on bringing a new cohort of undergraduates into the fold of the Department.

The year began with the annual concentration fair on Simmons Quad; Professor Case and DUG members marveled at their technological prowess in creating a QR code of concentration requirements for History. Armed with Jolly Ranchers and color-printed stickers, we strategized how best to bring new students into the past and into the Department with a careful mix of colorful stickers and brainwashing! We celebrated Halloween with concentrators, prospective students, and faculty (plus a few pets and



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## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

children!) on the porch of Peter Green House with candy and cookies. Many students finally met faculty face-to-face for the first time, and we shared our best stories of Halloween's past.

Throughout the year, we hosted cocktail events for current and potential thesis writers to share in the travails of writing, wrangling bibliographies, and finding an answer to the perennial question: "So what's your thesis about?" Celebrating chapter and prospectus deadlines throughout the year, students in 1993 and 1994 imparted wisdom for potential writers and students in 1992 about the process of thesis writing, offering wisdom that we ourselves refused to follow. After submitting our final theses in April, we had a celebration with all of the students in the thesis sequence along with our advisers to celebrate the hard work of students and mentorship of advisers.

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a DUG meet-and-greet for potential and current concentrators ahead of the deadline for declaring concentrations, and (as usual) shared food and good company to learn more about the Department and the ongoing work of various students and faculty. At the same time, we ran multiple Q+A advising sessions for potential concentrators in the Blue Room to continue the brainwashing and bring students into the History Department. We welcomed Princeton Prof. Tera Hunter to Brown for the Marjorie Harris Weiss Memorial Lecture and had an event for undergraduates to ask questions about her research, learn more about the academy, and understand the importance of history in the modern world.

All in all, the year was a fantastic success in rebuilding community and mentorship in and beyond the History Department, over candy, drinks, and Insomnia Cookies, even as we saw again and again the importance of studying history amidst ongoing crises and a global pandemic. We thank Professor Case for her support, encouragement of our ideas, and willingness to chaperone all our events.



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## Award Recipients

The recipient of this year's R. Douglas Cope Memorial Undergraduate Award, honoring Professor Cope's 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, the award is open to first-generation or low-income History concentrators who have a demonstrated commitment to the ideals that motivated Professor Cope's scholarship and teaching, is **Lauren Parker**.

The two co-recipients of The David Herlihy Prize, which goes to the best student in ancient, Medieval or Renaissance History are **Carmen Bebbington** and **Michael Geisinger**.

**Ella Altidor**, honors recipient for her thesis "Troubling the Ideal Haitienne: The Life and Afterlife of Empress Marie-Claire Heureuse and the Gender Politics of Haitian Nation-Building (1804-1806)" - Ella's advisor is: Prof. Emily Owens

She is also the recipient of the Skidmore Family and Friends Thesis Prize for best thesis in Latin American Studies.

**Noam Bizan**, honors recipient for her thesis, "Political Dance: American Depictions of U.S.-Soviet Ballet Exchanges, 1966-1979" - Noam's advisor is Prof. Ethan Pollock.

She is also a co-recipient of the Gaspee Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution for the best paper written as a class assignment in an American history course

**Alexandra Blitzer**, honors recipient for her thesis, "Changing the Law, Changing a Community: Lamphere v. Brown University and The Opportunities and Limitations of Legal Remedies for Driving Social Change in the Workplace" Zander's advisor is Prof. Robert Self.

She is also a co-recipient of the Gaspee Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution for the best paper written as a class assignment in an American history course

**Zoe Boggs**, honors recipient for her thesis, "'We Work as Lesbians': Horizontal Knowledge Production and Labor in Lesbian-Feminist Publishing Collectives, 1974-1985" - Zoe's advisor is Prof. Robert Self

**Katherine Dario**, honors recipient for her thesis, "The Shearer Summer Theater of Oak Bluffs and the Power of Place: The Rise and Resilience of the Black Summer Community on Martha's Vineyard" - Kate's advisor is Prof. Françoise Hamlin

She is also the recipient of the Pell Medal for excellence in United States History



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**Morgan De Lancy**, honors recipient for her thesis, “Belonging in the Heart of Empire: Community, Education, and Care in the Black Supplementary School Movement, 1965-1975” – Morgan’s advisor is Prof. Daniel Rodriguez

She is also a co-recipient of the Christian Yegen History Thesis Prize for a History Department Outstanding Honors Thesis

