

HISTORY

MATTERS

Brown University Department of History

Volume 37 / Spring 2023



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History Matters

Brown University Department of History / Volume 37 / Spring 2023

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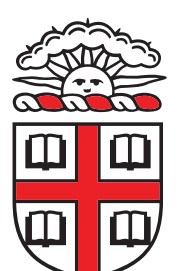
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Thank you.



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About the Cover Image

Shahzad Bashir

Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Humanities, Professor of History

This photograph was taken in what is today the largest refugee camp in the world. It provides a glimpse of the severely constrained and humiliating circumstances affecting millions of Rohingya refugees who have had to flee their homes in Myanmar in recent years. We see two girls with pamphlets meant to teach the Arabic alphabet in order to read the Quran.

In my multimodal digital book *A New Vision for Islamic Pasts and Futures* (MIT Press, 2022), I invite readers and viewers to understand the history of Islam from vignettes such as this image. The book is a methodological intervention suggesting that, for understanding Islam historically, we should move away from grand narratives about a civilization and a religious tradition with a linear chronology. Instead, Islamic pasts and futures are aspects of the human imagination as experienced and narrated by vastly different individuals and communities spread across the globe over more than 14 centuries.



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The state of being a refugee brings to mind a loss of space, of rights pertaining to inhabitation on particular lands. But refugees suffer a loss of time as much as that of space. Displacement from home means being cut off from the past, the anchor of identity, as well as the future, the repository of aspirations and apprehensions. The Rohingya's expulsion from a physical space is tied to them being written out of the national history of Myanmar through legal as well as extrajudicial means. As in many other parts of the world, the Myanmar state's refusal to accept the Rohingya's own understanding of their past as a component of national history is the root justification for the process of ethnic cleansing. Disallowed the correlation between their land and their understanding of their own history, the Rohingya are denied rights of inheritance. This means that they confront severely precarious futures in which their fate, as individuals and as communities, is almost entirely in the hands of others. The fact that the governing systems of the international order have exhibited an utter lack of adherence to principles of justice, equity and compassion makes this a profoundly bleak situation.

For my book, the Rohingya's displacement illustrates a broader point about how we should understand Islam as an aspect of history. The Rohingya are self-consciously Muslim on a communal level, as we can see from the image of provision for young children learning the Arabic alphabet to read the Quran. But the Rohingya's self-conception of being Muslim is irrelevant for why they have been turned into refugees on a mass level. The "Islam" that matters in this case is not of the Rohingya but that of the Myanmar state and its supporters. As enacted through constitutional as well as murderously violent means, Myanmar is defined as a Buddhist state in which the Rohingya are unwelcome aliens within the nation due to their religion. Here, Islam problematizes nationhood understood as Buddhist in its essence. The Rohingya's past as a part of Myanmar is seen as a threat about the future: they are portrayed as harbingers of Myanmar turning majority Muslim along the lines of Southeast Asian countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia. Drawing on examples spread over the centuries, I show that imaginings of Islam that have mattered greatly in history can be credited as much to non-Muslims as to Muslims. One major consequence that flows from this observation is that the contents of "Islamic history" should be understood apart from questions pertaining to religious belief, theology and senses of identitarian belonging.

My work on Islamic pasts and futures points to history's inextricability from broad philosophical questions pertaining to ethics and the valuation of human lives and imaginations. I ask us to follow the gaze of the children captured in this photograph. Therein lie pasts and futures that we create, mediate and authorize. The horizons on which we claim our knowledge are entwined into circumstances that affect peoples of the past, present and future to the point of living and dying.



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A Word from the Chair

Professor Ethan Pollock

Chair, Department of History

THE LATIN PHRASE “Si monumentum requiris circumspice” is carved into the stone at the Brown Street entrance to Wriston Quad just to the south of Brown’s College Green. In English it means, roughly, “If you would seek (my) monument, look around you.” The same words, perhaps a bit more famously, are also written on the floor under the dome of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. There it serves as the architect Christopher Wren’s epitaph. Those who stop to “look around” recognize that the whole cathedral is a monument to Wren.

By implication, the same could be said of the quad for Wriston. In our department, too, you need to look around to get a sense of our collective effort. The buildings themselves are not to be compared to St. Paul’s — but they are nice. (If you haven’t seen the wonderful way that Peter Green House and Sharpe House have been connected, you should come on by the next time you are in Providence). But our more significant “monuments” are not material. We build our worlds through writing books and articles, teaching courses, hosting workshops, sponsoring talks, meeting with our undergraduate students and guiding our graduate students. In the pages that follow you can read about some of this year’s books, courses, talks and research projects and imagine our collective efforts as a department.

As a unit that is constantly in flux, we had relatively few personnel changes this year. Even though our hiring has been slowed by the pandemic, we were able to add three new professors to the roster this year: Keisha Blain, Nancy Khalek and Amy Russell. Professor Blain joins us in connection with her simultaneous appointment as professor of Africana studies. Professor Khalek is also a faculty member in religious studies, and Professor Russell is also in classics and is the director of the Program in Early Cultures. You can read more about these professors in the “new faculty profiles” on pages 16 and 17. Such are



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the cycles of academia that just as we welcome new faculty we are forced to accept that some will also leave. Howard P. Chudacoff, the George L. Littlefield Professor of American History, will retire this summer after over 50 years at Brown. In late April around 100 colleagues, friends and former students gathered on campus to commemorate his long and successful career. His work focused on urban history, the history of childhood, the history of sports and much more. His co-edited textbook “A People and a Nation” provided a crucial and formative introduction to U.S. history for many of us — and is now in its 11th edition. He has been a mainstay of our department since his arrival in 1970, and his wisdom, experience and leadership will be sorely missed.

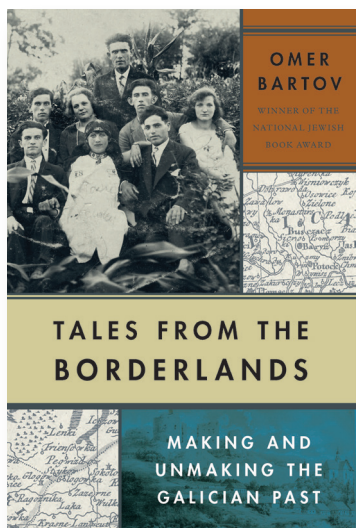
Hearing from Professor Chudacoff’s former students made it clear that when done well our teaching influences far more than we can see and hopefully will continue to do so long after the semester has ended. As teachers we have faith that, when our students leave the classroom, something we said in a lecture or seminar will have stuck with them; something they have read for an assignment will spark their curiosity or encourage their humility; some approach to learning that we’ve attempted to introduce to them will impact the way they approach their work. We hope that they will test truths that they may otherwise have received blindly and that they will have the confidence to create knowledge on their own. Our scholarship too relies on the faith that it shapes the world in unforeseeable ways. We don’t know most of our readers. Even well-reviewed books travel through space missing as many objects as they hit. We simply don’t know who is walking around with our scholarship, who is understanding their communities in new ways because of it, who is in silent conversation with our ideas, and when or how those ideas may be converted into action. The monument is all around us, but nowhere near as concrete as St. Paul’s or Wriston Quad. But it’s there. And I hope that some of it is reflected in the things you’ll read in the pages that follow.



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Recent Faculty Books

New Books



Omer Bartov

Tales from the Borderlands: Making and Unmaking the Galician Past,

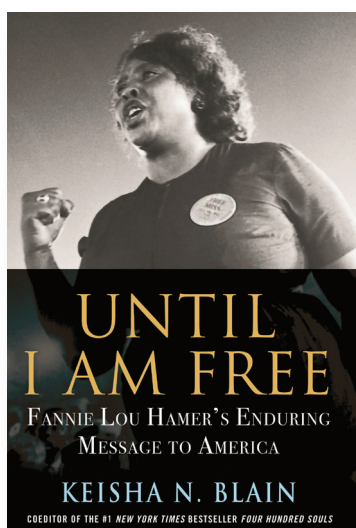
Yale University Press (2022)



Shahzad Bashir

A New Vision for Islamic Pasts and Futures,

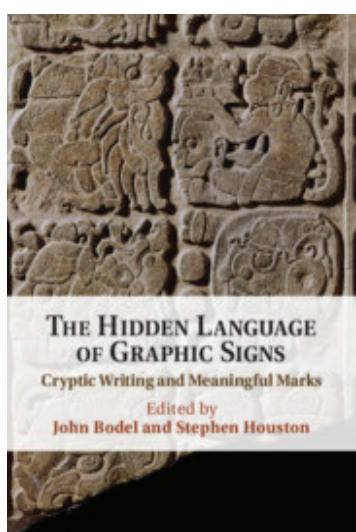
MIT Press (August 2022)



Keisha N. Blain

Until I Am Free: Fannie Lou Hamer's Enduring Message to America,

Beacon Press (Paperback, October 2022)



John Bodell

Co-edited with Stephen Houston, Brown University,
The Hidden Language of Graphic Signs: Cryptic Writing and Meaningful Marks,

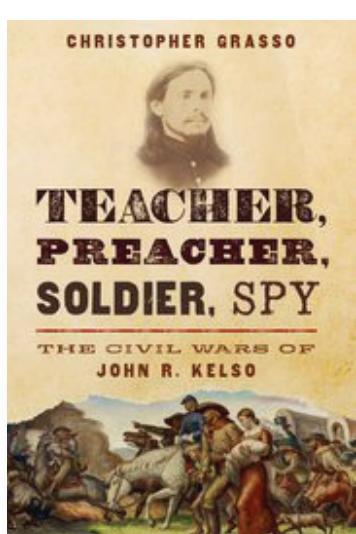
Cambridge University Press (August 2021)



Harold J. Cook

Matters of Exchange: 柯浩德 (Kē Hàodé),

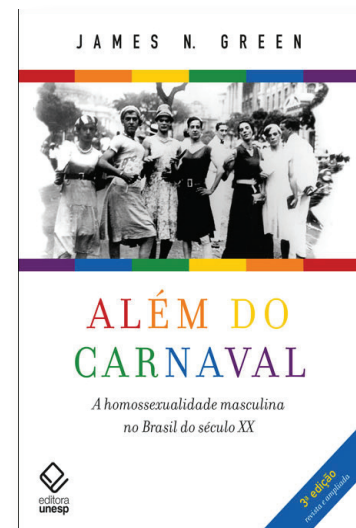
Yale University Press (2022)