**Milo Douglas**, honors recipient for his thesis, “Memory and Denial: Confronting the Enduring Legacies of the Ovaherero and Nama Genocide” - Milo’s advisor is Prof. Omer Bartov

**Yara Doumani**, honors recipient for her thesis, “‘In Sisterhood I Will Remain Strong:’ Indigenous Women’s Resistances, Writings, and Relations, 1970s-1980s” – Yara’s advisor is Prof. Naoko Shibusawa

**Clara Epstein**, honors recipient for her thesis, “By Means of the Bible It All Began: Liberation Theology in Salvadoran Popular Resistance and the Emergence of the Tucson Sanctuary Movement, 1980-1986” – Clara’s advisor is Prof. Evelyn Hu-Dehart

She is also a co-recipient of the Gaspee Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution for the best paper written as a class assignment in an American history course

**Emma George**, honors recipient for her thesis, “Engraving Empire: Lubok Prints and Russian Identities from the Enlightenment to Romanticism” - Emma’s advisor is Prof. Ethan Pollock

She is also a co-recipient of the John Thomas Memorial Award for the Best History Department Thesis

**Connor Jenkins**, honors recipient for his thesis, “‘Fear gave speed to our steps’: Slavery’s Hauntings and the Long Lives of Plantation Geographies in Edenton, North Carolina” – Connor’s advisor is Prof. Françoise Hamlin

He is also a co-recipient of the John Thomas Memorial Award for the Best History Department Thesis

**Isabella Kearns**, honors recipient for her thesis, “‘Exposed to Moral Danger:’ Criminalizing Indigeneity, Sexuality, and Class at the Parramatta Girls Home” – Isabella’s advisor is Prof. Jennifer Lambe

**Emma Kelly**, honors recipient for her thesis, “Standardizing ‘The History of a Mind:’ The Inception of and Attitudes Toward Age-Graded Schooling in the 19th Century Northeastern United States” – Emma’s advisor is Prof. Howard Chudacoff

**Sloane Kratzman**, honors recipient for her thesis, “The Witch Trial of The Cunning Woman: The Fragility of Reputation and Power of Knowledge in the 1653 Trial of Anne Bodenham” – Sloane’s advisor is Prof. Tara Nummedal



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**Isobel McCrum**, honors recipient for her thesis, “The Sorcerer’s Apprentice: Unintended Consequences in Minds, Machines, and History” – Isobel’s advisor is Prof. Holly Case

**Nesya Nelkin**, honors recipient for her thesis, “‘On Curses and Issues in the Women’s Synagogue’: The Social and Religious Centrality of Women’s Synagogues in Ashkenaz, 1350-1500” – Nesya’s advisor is Prof. Amy Remensnyder

She is also a co-recipient of the Marjorie Harris Weiss Memorial Premium in History - To an outstanding undergraduate student majoring in History

**Max Niles**, honors recipient for his thesis, “Patria Libre: Black Cuban Political Networks and Cultural Politics in a Republican World (1890-1916)” – Max’s advisor is Prof. Daniel Rodriguez

**Akshaan Parikh**, honors recipient for his thesis, “‘Let Us Alone to Die’: Plague Camps in Bombay City, 1896-1902” – Akshaan’s advisor is Prof. Hal Cook

He is also a co-recipient of the Christian Yegen History Thesis Prize for a History Department Outstanding Honors Thesis

**Rebecca Qiu**, honors recipient for her thesis, “The Symphony of the Streets: The Music and Noises of Urban Boston” – Rebecca’s advisor is Prof. Seth Rockman

She is also a co-recipient of the Gaspee Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution for the best paper written as a class assignment in an American history course

**Basíl Rodríguez**, honors recipient for their thesis, “The Racialized Application of Mental Health Care: Historical Experiences of Mexican Childhood in California from the 1920s-1970s” Basil’s advisor is Prof. Mark Ocegueda

**Gemma Ryu**, honors recipient for her thesis, “‘Make heirs for monarchs, and for God decree’: Views of Legitimacy, Succession, and the English Monarchy, 1670-1688” – Gemma’s advisor is Prof. Tim Harris

**Tarana Sable**, honors recipient for her thesis, “Fragmented Community in a Colonial City: The Baghdadi Jews of Calcutta in the Late Imperial Period (1880-1935)” – Tarana’s advisor is Prof. Sreemati Mitter

She is also a co-recipient of the Marjorie Harris Weiss Memorial Premium in History - To an outstanding undergraduate student majoring in History

**Aidan Wang**, honors recipient for his thesis, “Transforming the Schools, Teaching the Teachers: Ted Sizer, Brown University’s Education Department, and the Early Days of the Coalition of Essential Schools” – Aidan’s advisor is Prof. Luther Spoehr

He is also a co-recipient of the Marjorie Harris Weiss Memorial Premium in History - To an outstanding undergraduate student majoring in History



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# Reflections from the Director of the Honors Program

## Jennifer Johnson

This year I was fortunate to serve as the History Department's inaugural Director of the Honors Program (DHP). Previously, the Director of Undergraduate Studies ran the honors program, in addition to all of the other important parts of the undergraduate program. Now, the DHP runs the three-course honors sequence (HIST 1992, 1993, and 1994) and has the pleasure of working with students whose research interests span all time periods, geographic regions, and topics. It's rare that faculty get to encounter students outside of their classes and research areas and the honors program is one of the few opportunities where this enriching intellectual exchange can take place.

We had an unprecedented number of thesis writers this year! 23 students submitted theses of 80-100 pages and received honors. Their topics ranged from black theatre on Martha's Vineyard, the afterlives of slavery in North Carolina, indigenous histories of women and girls, the role of ballet during the Cold War, and women's synagogues and religious practices in the 14th and 15th centuries to histories of education and gender discrimination at Brown University, lesbian presses during the feminist movement, Black political movements in Republican Cuba, and Baghdadi Jews in Calcutta and the creation of racial and ethnic categories.

This year's honors cohort encountered and overcame incredible COVID-related research challenges. The pandemic hovered over them from the time that they expressed interest in writing a thesis all the way until the day they submitted their final thesis. Persevering through travel restrictions, archive closures, and significantly reduced primary source material, attests to their commitment and resilience. Despite these difficulties, the students found a way with the support of their advisors, writing groups and funding from the department that allowed students to visit archives (as far away as London and Mumbai and as close as Boston and New York) during brief windows of accessibility. In addition to the valuable research and writing skills that the honors thesis teaches students, I am confident these additional skills of flexibility, adaptability and ingenuity will serve them long after they leave Brown.



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## Honors Recipients

### **Ella Altidor**

*Troubling the Ideal Haïtienne: The Life and Afterlife of Empress Marie-Claire Heureuse and the Gender Politics of Haitian Nation-Building (1804-1806)*

**Advisor: Emily Owens**

### **Noam Bizan**

*Political Dance: American Depictions of U.S.-Soviet Ballet Exchanges, 1966-1979*

**Advisor: Ethan Pollock**

### **Alexandra Blitzer**

*Changing the Law, Changing a Community: Lamphere v. Brown University and The Opportunities and Limitations of Legal Remedies for Driving Social Change in the Workplace*

**Advisor: Robert Self**

### **Zoe V. Boggs**

*“We Work as Lesbians”: Horizontal Knowledge Production and Labor in Lesbian-Feminist Publishing Collectives, 1974-1985*

**Advisor: Robert Self**

### **Katherine C. Dario**

*The Shearer Summer Theater of Oak Bluffs and the Power of Place: The Rise and Resilience of the Black Summer Community on Martha’s Vineyard*

**Advisor: Françoise Hamlin**

### **Morgan C. De Lancy**

*Belonging in the Heart of Empire: Community, Education, and Care in the Black Supplementary School Movement, 1965-1975*

**Advisor: Daniel Rodriguez**

### **Milo P. Douglas**

*Memory and Denial: Confronting the Enduring Legacies of the Ovaherero and Nama Genocide*

**Advisor: Omer Bartov**

### **Yara Doumani**

*“In Sisterhood I Will Remain Strong:” Indigenous Women’s Resistances, Writings, and Relations, 1970s-1980s*

**Advisor: Naoko Shibusawa**

### **Clara R. Epstein**

*“By Means Of The Bible It All Began” Liberation Theology in Salvadoran Popular Resistance and the Emergence of the Tucson Sanctuary Movement, 1980-1986*

**Advisor: Evelyn Hu-DeHart**

### **Emma George**

*Engraving Empire: Lubok Prints and Russian Identities from the Enlightenment to Romanticism*

**Advisor: Ethan Pollock**



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## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

### **Connor J. Jenkins**

*“Fear gave speed to our steps”:  
Slavery’s Hauntings and the Long  
Lives of Plantation Geographies in  
Edenton, North Carolina*