Christopher Grasso

Teacher, Preacher, Soldier, Spy: The Civil Wars of John R. Kelso,

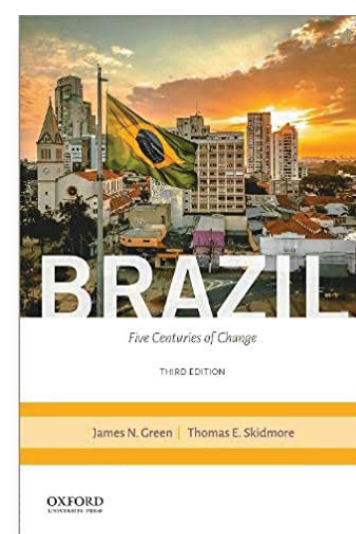
Oxford University Press (2021)



James N. Green

Além do Carnaval: a homossexualidade masculina no Brasil do século XX, 3rd expanded edition,

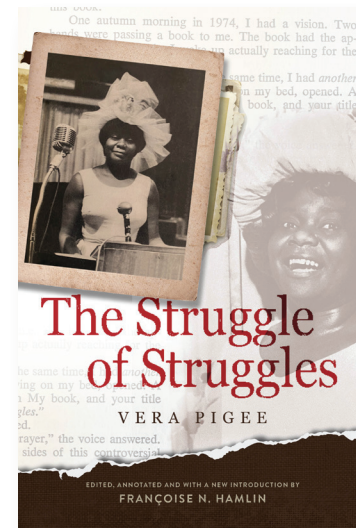
Editora da UNESP (March 2022)



James N. Green

With Thomas E. Skidmore,
Brazil: Five Centuries of Change, Third Edition,

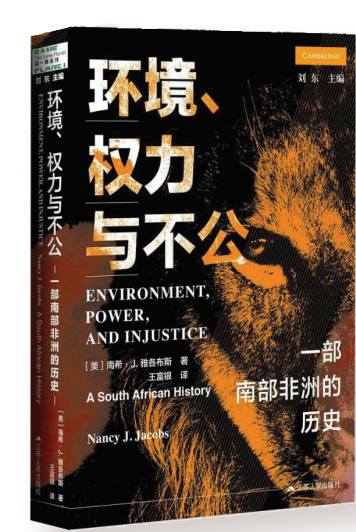
Oxford University Press (June 2021)



Françoise N. Hamlin

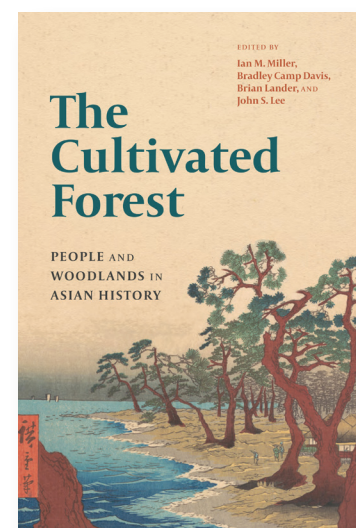
The Struggle of Struggles by Vera Pigeo, republication with an introduction, annotation and timeline,

University Press of Mississippi (March 2023)



Nancy Jacobs

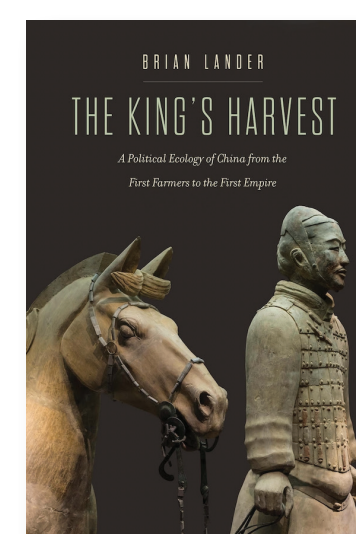
A co-edited volume,
Environment, Power, and Justice,
Ohio University Press (2022)



Brian Lander

Co-edited with Ian Miller, Bradley Davis and John Lee,
The Cultivated Forest: People and Woodlands in Asian History,

University of Washington Press (November 2022)



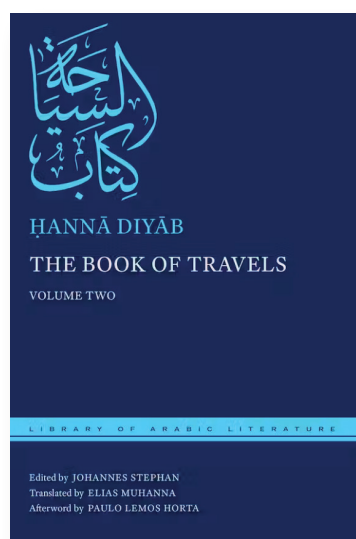
Brian Lander

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



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FACULTY BOOKS | NEW BOOKS

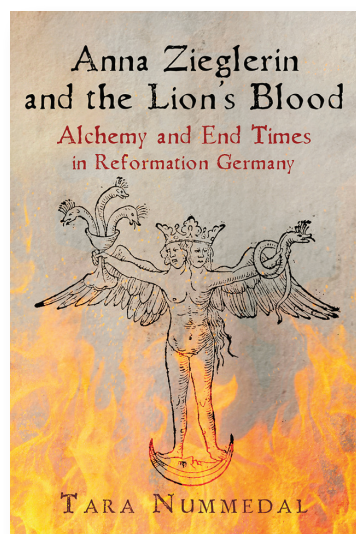


Elias Muhanna

With Hannā Diyāb, Johannes Stephan, eds.,

The Book of Travels: Two-Volume Set,

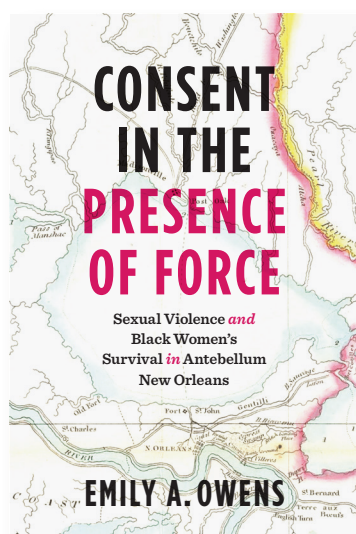
NYU Press (May 2021)



Tara Nummedal

Anna Zieglerin and the Lion's Blood: Alchemy and End Times in Reformation Germany (paperback edition),

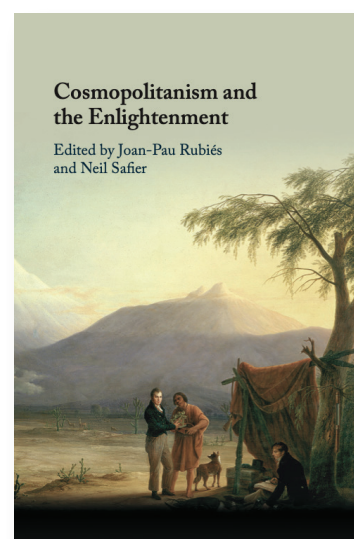
University of Pennsylvania Press (November 2023)



Emily Owens

Consent in the Presence of Force: Sexual Violence and Black Women's Survival in Antebellum New Orleans,

University of North Carolina Press (January 2023)

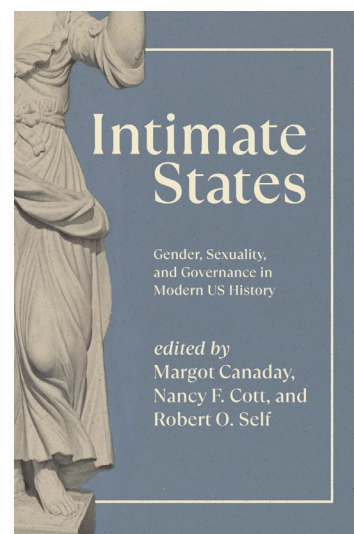


Neil Safier

Co-edited with Joan-Pau Rubiés,

Cosmopolitanism and the Enlightenment,

Cambridge University Press (March 2023)

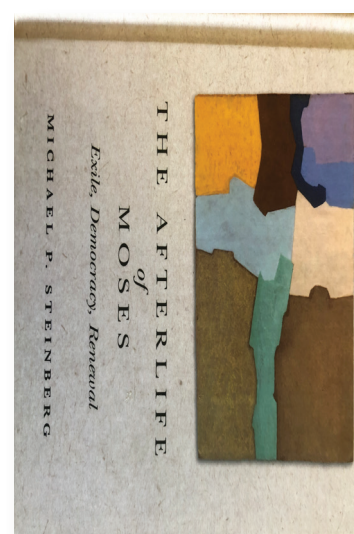


Robert Self

Co-edited with Margot Canaday and Nancy F. Cott,

Intimate States: Gender, Sexuality, and Governance in Modern U.S. History,

University of Chicago Press (September 2021)

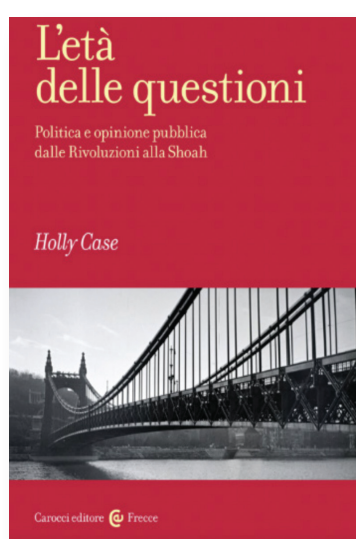


Michael P. Steinberg

The Afterlife of Moses: Exile, Democracy, Renewal,

Stanford University Press (July 2022)

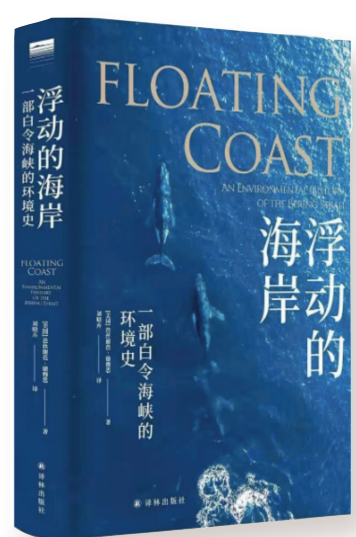
Reprints, Paperback Editions & Translations



Holly Case

The Age of Questions, Italian translation,

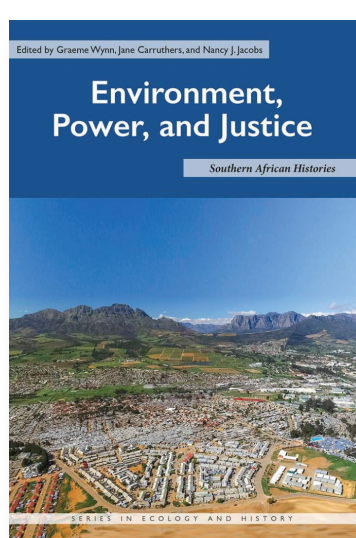
Frecce (2021)



Bathsheba Demuth

Fudong de hai'an,

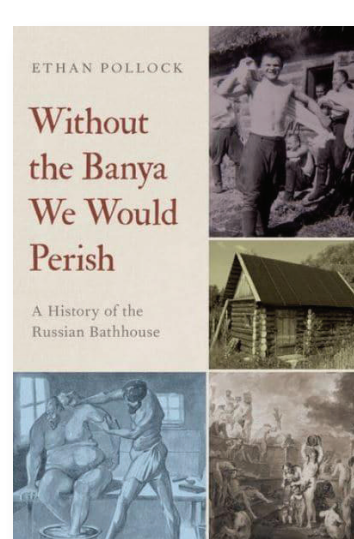
Nanjing: Yilin chubanshe, (2022), Translated by Liu Xiaohui



Nancy Jacobs

Environment, Power and Injustice: A South African History.