**Advisor: Françoise Hamlin**

### **Isabella R. Kearns**

*“Exposed to Moral Danger:”  
Criminalizing Indigeneity, Sexuality,  
and Class at the Parramatta  
Girls Home*

**Advisor: Jennifer Lambe**

### **Emma R. Kelly**

*Standardizing “The History of a Mind:”  
The Inception of and Attitudes Toward  
Age-Graded Schooling in the 19th  
Century Northeastern United States*

**Advisor: Howard Chudacoff**

### **Sloane C. Kratzman**

*The Witch Trial of The Cunning  
Woman: The Fragility of Reputation  
and Power of Knowledge in the 1653  
Trial of Anne Bodenham*

**Advisor: Tara Nummedal**

### **Isobel McCrum**

*The Sorcerer’s Apprentice:  
Unintended Consequences in  
Minds, Machines, and History*

**Advisor: Holly Case**

### **Nesya B. Nelkin**

*“On Curses and Issues in the Women’s  
Synagogue”: The Social and Religious  
Centrality of Women’s Synagogues in  
Ashkenaz, 1350-1500*

**Advisor: Amy Remensnyder**

### **Max Niles**

*Patria Libre: Black Cuban Political  
Networks and Cultural Politics in a  
Republican World (1890-1916)*

**Advisor: Daniel Rodriguez**

### **Akshaan Parikh**

*Let Us Alone to Die: Plague Camps  
in Bombay City, 1896-1902*

**Advisor: Harold Cook**

### **Rebecca Qiu**

*The Symphony of the Streets: The  
Music and Noises of Urban Boston*

**Advisor: Seth Rockman**

### **Básil Rodríguez**

*The Racialized Application of Mental  
Health Care: Historical Experiences of  
Mexican Childhood in California from  
the 1920s-1970s*

**Advisor: Mark Ocegueda**

### **Gemma L. Ryu**

*“Make heirs for monarchs, and  
for God decree”: Views of Legitimacy,  
Succession, and the English Monarchy,  
1670-1688*

**Advisor: Tim Harris**

### **Gemma L. Sack**

*Selling Mrs. Precreator: Eugenics,  
Homemaking, and American  
Nationalism in Women’s  
Magazines, 1929-39*

**Advisor: Deborah Weinstein**



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## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

### **Tarana K. Sable**

*Fragmented Community in a Colonial City: The Baghdadi Jews of Calcutta in the Late Imperial Period (1880-1935)*

**Advisor: Sreemati Mitter**

### **Nicole Wei Yow**

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

**Advisor: Cynthia Brokaw**

### **Aidan J. Wang**

*Transforming the Schools, Teaching the Teachers: Ted Sizer, Brown University's Education Department, and the Early Days of the Coalition of Essential Schools*

**Advisor: Luther Spoehr**



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# Graduate Program

## Reflections from the Director of Graduate Studies

**THIS SPRING MARKS THE START** of the third year of the global pandemic. While I know all of us at Brown were affected in various ways, our graduate students have really felt the full weight of the pandemic in unique ways. For two summers in a row, first year students couldn't travel to archives for their year long research project, which later made (or will make) writing a prospectus more challenging. Students studying for their Preliminary Exams (3rd year) scrambled to get books as libraries and the Interlibrary Loan System shut down for what seemed like an eternity.

Three classes of Prospectus Seminar students have looked out into the abyss of research and writing in the fourth year and beyond, wondering when exactly they would be able to receive authorization for critically important research and travel. Students who were already mid-stride in their dissertation research have had to recalibrate, working the materials they already had, and in some cases truncating their projects or rethinking the scope, content, and shape of them directly. (COVID has prompted one entirely digital dissertation — new terrain for the department and the university.) Graduate students who finished during COVID faced the immense uncertainty of frozen budgets, canceled searches, and a lingering question about what the new normal job market might be post COVID.

And yet, in the face of all of these undeniable challenges, our graduate students have persisted. Year Long projects got written in new and creative ways; students reconfigured Preliminary Exam lists and Prospectuses to meet the new reality of access and the archives; students faithfully taught sections for larger grad courses,



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## GRADUATE PROGRAM

even shifting online early in the pandemic, and braving new COVID realities as things opened up and went mask-optional in the spring semester; amidst the ebb and flow of COVID, students went abroad through research grants and prestigious fellowships, spending time at archives in Japan, Mexico, and Spain, among many other places; dissertations were written, one word, one paragraph, one chapter at a time, and were defended, even during the weeks of early COVID, when it seemed the entire world was shutting down. Our students bravely applied to all manner of jobs, and often landed something that kept them afloat, whether tenure track positions at places like Cornell, or research positions at Boston University, or postdoctoral fellowships at Brown or elsewhere. I have been incredibly proud of our students, and it has been an honor to walk with them, along with Faiz Ahmed, our Director of Graduate Studies, through these challenging times.

COVID and the new Graduate Labor Union (GLO) have prompted new means of support for our students, and I've been grateful for the Department's and the Graduate School's willingness to think creatively and robustly during these difficult times. Most significantly, the Graduate School has now offered two cycles of "COVID Extension" (7th year) funding for cohorts most directly affected by the pandemic. This gives students in these cohorts an extra fully funded year at Brown to finish their research and writing. The Graduate School and the Dean of the Faculty also expanded the Dean's Faculty Fellowship to provide for a full year of a funded, competitive Visiting Assistant Professorship for dozens of Brown Ph.D. graduates, thereby easing the transition into the job market. The Graduate School also increased the years of guaranteed funding to six years (from five) and also increased the amount of summer funding for all students, thereby easing the prior burden of leaner summer months. For its part, the Department of History increased its Research and Travel Fund, Open Fund, and Language Fund, and added additional support in terms of a Technology Fund and a Book Fund. These have been challenging times, but I'm grateful to this university for stepping up to help meet those challenges.

### **Linford D. Fisher**

Director of Graduate Studies



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# Accomplishments of Graduate Students in 2020-21

## **Stephanie Wong**

Received Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad fellowship.

Co-founded and organized Public Books column “Antiquities” as lead editor; launched inaugural issue *Finding Nowhere*.

Published two essays in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*: “The Life of Nostalgic Content: On Li Ziqi” and “Bachelor Nation and the History of Gamifying Romance.”

Forthcoming essay in the *Los Angeles Review of Books Quarterly Journal*, Summer 2022.

## **Thamyris Almeida**

Presented a paper “Lowest Form of Culture: Humor and Censorship on Brazilian TV,” at Popular Culture Association Conference (June 2, 2021).

2022-2023 Dean’s Faculty Fellowship, Brown University.

Appointed Lecturer (Visiting Assistant Professor) in Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Studies at Dartmouth College in Fall 2022.

Forthcoming “Television for Social Change: Transnational Networks and Educational TV in Cold War Brazil,” (*Journal of Cold War Studies*).

*Dissertation Title: Soul of a Modern Nation: Television in Cold War Brazil, 1950-1985*

**Co-Directors: James Green and Jennifer Lambe**

## **Leslie-William Robinson**

Presented a paper, “Morale and the Façade of Consent: Innovating Affective Labor Practices of Control in the World War I US Army,” European Labor History Network Conference, September 2021.

Deans Faculty Fellowship, Brown University, 2022-2023.

## **Zhang Yekai**

Received Huntington Short-term Fellowship and Huntington Exchange Fellowship to UK.

Presented “Balladeering, Poetry and the Political Culture of the Second and Third Dutch Wars. Restoration Britain, c. 1664-1674,” at North American Conference of British Studies, 2021, Atlanta, GA.

Received invitation to “Understanding the Social Depth of Politics in Early Modern Britain” (in person & online seminar talks), Institute of History and Sun Yat-sen Studies, Guangdong Academy of Social Sciences, 11 March, 2022.

## **Lillian Tsay**

Received The KCC Japan Education



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## GRADUATE PROGRAM

Exchange Graduate Fellowship, 2022-2023

Received Academia Sinica Fellowships for Doctoral Candidates in the Humanities and Social Sciences (Institute of Taiwan History), 2021-2022

Received Foundation of Chinese Dietary Culture Ph.D. and Master Thesis Scholarships, 2021

Presented paper “Sweetening the Empire: Japanese Western-style Confectionery in Colonial Taiwan and Beyond,” Association for Asian Studies, Honolulu, 2022 (virtual)

### **Stacey Murrell**

Appointed a Peter Green Doctoral Scholar (Brown History Department) for the 2021-22 academic year.

Received History Advanced Teaching Fellowship from the department for the 2022-23 academic year.

Presented “Extra-Legitimate Mothering: Concubines, Othermothers, and Feminine Inheritance in Islamic and Christian Iberia” at the Medieval Academy of America, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA (March 11, 2022).