New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003. xii +300 pp. (环境、权力与不公：一部南非史 Simplified Chinese translation), Cambridge University Press (April 2022)



Ethan Pollock

Without the Banya We Would Perish: A History of the Russian Bathhouse, paperback edition,

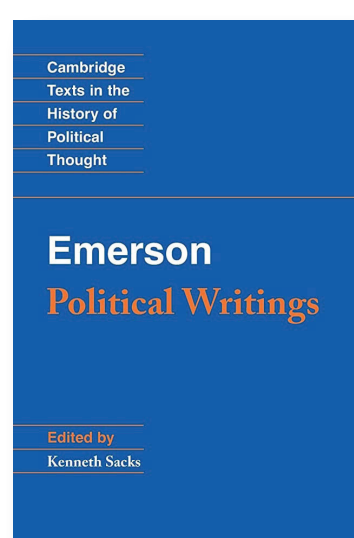
Oxford University Press (2022)



Seth Rockman

Der alte und der neue Materialisms in der Geschichte der Sklaverei, German translation,

Walter de Gruyter (November 2021)



Kenneth Sacks

Political Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Turkish translation,

Timas Publishing (2023)

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Abstract Portraits of Black Women.
Credit: Adobe Stock

Exploration

Consent in the Presence of Force: Sexual Violence and Black Women's Survival in Antebellum New Orleans

Emily Owens



Consent in the Presence of Force: Sexual Violence and Black Women's Survival in Antebellum New Orleans is a history of Black women who were enslaved in New Orleans, and whose enslavement was shaped by sexual service: they were enslaved as concubines, in brothels and in the so-called “fancy trade.”

Attending to the stories of enslaved women for whom sex was the condition of enslavement opens up new ways of thinking about the history of sexuality and



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slavery, but also helps us see the long story of sex and violence anew. The women I write about are a kind of limit case for thinking about sex, violence and exchange: they were women who were “selling their bodies” but, of course, they weren’t selling their bodies because they didn’t own their bodies. They were women who were subjected to sex, but the criminal category “rape” didn’t apply to them. They were women who were involved in sexual contracts, in which men asked them for sex, or spent money or offered gifts in exchange for sex, but they didn’t have any legal power to resist them. And so while the book offers a textured history of a city and of a region, and reveals some of the legal mechanisms — like manumission law, for example — that made the slave trade function, and tells the stories of individual women and their pursuits, I am also hoping to open up a larger critique of rape law in specific and consent as a principle.

Ultimately, *Consent in the Presence of Force* uncovers the legal architecture that made violence against enslaved women a normal part of social life and surfaces the strategies that enslaved women deployed to survive that violence. The stories of individual enslaved women who contested their condition in court highlights that the classic formulation of rape law that requires “the presence of force” and “the absence of consent” to denote a crime was, in fact, a key legal fixture that packaged predation as pleasure and fortified the sexual permissions that slaveholding societies afforded to white men. Unsettling the idea that consent is necessarily incompatible with structural and interpersonal violence, this history shows that when sex is understood as a transaction, women are imagined as responsible for their own violation.

The Global Grey Parrot

Nancy Jacobs



My book project, *The Global Grey Parrot*, puts charismatic animals, the African grey parrots of the *Psittacus* genus, at the center of world history. It is a history of how people all over the world and these birds knew each other. Looking at more-than-human affordances, interests and strategies, it frames more-than-human interactions as political.

The book is global but anchored in Africa. It begins in tropical forests before 1500, when African greys formed



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communities and shared culture. As best we understand it, by calling and mimicking each other, they make alliances and manage competition. Vocalizing is how they practice politics. People sometimes tamed greys, probably allowing them to range freely, uncaged.

Grey parrots entered global history after 1500, when captives were taken away on the same ships that transported enslaved humans. Understanding the Atlantic world as a multispecies space does not require equating human and non-human experience or thinking of animals as slaves. Greys' captivity was driven by their species traits; their human captors commoditized them to exploit their sociability, particularly their urge to mimic. As pets, parrots were often frustrated. Lonesome and stressed birds will act out by biting people and plucking out their own feathers, leading to further isolation and trauma.

The structural weaknesses of Africa's economies — a result of colonial exploitation — led to unsustainable extraction. Now classified as endangered, the international trade of wild greys has been banned. Another source of pets is those bred in captivity in North America, Europe and South Africa with exports mostly to East Asia and the Middle East. Now wild populations in the forest are in decline and captive ones on other continents are continually increasing. Intimate parrot-human negotiations have long existed between individuals, but at the species level, the global grey parrot has entered the age of mankind, the Anthropocene.

Read more:

- [Red Feathers on Grey Parrots](#)
- [The Boy and the Bird](#)



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Undergraduate Research Spotlight: Zoe Zimmermann '22.5



When I began working with Associate Professor of History Linford Fisher the summer after my second year at Brown, I had mainly hoped to do archival research. Instead, I found myself immersed in Stolen Relations — a tribal collaborative database project aiming to understand settler colonialism and its impact through the lens of Indigenous enslavement and unfreedom [a project led by Fisher and robustly supported by the Center for Digital Scholarship at Brown].

My introduction to Stolen Relations was fairly unexceptional: I wanted to do research over the summer after sophomore year, and I liked early American history, so I reached out to Professor Fisher to get involved in what he was working on.

Even though I mainly wanted to do archival research to help with his book, the pandemic pushed me into working primarily on his database project. At the time, I had no idea how significantly this would impact my undergraduate experience! But of course, as they say, you come for the resume credentials but you stay for the valuable mentorships, captivating research questions and meaningful community engagement.

Over the course of the past two and a half years, I've documented instances of Indigenous enslavement from hundreds of historical sources in contexts ranging from New England to California and spanning the late 15th to early 20th centuries. Eventually, I was hired to manage the team of research assistants, and have now mentored dozens of high schoolers, undergraduates and graduate students and have collaborated with many of the project's Indigenous community partners who are interested in learning more about their nation's histories.

Read more:

- [Behind the Scenes of Stolen Relations: Highlighting Zoe Zimmermann, Research Assistant Coordinator](#)



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Graduate Research Spotlight: René Cordero



My name is **René Cordero**, and I was born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, but raised in the heart of Spanish Harlem. My research chronicles the unexplored history of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD) in the Dominican Republic and how it offers exciting analytical and empirical terrain to scholarship on Afro-Latin American studies. It tells the story of how the UASD, as a public institution, became the center of debates about Dominican racism, authoritarianism and imperialism. Through oral histories, state archives, photographs and personal archives, I show how the UASD reflected the country's constant negotiation between the triadic forces of U.S. imperialism, domestic authoritarianism and the presence of Haiti in both lived experience and national imagination.

Until very recently, the Dominican Republic has occupied somewhat of a purgatory position within scholarship on race and nation and Cold War studies. Due to its unique blend of both state-endorsed racism and discourses of racial democracy, the Dominican Republic has left many scholars mystified by its unrecognizable traits. Its proximity to Revolutionary Cuba during the Cold War further relegated its complexity to the simplified binaries of communism vs. anti-communism. My work showcases a new cast of characters in Latin American and Caribbean history by bringing a racial and Caribbean lens to the struggles of young activists during the heady 1960s.

I am also project coordinator for Opening the Archives Dominican Republic (OTA). Coordinated under the directorship of Professor James N. Green, OTA makes thousands of declassified documents about Dominican and U.S. relations during the Cold War available for scholars, students and the public.

In Fall 2025, I will join John Jay College (CUNY) as an assistant professor of Latin American and Latinx studies. A two-year writing fellowship at Williams College will precede this position.



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New Faculty Profile: Keisha N. Blain



Keisha N. Blain, a 2022 Guggenheim Fellow and Class of 2022 Carnegie Fellow, is an award-winning historian of the 20th century U.S. with broad interests and specializations in African American history, the modern African Diaspora and women's and gender studies. She completed a Ph.D. in history from Princeton University in 2014.

Blain is the author of *Set the World on Fire: Black Nationalist Women and the Global Struggle for Freedom* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018). The book won the 2018 First Book Award from the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians and the 2019 Darlene Clark Hine Award from the Organization of American Historians. Her second book, *Until I Am Free: Fannie Lou Hamer's Enduring Message to America* (Beacon Press, 2021), was nominated for an NAACP Image Award and was a finalist for the 2022 National Book Critics Circle Award.

Blain has also published four edited volumes. She is the co-editor of *To Turn the Whole World Over: Black Women and Internationalism* (University of Illinois Press, 2019); *New Perspectives on the Black Intellectual Tradition* (Northwestern University Press, 2018); and *Charleston Syllabus: Readings on Race, Racism, and Racial Violence* (University of Georgia Press, 2016). Her latest volume is *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019*, edited with Ibram X. Kendi (2021). *Four Hundred Souls* debuted at No. 1 on the New York Times Best Sellers list and was selected as a finalist for the 2022 Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. Blain is now writing *A Global Struggle: How Black Women Led the Fight for Human Rights* (W.W. Norton). The book offers a sweeping history of human rights framed by the work and ideas of Black women in the U.S. from the 19th century to the present.

At Brown, Blain plans to deepen her research and writing on 20th century Black politics, internationalism and intellectual history. She's also looking forward to collaborating with new colleagues in the history department and across the campus.



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New Faculty Profile: Nancy Khalek



Nancy Khalek specializes in the history of religion, mainly in the medieval Islamic Near East and Mediterranean. In addition to her work on Byzantine-Muslim interaction, hagiography and historiography, she is now exploring new methodological questions, particularly in the history of emotions as she researches how piety and emotion are represented and cultivated in medieval (Arabic) Islamic tradition literature.

Khalek teaches a range of undergraduate and graduate courses, spanning the medieval and contemporary periods. She is the author of *Damascus after the Muslim Conquest* (Oxford University Press, 2011).

New Faculty Profile: Amy Russell



Amy Russell is a Roman political and cultural historian, with a particular interest in architecture, urbanism and space. She is currently working on a monograph on the building activity of the imperial Senate, part of a larger project on the contributions of multiple social groups to imperial imagery and ideology. Her other current projects include work on the interactions between German and Anglophone scholarship on the Roman Republic, to include a publication of seminal German articles in translation,

and a large-scale edited volume on the spatial turn in Roman studies. Her next major work will be a monograph on the institutional and cultural role of the *populus Romanus*, for which her preparations have included new collaborations with political scientists, historians and lawyers on the construction of peoplehood across time and space.

After undergraduate study at Oxford, Russell graduated from UC Berkeley with a Ph.D. in ancient history and Mediterranean archaeology, with a designated emphasis in women, gender and sexuality. Her first book, *Politics of Public Space in Republican Rome*, was the winner of the 2017 C.J. Goodwin Award of Merit from the Society for Classical Studies. She is also a winner of the 2018 Philip Leverhulme Prize. She is a founding member and former chair of the Women's Classical Committee U.K.



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Faculty Activities

Omer Bartov

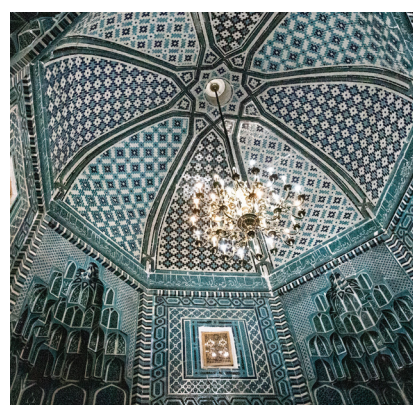


Omer Bartov was on leave in 2022-23. His new monograph, *Tales from the Borderlands: Making and Unmaking the Galician Past*, was published in June 2022 as a featured trade book by Yale University Press. The book is under translation into French, Hebrew and Polish. It has elicited much interest in the U.S., U.K., France, Germany, Austria, Israel and Poland and was reviewed, inter al., in the Times Literary Supplement.

Bartov's experimental novel, *The Butterfly and the Axe*, which constitutes an attempt to fill the gaps left in the historical record of the murder of members of his family in Ukraine, and to trace the effects of that event on three generations of Jews and Ukrainians through letters, testimonies and eyewitness accounts, was published in January 2023 by Amsterdam Publishers. A Hebrew version will be published in Israel in May 2023, and a French version is under consideration. Additionally, Bartov's 2020 edited volume, *Voices on War and Genocide*, which features three diaries by Polish, Ukrainian and Jewish eyewitnesses, was issued in paperback with Berghahn Books in 2023.

Bartov spent Fall 2022 carrying out intensive research in Israel, which entailed 55 in-depth interviews of approximately two hours each with first-generation Jewish and Palestinian Israeli citizens born between the late 1940s and early 1960s, focusing on their link to the place from childhood to the present. These interviews are now in the process of being transcribed, along with an additional 14 interviews conducted in Germany by his brilliant undergraduate research assistant Amienne Spencer-Blume. This material will serve as the basis for Bartov's next book, "Israel, Palestine: A Personal Political History."

Shahzad Bashir

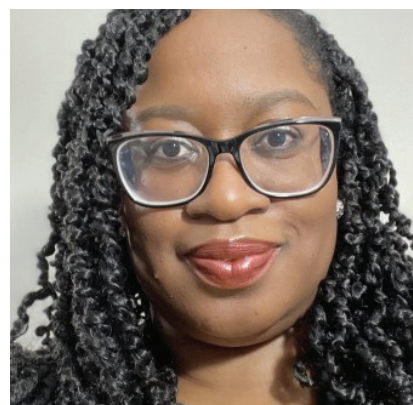


Decorative ceiling of the Shah-i Zinda shrine in Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Shahzad Bashir's digital book, *A New Vision for Islamic Pasts and Futures* (MIT Press), was published in August 2022. This is an open access multimodal monograph with a custom-designed interface that performs its argument. Related to this project, he taught the graduate seminar Histories of Time in the fall that focused on varieties of human understandings of time that give rise to diverse ways of imagining and narrating the past.

In the spring, Bashir taught a new undergraduate course, Religion and European Colonialism, 1700-1900, that is related to his current major project on the cultural history of India during the period when the East India Company established its territorial empire in South Asia. He is looking forward to a sabbatical leave in Fall 2023 when he will have the opportunity to concentrate fully on research and writing.

Keisha N. Blain



Keisha N. Blain joined the faculty in Fall 2022 as a professor of Africana studies and history. During her first semester at Brown, Blain taught an undergraduate course on African American women's history and a graduate seminar on Black Transnational Feminism. With the support of a 2022-23 Guggenheim Fellowship and a 2022-24 Carnegie Fellowship, she made significant progress on her next book project, *A Global Struggle: How Black Women Led the Fight for Human Rights* (under contract,

W.W. Norton). The book offers a sweeping history of human rights framed by the work and ideas of Black women in the U.S. from the 19th century to the present. Blain shared some of her research with employees at the U.S. Department of State in February 2023.



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In the spring semester, Blain continued writing *A Global Struggle* and completed an edited volume on Black women and the future of American democracy. The volume features essays from some of the nation's most influential Black women in politics. It will be published by W.W. Norton in Spring 2024. Most significantly, Blain and her spouse Jay welcomed their second child, Jeremi, in March 2023. Blain looks forward to taking Jeremi on his first summer vacation.

Cynthia Brokaw



Illustration from the
Ten Bamboo Studio
Manual of Painting and
Calligraphy (1633)

This year, Cynthia Brokaw enjoyed seeing several articles on a variety of book history-related topics — long “in press” — finally appear in print: a study of the social meanings of color-printed books in early modern China, an exploration of the concept of intellectual property and copyright in pre-modern China, and an Oxford bibliography on Chinese printing technologies and book publishing. Brokaw enjoyed participating in a new collaborative work that requires that she look beyond China to the study, more broadly, of publishing and book culture in East Asia. This is the UNESCO-supported “From Jikji to Gutenberg” project, which highlights the pathbreaking achievements of Korean printers, producers of the earliest extant work printed by metal movable type, published about 80 years before Gutenberg’s famous Bible. In retirement, Brokaw looks forward to writing on this and the many other contributions that China, Korea, Japan and Vietnam have made to the world history of the book.

As ever, she has found teaching to be energizing — a course on Chinese political thought from Confucius to Xi Jinping and a freshman seminar on the Silk Roads have been particularly interesting. She has also enjoyed a rare opportunity to teach an independent study/graduate course in the history of the Chinese book with four outstanding graduate students from history, art history and religious studies. Her other major adventure this year was taking on the position of graduate admissions director, a new one in the department and one that will grow in significance over time as the department intensifies its efforts to recruit a robustly diverse graduate student cohort.

Holly Case

Last summer, Holly Case co-organized two week-long intensive reading and discussion retreats (Sommerfrische) involving faculty, undergraduates and graduate students from various disciplines. One was held in Poland on the theme of “Simultaneity” (co-organized with history grad student Emily Roche), the other in Connecticut on the theme of “Underground” (co-organized with history grad student Jenny Tsundu). In addition to a seminar on the History of AI — with excellent students representing several disciplines — she also taught two courses on Central and Eastern Europe with the aim of offering some background and perspective on the ongoing war in Ukraine.

After starting an interdisciplinary faculty reading group on AI last year, Case was asked to serve a two-year term as deputy director of the Data Sciences Initiative, a role she formally assumed in January. This year has also been the last in her three-year term as director of undergraduate studies for the department, a job that has impressed on her the wonderful intelligence, dedication and care of Brown’s students, graduate TAs, teaching fellows and faculty.

The year has certainly had its joys and sorrows. Case is unspeakably proud of two former grad students she worked with — Máté Rigó (Brandeis) and Fritz Bartel (Texas A&M) — who published their first books this year. Sadly, early in 2023, a beloved friend and longtime mentor, Professor István Deák (Columbia), passed away. Case has written two forthcoming essays honoring his legacy, and an extended interview with him on his life and work that she prepared together with Máté Rigó is available [online](#).



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Howard Chudacoff

Howard Chudacoff is preparing for his retirement after 53 years as a member of the Brown history department. They have constituted a rewarding and inspiring time, as he has witnessed the extraordinary expansion and diversification of the department. Both the undergraduate and graduate programs have thrived, as the department and its courses have attracted outstanding students, and Howard is grateful for all the support that his colleagues have given him for more than five decades. He will miss it all, but it is time to move on.

Jonathan Conant

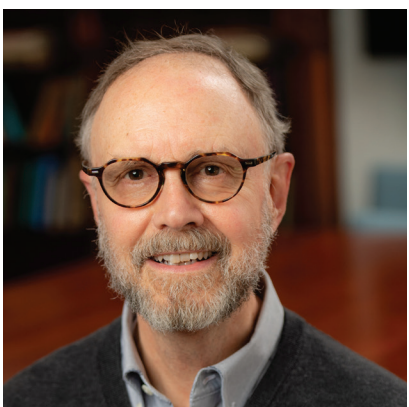


Monestir de Sant Pau del Camp,
Barcelona, Catalunya, Spain

This year, Jonathan Conant's research focused on three main projects. One is his second book, *The Carolingians and the Ends of Empire, c. 795–840*; the second is a volume for the Cambridge History of Europe on Europe and the Mediterranean in the early Middle Ages; and the third is a draft chapter on the connections across the Sahara, the Red Sea and the Mediterranean that linked northern Africa to the early Byzantine world. Research on these three projects took Conant from Providence to Berlin and Barcelona, where he also took some time to visit the magnificent Monestir de Sant Pau del Camp, one of the oldest churches in the city. In summer 2023, he plans to travel to Rome to consult the extraordinary manuscript collections of the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana.

Conant has been working on a number of smaller projects, too, including one on the ephemeral Byzantine presence in western North Africa, another on languages and communities in the late Roman and medieval Maghrib, and a third on warfare and trauma in early medieval Europe. This year it was his great pleasure to serve as director of the honors program, working with an extraordinary group of third- and fourth-year concentrators on the different stages of developing, launching and completing their senior honors thesis projects.

Harold J. (Hal) Cook



Hal Cook was honored to be given a President's Award for Excellence in Faculty Governance at Brown in Spring 2022. He has also participated in online conferences focused on his revisionist work on Descartes and presented new research at in-person conferences in Berlin and Venice related to his study of a 17th century politico-botanical project sponsored by the Raja of Cochin and the local commander of the Dutch VOC in Malabar. He also published two original contributions to edited collections and submitted new work elsewhere. He continues to practice teaching by way of the "flipped" classroom of the COVID years, using in-class time for discussion of readings and recorded online lectures so as to encourage more students to voice their views. With mixed feelings, starting in Summer 2023, he will be going half time on the way to full retirement in 2026.