### **Sherri Cummings**

Dean’s Faculty Fellowship for 2022-2023

Co-recipient of the History Department’s Distinguished Dissertation Award.

### **Luiz Paulo Ferraz**

Received 2021 IBES (Institute at Brown for Environment and Society) Graduate Research Award.

Received 2021 CLACS (Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies) Pre-Dissertation Research Award.

Presented paper “Between Anti-Indigenous Policies and Indigenous Mobilizations: A Brief Analysis of Bolsonaro’s Brazil” at the New England Council of Latin American Studies (NECLAS) 2021 Annual Meeting at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, October 30, 2021.

Presented paper “História ao Ar Livre (Open-Air History): Public History in the Streets, Squares, and Parks of Recife, Brazil” at the Public History Summer School (Online), organized by the University of Wroclaw (Poland) and the International Federation for Public History, June 11, 2021.

### **Augusta (Guta) da Silveira de Oliveira**

Received a Joukowsky Summer Research Award for the Summer of 2022.

Presented paper “Where are the Lesbians in Lampião da Esquina (1978-1981)?” at the Brazilian Studies Association Congress (BRASA), online, March 12, 2022.

Presented paper “An astonishing wedding”: Gender and Sexuality in Twentieth Century Brazil” at the III Congress of the Association of Brazilianists in Europe (ABRE), online, September 24, 2021.



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## GRADUATE PROGRAM

Presented paper “Human rights attacks and LGBT+ population under Bolsonaro” at the New England Council of Latin American Studies (NECLAS) 2021 Annual Meeting at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, October 30, 2021.

### **Ebru Erginbas**

Paper, “Science in Exile: An Analysis of the German Jewish Scientists in Early Republican Turkey,” accepted to the 34th Deutschen Orientalistentag

### **Maximilian Conley**

Received a Graduate Community Fellowship through Brown to co-organize the Graduate Disability Studies Reading Group, from Fall 2021 through Spring 2022.

Presented a conference paper for Seeding Relations: Beyond Settler Colonial and Racialized Ecologies on “Underwater Listening: Acoustic Histories of Cetacean Anti-Colonialism in the 19th Century” on March 25th, 2022.

### **Dillon Webster**

Selected for the Medieval Academy of America’s Charles T. Wood Dissertation Research Grant

Invited to contribute to the Maghrebi Laborers project

Upcoming presentation on the conference paper, “Fonādiq and the Political Energy of Mobility” at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds.

### **George Elliott**

Planned and taught course this spring on the history of the laboratory as History Advanced Teaching (HAT) Fellow

Presented paper “Chymical Medicine as Practice: Gershom Bulkeley’s Spiritual Laboratory and Parlor Patients” at the New College Renaissance Conference, Sarasota, FL, March 3, 2022

Delivered invited talk “Saltbox Science: Science and Medicine in Early America” at Roger Williams University, October 27, 2021 as part of Joshua B. Stein Lecture Series

Offered Science History Institute Short-term Fellowship for 2022-2023 academic year

### **Aaron Stark**

Presented paper “Transnational Intellectual Exchange and the Establishment of Japan’s First National Parks” at the Association for Asian-American Studies annual conference; online; April 16, 2022.

### **Anıl Aşkın**

Residential Fellowship at Koc University’s Research Center for Anatolian Civilizations (ANAMED) for the 2022-23 AY.

Short-term research fellowship by American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT)

Cogut Institute Graduate Fellowship.

Cornell School of Criticism and Theory Tuition Fellowship.



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## GRADUATE PROGRAM

### **Marina Dias Lucena Adams**

Presented paper “Contesting Gender: Women’s Rights in Bolsonaro’s Brazil” at the New England Council of Latin American Studies (NECLAS) 2021 Annual Meeting at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, (October 30, 2021)

Presented paper “Fifty Years of Solidarity with Brazil in the United States: A Brief Overview” at the Brazilian Studies Association Congress (BRASA), (March 10, 2022)

Invited panelist at the University of Vermont’s roundtable “The 2022 Brazilian Presidential Election: Historical and Present Significance” - talk entitled “The Right to Vote: Perspectives on the Brazilian Election” (April 26, 2022)

### **Osama Ohmad**

Appointed a Peter Green Doctoral Scholar (Brown/History Department) for the 2022-2023 academic year.