Bathsheba Demuth



Mid-research on skis,
in the Yukon River
watershed

Bathsheba Demuth spent 2022 on sabbatical, traveling several thousand miles by boat, truck, skis and dog team around Alaska and northwestern Canada, thanks to a Carnegie Foundation fellowship, as she researched her second book, *An Environmental History of the Yukon River Watershed*. Some of her experiences are in print, including a piece in the Washington Post on the history and future of Yukon salmon and a five-part radio essay series broadcast on the BBC.

Now (mostly) back in Providence, she's teaching a graduate environmental history course and a new class for undergraduates — along with Elizabeth Rush — on environmental writing. She's looking forward to hosting the first participants in the



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Environmental Storytelling Studio course, an initiative to help academics researching environmental topics reach diverse publics, on campus this May, and an interdisciplinary workshop on rivers and river history in June. Then she's back to the Yukon River for the summer, for research and to teach a one-week land-based intensive seminar offered through the University of Alaska Fairbanks on the Yukon's environmental history, done while floating from Eagle to Circle Alaska by canoe.

Beshara Doumani



Beshara Doumani delivers a graduation speech as president of Birzeit University in Palestine.

Over the past two years, Beshara Doumani served as president of Birzeit University, the leading institution of higher education in Palestine. It was an honor to have the opportunity to work with faculty, students and staff of a storied institution that has produced two generations of leaders, and whose name is synonymous with the Palestinian struggle for liberation and justice. Two years is but a blink of an eye in academic time, and it would be an understatement to say that it was a challenge to run a university of 15,000 students under the violent conditions of settler colonialism. But it was also a richly rewarding and productive period, for Birzeit University was ripe for incubating new strategic directions and for institutionalizing innovative shared-governance practices.

Between the cracks of administrative work, Doumani found the space to continue his work as editor of the *New Directions in Palestinian Studies* book series with the University of California Press, which published four new books in 2021 and 2022. He also co-edited two special issues of the *Jerusalem Quarterly* and a special issue of *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* on the theme of property relations in Palestine.

Over the past year, Doumani delivered three keynote addresses on the topics of academic freedom, Ottoman Palestine and the historiography of the Palestinians. He resumes his work at Brown starting with the 2023-24 academic year and looks forward most of all to teaching and to contributing to a better understanding of the Palestinian condition within a global context.

Linford Fisher



Fisher's "Setting Sail" class on the water in Newport, R.I.

Linford Fisher was grateful to spend the academic year on sabbatical, even though he and his family remained in Rhode Island. While on leave, Fisher devoted as much time as possible to finishing his book project, tentatively titled *America Enslaved: Native American Slavery in the English Atlantic and the United States*, which he hopes to submit to a press by September 1. A significant part of his leave was spent as the principal investigator for a tribal collaborative project called "Stolen Relations: Recovering Stories of Indigenous Enslavement in the Americas." "Stolen Relations" received a major grant from National Endowment for the Humanities in August 2022, and is set to go live with a public search interface and new website in late 2023 or early 2024.

Fisher also wrapped up a few essays, including a co-authored one with Anjali DasSarma, "The Persistence of Indigenous Unfreedom in Early American Newspaper Advertisements, 1704-1804," published open access in *Slavery & Abolition*.

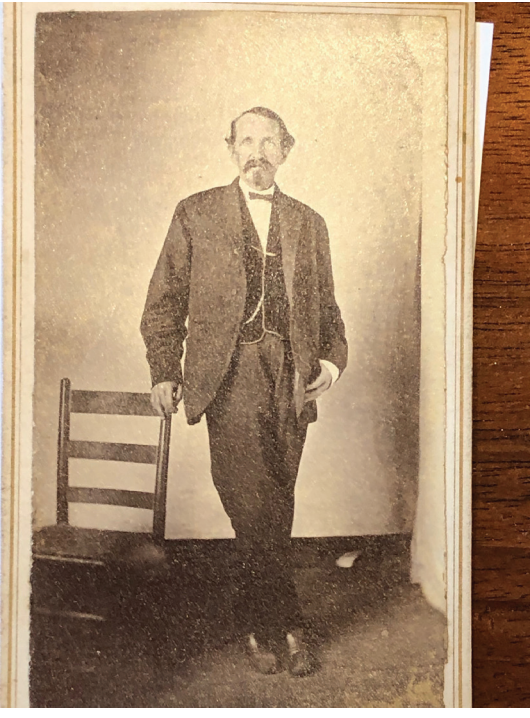
In summer 2022, Fisher taught a Summer@Brown pre-college class called "Setting Sail: Early American History from the Water," which involved four on-the-water days (including chartering a 50-foot sailboat out of Newport, Rhode Island) in addition to classroom lectures and field trips to local repositories. Fisher also enjoyed returning to the speaking and conference circuit post-COVID and looks forward to returning to the classroom in the fall.



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Christopher Grasso



W.W. Chisolm, c. 1875

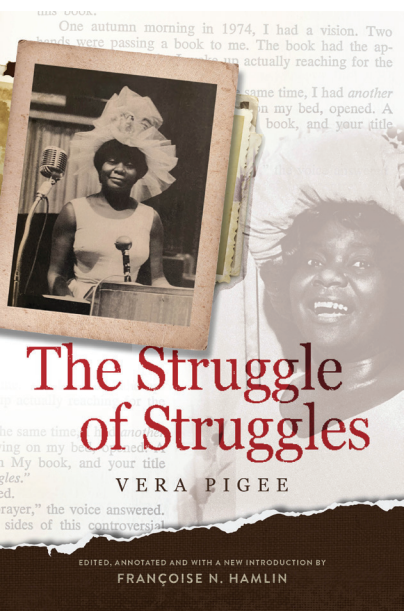
In 2022, Christopher Grasso taught his first courses at Brown: Religion and Power in North America to 1900, and Early American Lives, a course on historical biography using archival materials at the JCB and Hay libraries. He began work on a new project, “The Chisholm Massacre: Reconstruction and the Politics of Violence,” which has been accepted for development by Brown University Digital Publications and will be supported by a Cogut Institute Faculty Fellowship. It is based on a large cache of primary documents that detail post-Civil War life and Ku Klux Klan violence in Reconstruction Mississippi. Grasso gratefully acknowledges his generous colleague, Mike Vorenberg, who handed him the project, saying, “I think there’s a book here, if you’re interested” (Grasso was interested). Grasso was also in conversation throughout the year with indie filmmakers hoping to turn his last book, *Teacher, Preacher, Soldier, Spy: The Civil Wars of John R. Kelso* (Oxford University Press, 2021), into a movie. (Conversation, but, alas, not much forward progress.)

James N. Green



After spending Fall 2022 in Brazil accompanying the Brazilian presidential elections with the Washington Brazil Office, a nonprofit advocacy and think tank, for which he serves as the president of the board of directors, James N. Green returned to Brown in the spring to teach his History of Brazil lecture course for the final time. Currently on phased retirement, Green is planning an international conference for April 1-2, 2024, to mark the bicentennial of the U.S. government’s recognition of independent Brazil, as well as the 60th anniversary of the 1964 coup d’etat that ushered in a two-decade-long military dictatorship. Green will retire on June 30, 2024.

Françoise N. Hamlin



Françoise N. Hamlin continued her Andrew Carnegie Foundation Fellowship during this academic year while chairing the Committee on the Status of African American, Latino/a, Asian American, Native American Historians and ALANA Histories in the Organization of American Historians, advising undergraduates and graduate students in two departments, and co-chairing the Faculty of Color Working Group that she co-founded in 2015.

In 2022, Hamlin gave lectures and talks to a variety of audiences including corporations invested in diversity and inclusion, a company dedicated to continuing education for grade school teachers and a regional history organization focused on improving history education. She also was an expert guest on a history podcast, participated on camera in an upcoming documentary on the 761st Tank Battalion, and moderated the talk-back with Keith Beauchamp, the producer and writer on the multiple award-winning movie “Till.”

In March 2023, Hamlin republished *The Struggle of Struggles*, an out-of-print autobiography by Vera Pige who helped to orchestrate the mass movement for civil rights in Mississippi for over two decades. Hamlin included annotation, a timeline and an introductory essay to this edition.

Tim Harris



Tim Harris gave two keynote addresses at conferences in the U.K. last summer: one on “Humour and Politics in Later Stuart Britain” at Newcastle University and the other on “Empire, Liberty and Slavery in Restoration England” at Loughborough University. He is currently writing a (very long) book for Oxford University Press on *The British Revolutions of the Seventeenth Century*, looking at Britain, Ireland and the Empire, and England’s involvement in the transatlantic slave trade. His book series, *Studies in Early Modern Cultural, Political and Social History*, with Boydell Press has now published 49 titles, with more in the pipeline.



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He is honorary professor in the Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Durham University, U.K., and continues to serve as president of the American Friends of the Institute of Historical Research. He was able to get to France last summer to see his daughter Victoria (Brown '03) for the first time since before COVID-19, and also to meet his granddaughter Mathilda.

Nancy Jacobs



Observing grey parrots in Uganda

Nancy Jacobs' sabbatical year was dedicated to writing *The Global Grey Parrot*. What a joy it was to think deeply about interspecies knowledge and politics. Jacobs found it particularly interesting because she focused on Atlantic Africa and early modern Europe, which she had never written about until now.

In the fall, Jacobs held a fellowship in Department III of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. Then in the spring, she was a fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard. The year also took her to Ghana, Uganda and South Africa for further research. Uganda was especially exciting because, for the first time, she caught up to grey parrots perching (as opposed to flying somewhere else far overhead). They are intensely social birds and it was essential for the project that she watch them in the wild.

In April, Jacobs started a two-year term as president of the American Society for Environmental History.

Nancy Khalek



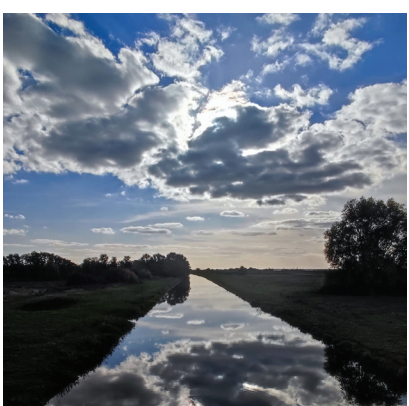
Nancy Khalek spent sabbatical in Spring 2022 as a guest researcher at the Center for the Study of Emotion at the Max Planck Institute in Berlin. There she continued research for her book in progress on emotion and medieval piety. This year, she looks forward to completing an edited volume in a series titled *A Cultural History of the Middle East and North Africa*, for which she is both a contributor and the editor for the first volume in the series, covering the period from 450-750 C.E.

Jennifer Lambe



This academic year marked Jenny Lambe's first as director of graduate studies, with its associated pleasures and challenges. While attempting to learn a seemingly endless list of acronyms and bureaucratic procedures, she enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the department's graduate students and the fascinating research they are pursuing. This year, Lambe also continued work on her book manuscript, *The Subject of Revolution*, under contract with University of North Carolina Press, and published an article on the so-called "multiple epidemic" of the late 20th century in *Social History of Medicine*.

Brian Lander



A canal dug to drain the Fens

Brian Lander spent the fall at the Needham Research Institute in Cambridge, U.K., discovering many treasures in its wonderful library on the history of science in East Asia. He also presented his research in France, Germany and the U.K. The University of Washington Press released his co-edited book *The Cultivated Forest: People and Woodlands in Asian History*. He also published articles on the history of central China's wetlands and on small-scale water control systems in early imperial China, both of which involve research that he will include in the book he is writing on the environmental history of the floodplains of the Yangzi River valley. On a related note, Brian took advantage of his time in Cambridge to learn about the draining of the nearby Fens, which destroyed a vast area of wetlands to create some of England's best farmland.



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Steven Lubar



Making sourdough starter to capture the spirit of the Nightingale-Brown House, part of an art project to celebrate the public humanities program

Steven Lubar greatly enjoyed his work this year as faculty director of the Center for Digital Scholarship (CDS) and as interim director of the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage. It's been a delight to work with and learn from CDS staff. The Public Humanities Center will close at the end of the semester and so Lubar's time there has been bittersweet. It has been great to reconnect with many alumni of the program and to see the ways that they are building on what they learned at Brown as they shape their careers.

In addition to his administrative roles, Lubar found it to be a good year for teaching. His courses have focused on skills this year: a hands-on first-year seminar on skills, taught in the Brown Design Workshop, and graduate courses on methods in public humanities, and digital humanities. He published an essay on the history of museums of technology that he has been talking about writing for many years, wrote an essay on the material culture of wrenches, and made some progress on his book on the cultural history of tools. He is eager to return to writing this summer and in a less administration-intensive next year.

Elias Muhanna



Elias Muhanna spent 2021-22 teaching and working closely with students in his capacity as director of undergraduate studies for comparative literature. He's enjoyed getting to know more of his history colleagues as a member of the PPC, the Medieval and Early Modern History Seminar and the Middle East field cluster. In September, the paperback edition of his recent publication, *The Book of Travels*, was published by NYU Press, and he has spent much of this spring organizing the ninth annual conference of the School of Mamluk Studies, which will be held at Brown in June 2023. After hours, Muhanna can usually be found playing music with his band Funkademic or his jazz trio Trois Gras.

Jeremy Mumford



"The Liberated Child"

Jeremy Mumford returned from Sweden and has been working on a paper about the radical movement for "children's liberation" in the U.S. and northern Europe in the 1970s.

Tara Nummedal

Tara Nummedal spent the 2022-23 academic year on sabbatical in Berlin, Germany, where she reconnected with Europe-based colleagues as a visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Department III. She completed three essays during this time. The first, "Technologies of Desire: Alchemical Incest and Disruptive Philters in Atalanta fugiens," emerged from a Fall 2022 workshop on the 17th century German alchemist Michael Maier in connection with the "Episteme in Bewegung" Collaborative Research Center at the Free University Berlin. The second, "Intimate Entertainments: Andreas Ortelius's Opera Philosophica and Private Alchemical Practice," explores the potential of privacy for the history of alchemy in collaboration with the Centre for Privacy Studies at the University of Copenhagen. The third essay, "Alchemical Visions," is a reflection of the multiple kinds of vision in alchemical practice and will appear in *The New Cambridge History of Technology*.

As part of a new book project on "affective technologies," Nummedal has been researching the history of the "Alraune," a root that circulated widely in early modern central and northern Europe and was linked variously to mandrakes, German mining spirits, the curiosity cabinets of emperors, and the effluvia of



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executed criminals. Nummedal was honored that her scholarship was recognized in multiple venues this past year. In summer 2022, she was named the John Nickoll Provost's Professor of History at Brown. In addition, her 2019 book *Anna Zieglerin and the Lion's Blood: Alchemy and End Times in Reformation Germany* received the 2022 Pfizer Award from the History of Science Society, while the open access 2020 digital publication she co-edited with Donna Bilak, *Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier's Atalanta fugiens (1618) with Scholarly Commentary*, received the 2022 Roy Rosenzweig Prize for Creativity in Digital History from the American Historical Association.

Nummedal looks forward to returning to teaching in the department in the fall and to a new role as faculty director at the Center for Digital Scholarship.

Mark Ocegueda



Mark Ocegueda with the students from Oak Hills High School

Mark Ocegueda officially joined the history department as an assistant professor this past academic year. He spent most of his time teaching, writing and putting his toddler to sleep. One of the most exciting things that Ocegueda did this past year was to help organize a community event back in his hometown in San Bernardino, California. The event was a reenactment of a World War II-era court case that desegregated parks and swimming pools for Mexican Americans in the city. The reenactment was based off of Ocegueda's research on the court case and the event was covered in the Los Angeles Times. He also got a thrill from meeting students from Oak Hills High School in Hesperia, California, who used his research for the National History Day competition. The students won the competition for the state of

California and had their project featured at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., for the National History Day finals.

Emily Owens



Emily Owens was glad to return to the classroom in Fall 2022, teaching American Slavery to an enthusiastic group of undergraduates. She published her first monograph, *Consent in the Presence of Force: Sexual Violence and Black Women's Survival in Antebellum New Orleans*, in January 2023, and spent the academic year talking about the book at Harvard, Yale, Princeton, University of Chicago and University of Southern California. As exciting as all of that has been, nothing tops the joy of welcoming baby Hazel into the world, and ushering Jonah into official "big kid" status, last May.

Ethan Pollock



Ethan Pollock taught a sophomore seminar on the Russian Revolution in the fall and a lecture course in the spring with Professor Smith on the history of the atomic age. Working with students was the ideal complement to serving as department chair. As chair, he pushed a lot of papers that helped keep the department running; as a teacher, he read a lot of papers that helped keep his mind active. He's tremendously grateful to the department's faculty and staff for all they do to make the department a vital place for creating and learning history. And he's tremendously grateful to his family (pictured) for insisting on watching "All Creatures Great and Small" and "Ted Lasso" as often as possible, given their all-too-busy schedules.



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Amy G. Remensnyder



This year, Amy G. Remensnyder was pleased to return to the classroom after her sabbatical in 2022-23. Along with teaching her courses at Brown, she restarted classes for Brown History Education Prison Project (BHEPP), a program that has been on hold since the pandemic. As part of this effort, the first-ever Brown BHEPP graduate proctorship was created, a position that received funding from the Mellon Foundation. Remensnyder was honored to be appointed this year as the Giancarlo Family Provost's Professor of History. She continues to work on her book about the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa and pre-modern slavery, piracy and maritime culture, and gave a talk about it at a symposium at the University of Arkansas. She is looking forward to a summer research trip to Sicily.

Lukas Rieppel



Lukas Rieppel spent a wonderful sabbatical year traveling across the U.S. doing research on a new project about how the earth sciences contributed to the history of American imperial expansion and Indigenous dispossession. He also started to take horseback riding lessons, which works well for sauropod dinosaurs, too! An article that he co-authored with Yu-chi Chang was accepted for publication in *Isis*, the journal of the history of science society, and he went on a lot of hikes in the Badlands of South Dakota.

Gabriel Rocha



Trying very hard not to slip while crossing a creek near the village of Ribeira do Peixe, São Tomé (Photo courtesy of Jacques Aymeric-Nsangou)

As was the case for so many, the past year marked a decisive (albeit at times uneasy) return to in-person research and conference-going since the start of the pandemic. Gabriel Rocha was able to take trips to many of his core research sites in the Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking Atlantic world, from South America (Brazil) and Africa (São Tomé e Príncipe) to the Caribbean (Puerto Rico) and Europe (Portugal). In addition to broadening his research horizons to incorporate new archives and methodologies, and learning from an amazing array of scholars and experts along the way, these trips also represented an effort to physically retrace the geographic contours of his book project. Pushing a canoe onto the beach in a village in São Tomé, climbing the steps of the University of Coimbra in a heat wave, and taking in a view of the gleaming Bay of All Saints from a music-filled church in Salvador each made the restricted world of lockdown — a time when Rocha's primary research was limited to poring over digitized medieval and early modern documents — seem uncannily distant.

There were also, of course, significant times spent working closer to home. While teaching exciting new undergraduate courses on the environmental history of Latin America and research at the John Carter Brown Library, Rocha completed a co-authored article with David Wheat that is forthcoming from the *Culture & History Digital Journal*, an open-access publication out of Spain. The article examines a previously unstudied inventory of plantations in early 16th century São Tomé, from a moment when the African island claimed by Portugal went from being an entrepôt of the trade in enslaved people to an epicenter of sugar production. Working with this inventory, Rocha's essay "The Uncertain Atlantic: African and European Transformations of São Tomé, c. 1533" reconstructs aspects of the experiences of diverse individuals connected to the world of São Tomé's early sugar plantations, from enslaved workers and maroons to middling merchants and absentee planters. Where historians have relied on fragmentary or secondhand sources to narrate the rise of sugar in São Tomé, this essay offers a more grounded perspective on a moment of critical change in early Atlantic history that was rife with contingency and unresolved tensions.



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Seth Rockman



Seth Rockman spent the academic year in Berlin as a research fellow at re:work, an institute dedicated to the study of global labor history. It was a pleasure to see colleagues Nancy Jacobs, Neil Safier, Michael Vorenberg and Brian Lander as they passed through town at various points in the year. It was also a treat to catch up with Simeon Simeonov ('21 Ph.D.) during a visit to Cyprus, and to tour Lisbon with former colleague Jorge Flores.

One highlight of the year involved traveling to Washington, D.C., to offer testimony to the House Financial Services Committee regarding the economic legacies of slavery and the case for reparations. Rockman also had the chance to speak on these issues in the capitalism episode of the 1619 documentary series on Hulu.

Amy Russell



This year, Amy Russell took on the position of director of the Program in Early Cultures, Brown's central home for researchers at all levels working on the distant past and cultures primarily known archaeologically. Drawing from departments across the University, including history, the program put on a range of events and offered grants to support the study of early cultures globally. This year's events included conferences on writing global history, the history of displacement, migration and settlement, and pre-modern dance; a workshop on disability in antiquity; and a speaker series on environmental archaeology in the Anthropocene, as well as regular work-in-progress seminar and graduate fora.

Meanwhile, Russell has been continuing her own research and teaching, starting a new graduate seminar on space and topography in ancient Rome and proposing a new one for next year on comparative methodology in the study of Rome and China, with Tamara Chin (Comp Lit). Her writing has focused on two collaborative projects on the spatial turn in Roman studies.

Kenneth Sacks



Kenneth Sacks is about to send a book he has been working on for “far too long” — *Emerson's Civil Wars: Spirit and Society in the Age of Abolition* — to presses for consideration and has begun working on his next book, co-authored with former Brown colleague Elliott Gorn, on Colma, California, the *City of Souls*.