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## Doctor of Philosophy, 2021-22

### **Thamyris F. T. Almeida**

*Soul of a Modern Nation: Television in Cold War Brazil, 1950-1985*

**Director: James Green**

### **Yu-chi Chang**

*Imagining the Loss: Maps and State-Building in Modern China, 1910s-1940s*

**Director: Rebecca Nedostup**

### **Sherri V. Cummings**

*In Search of Equiano's Sister: Girlhood and Slavery in the Early Modern British Atlantic, 1600-1807*

**Director: Roquinaldo Ferreira**

### **George Elliott**

*Saltbox Science: Alchemy, Medicine, and Gershom Bulkeley in the Late Seventeenth-Century Anglo-Atlantic, 1660-1713*

**Director: Tara Nummedal**

### **Mayer Juni**

*The Politics of Biography: Inquisition, Identification, and Empire in the Spanish Atlantic*

**Director: Tara Nummedal**

### **Emily Pierson**

*Living with the City of the Dead: Garden Cemeteries and Community Formation in Nineteenth Century America*

**Director: Linford Fisher**

### **Leslie-William T. Robinson**

*Military Medicine, Morale, and the Affective Management of Men in Early Twentieth-Century United States*

**Director: Robert O. Self**

### **James Wang**

*Contesting Mitteleuropa, the Middle European Idea in German Political Thought between Liberalism and Nationalism 1880-1919*

**Director: Omer Bartov**

## MASTER OF ARTS, 2021-22

**Maximilian Conley**

**Rowan W. Gledhill**

**William F. Irving**



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**YEAR 2 OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC** (still with us at the time of writing) undoubtedly posed more challenges for our graduate program and graduate students' experiences, to say nothing of other crises and conflagrations on the global and national stage. And so for many of us, perhaps August 2021 to May 2022 felt more like nine years than nine months. But allow me to dwell on the significant positives and highlights of the past year from the DGA's vantage point, and several come to mind.

The most visible transformation this year was campus health guidelines slightly loosening relative to the last academic year, allowing for most graduate seminars, office hour meetings, and HGSA events to take place face to face after a 1.5 year virtual hiatus. Personally speaking, that opening itself brought added joy and life to my interactions with our graduate students that would be difficult to overstate. Although the Zoomosphere continued to be a staple for many of us throughout the year, the intangible value of more frequently seeing and listening to graduate students without a pixelated screen in between was a welcome development and I would say is traditionally one of the best parts of the DGA role.

Regardless of format, as with last year it has been a privilege getting to know more History graduate students, each with their own geographic and thematic fields of expertise, research interests and dissertation projects, diverse backgrounds, and life stories. Complementing our DGS Linford Fisher's attention to academic and administrative affairs of History graduate students, my focus as DGA has been career and professional development — from more long-term exercises of brainstorming career pathways (academic or otherwise), to the short-term tasks of drafting conference paper abstracts, grant applications, and cover letters, or conducting mock job talks and interviews. But to this I would humbly add the more diffuse but just as important responsibility of supporting our students through the rigors and angst of graduate student life in general.

As career diversity continues to be an emergent theme in many history departments across the country, it increasingly appears that equipping and empowering our students for a range of professional opportunities as historians should be a responsibility of our department for the foreseeable future. Towards that end, it was again an honor to organize our department's ongoing "What History Looks Like" series. Established in 2016 by prior DGS Rebecca Nedostup and DGA Jonathan Conant, "WHLL" continued for its sixth consecutive year with the same enduring purpose: to foster a space where History



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Department faculty, students, and historians in other departments can share the versatility of their skills, tools, and experiences, and learn more about the diverse settings where historical work takes place. Co-sponsored by the Cogut Institute's 21st Century Ph.D. Series, this year our department hosted "WHLL" events dedicated to the following themes: "The Work and Lives of Tenure-Track Assistant Professors: Myths, Realities, Experiences"; "For the Public Interest: History Ph.D.s in the Nonprofit Sector"; "Archives and Archivists: Professional Opportunities, New Directions"; "The Opportunities and Impact of Producing Curriculum for Secondary Education Classrooms"; and finally, "A Day in the Life Of: Associate Professors." We also added a new component to the series this year — spotlighting the historical work taking place at partner institutions in Providence and greater Rhode Island. This year's "Spotlight" events featured archivists and librarians, high school curriculum producers, and public historians from the Archives of the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women; The Choices Program; and last but not least, the Rhode Island Historical Society, which is celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2022.

As usual in this Spring semester, the DGA also taught History 2950: Professionalization Graduate Seminar (a course I have come to more affectionately refer to as "Historians Without Borders"). Our seminar consisted of weekly meetings, readings, and presentations by the second year cohort and DGA about the evolving professional skills, tools, and career paths of historians—from hallmark practices to new directions. This year's group demonstrated a particular interest in the written and unwritten rules of academia, but also the spoken and oft-unspoken experiences of students pursuing a Ph.D. in History.

Finally, for the second year in a row the DGA administered the department's Teaching Assistantships and Proctorships, a critical part of our graduate students' professional training. This academic year our department supported no less than 43 TAships across 23 lecture courses. Our department's proctorships allow graduate students to gain practical work experiences in public history settings while equipping them for a more versatile set of careers. After a "rebuilding" phase in the Fall, in Spring 2022 the department awarded a proctorship with the Choices Program to Michael Dorney as well as a newly designed proctorship opportunity with Historic New England to Amanda Arceneaux. As in years prior, beyond diversifying their own professional skills and experiences our proctors helped build bridges between the Brown History Department and a wider realm of communities invested in the power of history.

## **Faiz Ahmed**

Director of Graduate Advising



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# The Choices Program

Reflections from the Faculty  
Director of Choices

**HISTORY AND THE [CHOICES PROGRAM](#)** renewed their deeply rewarding partnership for another five years in July 2021, and I have been fortunate to succeed Naoko Shibusawa as Faculty Director working with the extraordinarily knowledgeable Choices staff. The conditions of pandemic-era secondary teaching have meant that digital editions of Choices curriculum units have been more in demand than ever, along with the many free video resources and lessons that these support. Choices staff have become experts in digital delivery and video editing as well as leaders in sharing expertise on history and current issues.

In the past year Choices issued two new curriculum units: [Imperial America: US Global Expansion, 1890-1915](#), and [Civics Lessons for Student Engagement](#). The program also updated four units: [Westward Expansion: A New History](#); [Responding to Terrorism: Challenges for Democracy](#); and [The US Role in a Changing World](#). Choices made an important decision to continue to provide free access to a 1 year Digital Editions license for [Racial Slavery in the Americas: Resistance, Freedom, and Legacies](#) (2020). Although the original funding supporting this access has concluded, this has been one of Choices' most impactful units and we want to keep it in student hands.



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In that spirit, Choices published nine “Teaching with the News” lessons during the year — timely, free, and well grounded. Four of these were wholly new additions to the lengthy Teaching with the News roster.

[“Juneteenth: Symbolism, Ritual, and Meaning”](#)

[“Processing the Pandemic: Remembering a Year of COVID-19 Through Political Cartoons”](#)

[“Oral History and September 11”](#)

[“The Costs of War”](#)

[“Taking It to the Streets: Global Protests During the Pandemic”](#)

[“#StopAAPIHate and the Importance of Studying Difficult Histories”](#)

[“Refugee Stories: Mapping a Crisis”](#)

[“State of the Union Addresses: An Interactive Video Timeline”](#)

[“The Ukraine Crisis”](#)

Finally, Choices expanded its collaborations with History students and faculty. Mark Ocegueda and Daniel Rodriguez joined the Advisory Board, along with Jonathan Collins (Education and International and Public Affairs.) Rodriguez was one of fifteen Brown faculty interviewed by Choices during the past year on topics ranging from public health to climate change to the Middle East and feminism. This year Choices offered its videography skills to History faculty publishing new books, which assists faculty in promoting their work while adding new experts to the Choices roster. Importantly, Choices has become a vital site of collaboration and professional development for graduate students. History doctoral students Sarah Christensen, Michael Dorney, Joseph Leidy, Norman Frazier, and Jorge Rosario Rosario and Africana grad student Ashley Everson contributed to Choices this year as proctors (interns) and in a new role, curriculum consultant (peer reviewer.) Last but not least, Choices has worked collaboratively with many knowledgeable undergraduate assistants, including History concentrators Noam Bizan, Olivia George, and Aidan Wang.

As Choices embarks on a strategic planning process outlining the next five years of curriculum planning, professional development and outreach, and grant writing, the significance of the program’s work could not be more evident. History’s partnership with Choices is truly a fortunate and distinguishing feature of our department.

## **[Rebecca Nedostup](#)**

Associate Professor of History,

Associate Professor of East Asian Studies



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