Among the courses he taught, Sacks had the most fun with his sophomore seminar, *Walden + Woodstock: The American Lives of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Bob Dylan*. It's been a longtime goal to pair these two but, until he began researching celebrity culture and its effect on political activism for his current book on Emerson, he didn't have a handle on how to put them in dialogue. The students were terrifically enthusiastic and seemed to handle everything from movies about Bob Dylan to Adorno's critical theory writings.

Neil Safier



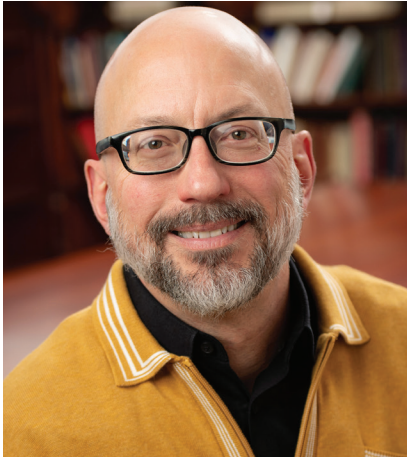
Return from sabbatical meant a return to the classroom, and Neil Safier reveled in the pleasures of two amazing courses in the fall — a history of Amazonia, with a phenomenal group of undergraduates and ably supported by TA extraordinaire Luiz Paulo Ferraz, and a graduate seminar on Science in the Global South, populated by a spectacular group of graduate students from across the University — and a fun-filled first-year seminar on the Enlightenment in the spring. As a special bonus, *Cosmopolitanism and the Enlightenment* (co-edited with Joan-Pau Rubiés) was published just in time for spring showers, and a fellowship at the Newberry Library (to work on a new Amazonian project) promised some serious Chicago-style culinary adventures over the summer (with an archival journey to Lisbon in between).



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FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Robert Self



While continuing to work on his new book, *Driven: The Houses, Cars and Children of the Hydrocarbon Middle Class*, Robert Self developed a new course, *Cities and Inequality Since 1920: The United States*; co-curated an exhibit on the history of abortion politics at the John Hay Library; served on the juror committee for the Pulitzer Prize in History; and was interim director of graduate advising in the history department.

Kerry Smith



Apartments in Niigata City after the earthquake, June 16, 1964

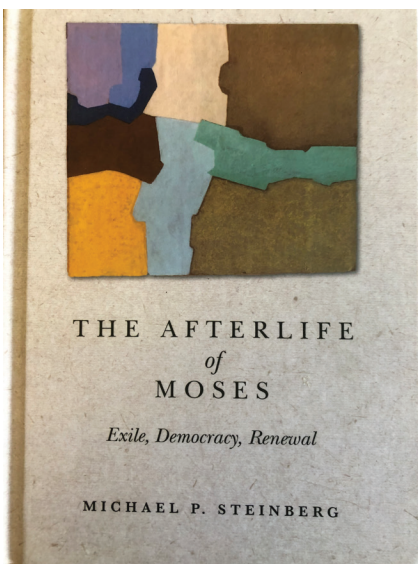
Kerry Smith enjoyed teaching a new first-year seminar on Catastrophic Japan in the fall and co-teaching “A Global History of the Atomic Age” with Ethan Pollock in the spring, again. Smith’s chapter in “Insect Histories of East Asia,” edited by David A. Bello and Daniel Burton-Rose and published this spring by the University of Washington Press, shows how postwar campaigns to rid Japan of flies and mosquitoes were also vehicles for new modes of mobilization and social reform. The book he has been working on for a very long time, *Predicting Disasters: Earthquakes, Scientist and Uncertainty in Postwar Japan*, is forthcoming, finally, with the University of Pennsylvania Press, in its series on “Critical Studies in Risk and Disaster.”

Tracy Steffes



Tracy Steffes enjoyed being back on campus this year after a sabbatical in 2021-22. She finished the final revisions on her book *Structuring Inequality: How Schooling, Housing, and Tax Policies Shaped Metropolitan Development and Education* (University of Chicago Press, forthcoming in 2024) and is enjoying diving into a new area of research. She plans to explore the history of the for-profit sector in K-12 schooling and its impact on how “public” education is defined and governed. She started a second term as chair of the Department of Education and has focused this year in codifying and improving department processes and governance structure, assessing the department’s DIAP plan and its measurement of climate and inclusion, and developing an alumni engagement plan.

Michael P. Steinberg



It was a pleasure for Michael P. Steinberg to hear from Brown colleagues and students who attended the exhibition “Richard Wagner and the Nationalization of Feeling,” which he curated at the German Historical Museum in Berlin. A related article, *The Narcissism of Major Differences: Richard Wagner and the Peculiarities of German Antisemitism*, appeared in the journal *Social Research*. His book “The Afterlife of Moses: Exile, Democracy, Renewal” (Stanford University Press) also appeared in Summer 2022 and complemented a series of book presentations and lectures in Gordes (France), Zurich and Berlin.

Adam Teller



On sabbatical this year, Adam Teller began serious work on his new project. Extending his previous research on anti-Jewish violence in early modern eastern Europe, he is attempting to use the same methodologies to provide new insights on the history of the Holocaust. He had two articles published this year, one a long essay on the history of Jewish self-administration in early modern Poland-Lithuania (which includes English translations of 50 key documents) and the other a study of early modern Jewish record-keeping in Poland-Lithuania. The Hebrew translation of

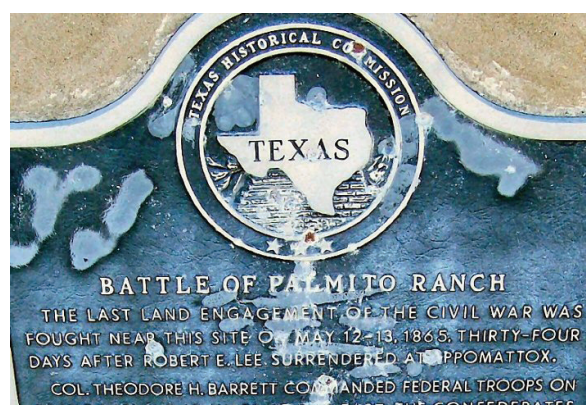


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his recent book on Jewish refugees in the 17th century was completed and is now in production with the Magnes Press of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. It should appear in early 2024.

He presented his work on refugee relief at the University of Pennsylvania in a Zoom lecture series on the history of Jewish philanthropy. He was also delighted finally to chair the concluding roundtable of a conference on the history of the Jews in Galicia and Bukovina, of whose organizing committee he had been a member and which had been delayed multiple times due to COVID. It was held in Jerusalem. Finally, though on sabbatical, he chaired the search committee for a junior position in the history of the Jews in the Islamic world. In the end, no candidate was appointed, but the search, which is held jointly with the Program in Judaic Studies, should be renewed in the near future.

Michael Vorenberg



A plaque near the Texas-Mexico border describes the “last battle” of the American Civil War. (Arguments about which battles and surrenders were “the last” are part of Michael Vorenberg’s forthcoming book on Civil War endings.)

While working on revisions of his book on the many endings of the American Civil War, Michael Vorenberg has also been completing the research for a book on a 19th century military prison. Such had been his plan for leave during the 2022-23 academic year. What he had not planned on was becoming an expert for a number of federal cases (nine cases in five different states) in which he is providing historical reports in support of prohibitions against assault weapons and large-capacity ammunition magazines. All of these cases (as well as dozens of others involving gun regulations) have emerged in the wake of the June 2022 NYRPA v. Bruen opinion issued by the U.S. Supreme Court. The work has been exciting at times, depressing at others, and it has led Vorenberg to develop a new seminar on the conflicting ways that history professors and Supreme Court justices “do” history.

Karin Wulf



Margaret joined Wulf’s family this year; naturally their lives now revolve around her.

It’s been an exciting year at the John Carter Brown Library (JCB), where Karin Wulf serves as director and librarian, and at least part of that has been welcoming Lin Fisher as Brown Faculty Fellow. Among other things, Fisher helped bring his early American graduate reading group to the JCB on Friday afternoons to join their fellows’ seminar as a pilot toward the library’s new programming structure. The library is (nearly) all consuming for Wulf, but it has also been great to have a chance to think and write about urgent and related issues for history, the humanities and scholarship. Among other things Wulf wrote this year were some op-eds about archives and collaborative work, open access, digital publishing, the “textpocalypse” of AI, and even about the history of the early Americas.



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Undergraduate Program

Reflections from Director of Undergraduate Studies

Holly Case

Director of Undergraduate Studies

GREETINGS, Brown History community, past and present! It has been an exciting year, not least of all for the opportunities we've had to see how our history community extends far beyond the halls and walls of Peter Green and Sharpe House.

During an event we held for Family Weekend in October, we welcomed back two recent alums, Jordan Kei-Rahn '21, a student at Yale Law School, and Sophie Culpepper '21, a journalist in the Boston area, where they joined Brown history faculty member Jennifer Johnson '04 to talk about how the study of history has affected their career trajectories, as well as how they approach the law, journalism and historical research respectively. It was inspiring listening to a packed house that overflowed onto the Peter Green veranda.

The academic year 2022-23 also saw the first large-scale deployment of so-called generative AI in the form of ChatGPT3, 3.5 and 4, DALL-E, Jasper, Bing and others. The moment feels historic, but we have yet to feel the outlines of these phenomena as history. That will be for our students to write, almost certainly with the aid of some of these models — or their successors — themselves. In a course on the History of Artificial Intelligence in the fall, we considered past visions (from Babbage's Difference Engine to Turing machines to cybernetics to ELIZA to "swarm intelligence") alongside historical myths and stories of creation and rebellion (Frankenstein, R.U.R., Japanese anime, Afro-Futurism), each with their own contexts and histories that continue to color the way people often see and interpret machine learning technologies today.



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In April 2023, two of our alums — Mohamed Ali '21, now product manager at Google Research, and Isobel McCrum '22, content designer for the Content Intelligence Team at Microsoft — “returned” to the department via Zoom for a panel alongside two current Brown students, Ezra Muratoglu '23 (applied mathematics-biology) and Nora (Yinuo) Cai '24.5 (history and computer science) to discuss their experiences, hopes and concerns as they relate to new generative AI technologies. From the event it was clear how a historical sensibility helps us to glean what is old and what is new about these technologies, as well as contemporary attempts to make sense of, use and critique them. Both Ali and McCrum spoke of how their study of history prepared them for their current careers, offering encouragement and reassurance to students in the room. Thanks to the broad range of skills required to do good history (critical thinking, writing, research, historical perspective and verbal communication skills), they argued that history concentrators will continue to fare well in the search for jobs.

I'd now like to cede the page to our wonderful director of the honors program for history, Jonathan Conant, who would like to offer a few words about our honors students:

This year, 10 students submitted theses of 80-100 pages and received honors. Their research ranged widely, both across the globe and through deep time, from modern South Asia to the medieval North Atlantic and from the ancient Mediterranean to the 20th century U.S. Students' theses focused on topics including:

- the entanglements between dance and witchcraft in early modern France;
- the movement to turn New York City streets into play spaces in the early 20th century;
- the disconnect between the ideals and outcomes of eldercare in early modern England;
- the experience of living through the first bubonic plague pandemic in late antique Italy;
- the ways in which racial ideas shaped both modern U.S.-India relations and research on tropical disease;
- how conversion to Christianity reworked the experience and expression of emotions in the medieval Norse world;
- how Indigenous knowledge shaped the mapping of the Americas;
- how gender formed the early years of Alcoholics Anonymous;
- the systems of power that constrained the freedom of poorer people of color in colonial Rhode Island; and
- the emergence of the anti-nuclear movement as a new stream of leftist politics in modern France.



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Alongside their advisers and writing groups, it has been a great pleasure both to support and to learn from the research of this terrific group of scholars.

Warmest thanks to our history faculty, teachers and scholars; our wonderful staff (Cherrie Guerzon, Mary Beth Bryson, Julissa Bautista and Dana Sutcliffe); our dedicated and creative graduate student TAs; Dean's Faculty Fellows; visiting assistant professors; and, above all, our concentrators and other students in our history courses for their energy, hard work, ideas, engagement with the broader community and excellent good humor.

Finally, greetings to alumni and their families near and far, and heartiest congratulations to our 2023 graduates!



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The History Department Undergraduate Group

Ben Rosenn '23 and Michal Loren '23

The History DUG has kicked off yet another amazing year: learning from one another, snacking together and cultivating community amongst undergraduate historians across the University. With more than a year of in-person classes under our belts, this year, the DUG was truly able to share our wealth of knowledge with other aspiring undergraduate historians — rebuilding a crucial system of generational knowledge, becoming whole again following the COVID-19 pandemic.

We got the year started with the concentration fair on Simmons Quad. Equipped with candy, shiny new history pins and our best historical jokes (indeed, Professor Seth Rockman says that one of the best ways to understand a period's history is to understand its jokes), we recruited countless new young historians into the fold. Welcome to the Class of 2026 and all transfer, resumed undergraduate education and continuing scholars!



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On a balmy Friday in September, we hosted a welcome back kickoff event on the veranda of Peter Green House. There, amongst a host of delicious snacks, experienced history upperclassmen shared their favorite parts of being a concentrator and their tips and tricks for “doing” all of the reading and announced our long-awaited sticker redesign contest.

Throughout the year, we continued to host amazing events that connected faculty, upperclassmen, alumni, visiting professors, parents and first-years. Building a history community is what we do best! On Family Weekend, we held a delightful brunch where we heard from three amazing Brown history alumni: Journalist Sophie Culpepper '21, Yale Law student Jordan Kei-Rahn '21 and Associate History Professor Jennifer Johnson. The pastries were delicious, but hearing from such an experienced panel about the diverse set of professional opportunities unlocked with a Brown history degree was even better!

In October (and then again in April), we hosted a lunchtime panel discussion, featuring new faculty members. We grabbed a seat and a slice, partook in some Q&As and marveled at all the new courses offered by these faculty in the coming semesters. In December we hosted a cozy Holiday History Hop, complete with requisite snowman sugar cookies. In the spring, current thesis writers met with prospective thesis writers and attempted to pass on the fleeting whims of wisdom from a three-semester-long writing process. After submitting our final theses in April, we had a festival with all of the students in the thesis sequence along and all of our advisers to celebrate the students' hard work and advisers' mentorship. Come May, we held a wonderful end-of-the-year history reception, where we reminisced on all the memories we had made throughout the year.

Overall, we cannot believe that the year is already over. We had such an amazing time, and we cannot help but feel that this year really solidified the powerful community that is at the core of the history undergraduate experience. We thank Professor Holly Case for her endless support, encouragement of our ideas and willingness to chaperone all our events.



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The Department of History's Honors Thesis Presentation Program

Rebecca W.S. More

Visiting Scholar

The purpose and process of the department's honors program is laid out on the Department of History website. However, missing from that description is the conclusion of the process, an honors thesis presentation each spring to department faculty, student peers and family. Over the past 23 years, the thesis presentation has developed into what its creators, Ken Sacks and Charles Neu, envisioned as a way to give the honors program the visibility that the hard work involved warranted. For the audience, whether in the Pavilion Room or watching the livestream from anywhere around the globe, it is an occasion to learn about cutting-edge research by fledgling scholars and celebrate their sustained effort over two years.

As department chair, Neu oversaw additions to the undergraduate program that included a director of the honors program and a director of undergraduate studies. These positions led to what is now a three-semester History Honors Workshop designed to ensure that students wishing to write an honors thesis are given substantive guidance in the process of researching and writing a thesis.

Sacks, the first director of the honors program, and Neu originally conceived of the thesis presentation as similar to a "defense of dissertation" — an integral conclusion to the learning experience. Sacks knew that, "Any chance we could get to have students prepare something to say before a group we thought would be an important part of their education." Familiar with the work of Barbara Tannenbaum and Nancy Dunbar in their perennially oversubscribed Theatre Arts 22: Public Speaking, he also knew that effective public speaking involved training and practice. How to provide that expertise was a challenge until Rebecca More retired as director of the Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning in 2010 and joined the department as a visiting scholar. She volunteered to provide individual feedback to each student as they prepared to turn their thesis into a 10-minute presentation followed by a short Q&A session.

But how does a student turn a 100-page thesis into a 10-minute presentation? Since 1992, the Sheridan Center has been developing programs in reflective teaching to help graduate student teaching assistants and junior faculty reach ever more diverse student



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audiences. A fundamental premise, inspired by Brown's Writing Fellows Program, was that the presentation of research must be accessible to any audience, to turn "writer-based prose into a listener-based presentation." From her decades of work as an administrator and teacher in both academic and non-academic settings, More's belief was that undergraduates would need these oral presentation skills in whatever endeavor they might undertake after Brown. Individual sessions with each student, usually one to two hours, were designed to provide feedback that would enable honors thesis writers to communicate clearly and succinctly what their thesis was about and why it was important. As Jonathan He, a 2020 honors student now finishing law school, commented recently about the thesis presentation, "It is an incredibly crucial skill to be able to articulate one's work in simple but effective ways."

Since 2010, the presentation has become an integral part of the honors program. While students are not required to present their thesis, most do, and most choose to take advantage of the chance to work with either More or Professor Emerita Joan Richards. Pre-presentation meetings focus on what the audience needs to know to understand the thesis. This may include speaking style, the logistics of how to use 10 minutes effectively, or what sort of visual aids, such as PowerPoint, might help the audience grasp essential concepts effectively and efficiently.

This year's honors thesis presentations took place in early May and were a chance to witness the skill with which another cohort of honor students has fashioned a cogent presentation from their thesis. He summarized the value of the process as follows: "Being asked to talk about my thesis in five minutes, rather than five hours, definitely pushes me to sort out the basics. Again, this is much, much bigger than it seems. In the midst of a complex project, whether it is a 30-page-long thesis or a multi-billion-dollar merger deal, the sheer scale of the task and the amount of information out there can be disorienting. It is thus great to get into the habit of keeping a mental roadmap — and the thesis presentation teaches you exactly that."

Neu and Sacks set in motion an honors thesis experience that leads to lifelong learning. For example, He observed that the process also helped students develop their ability to be self-advocates: "How do you advocate for your projects, your causes or yourself, to make things happen? This is probably one of the few big questions in life, and the thesis presentation is a good beginning of this lifelong lesson."



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Honors and Award Recipients

The co-recipients of this year's Marjorie Harris Weiss Memorial Premium in History, which is presented to an outstanding undergraduate student majoring in history, are **Janelle Barnett** and **Brehan Brady**.

The co-recipients 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, are **Kate Alvarez** and **Thea Talamhan**. 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,

Leela S. Berman received honors for the thesis "Gutting Histories: The Body Politics of Indian Hunger During the Long Cold War." Her advisor is Daniel Rodriguez. Leela is also a co-recipient of the Christian Yegen History Thesis Prize for a History Department Outstanding Honors Thesis.

Gabriel P. Blanc received honors for the thesis "Fission and Fusion: The Anti-nuclear Movement and the Birth of Political Environmentalism in 1970s France." His advisor is Joel Revill. Gabriel is also a co-recipient of the Christian Yegen History Thesis Prize for a History Department Outstanding Honors Thesis.

Michael A. Geisinger received honors for the thesis "Both a Viking and a Martyr: Changing Emotions in Conversion-Era Iceland and Norway." His advisor is Jonathan Conant. Michael is also a co-recipient of the Christian Yegen History Thesis Prize for a History Department Outstanding Honors Thesis

Edan P. Larkin received honors for the thesis "Tracking Life and Death during the First Pandemic of Y.pestis on the Italian Peninsula, 542-750 CE." Her advisors are Jonathan Conant and Tyler Franconi. Edan is also a co-recipient of the John Thomas Memorial Award for the Best History Department Thesis.

Michal S. Loren received honors for the thesis "'Mouvements estranges & extraordinaires': Dance, Witchcraft, and the Body in Early Modern France." Her advisor is Tara Nummedal. Michal is also the recipient of the David Herlihy Prize, which goes to the best student in ancient, medieval or Renaissance history.

Talia L. Mermin received honors for the thesis "'Forget not the Sorrows of thy Mother': Care for the Elderly in Early Modern Europe (1650-1750)." Her advisor is Tara Nummedal. Talia is also a co-recipient of the Marjorie Harris Weiss Memorial Premium in History, which is presented to an outstanding undergraduate student majoring in history.



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Benjamin N. Rosenn received honors for the thesis “A Street to Call Their Own: ‘Play Streets’ and Open Space in 20th Century New York City.” His advisor is Howard Chudacoff. Benjamin is also a co-recipient of the John Thomas Memorial Award for the Best History Department Thesis.

Georgia E. Salke received honors for the thesis “When Women Drink Like Men: A Gendered History of Alcoholics Anonymous’ Early Years, 1935-1960.” Her advisor is Robert Self. Georgia is also a co-recipient of the Christian Yegen History Thesis Prize for a History Department Outstanding Honors Thesis.

Peder S. Schaefer received honors for the thesis “Claiming Freedom: Aaron Briggs, the Burning of the HMS Gaspee, and the Development of American Liberty.” His advisor is Christopher Grasso. Peder is also the 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 Zimmermann received honors for the thesis “Footpaths and Ink Spots: Cartographic Encounters and Exploitations in Seventeenth Century Algonquin Homelands.” Her advisor is Linford Fisher. Zoe is also the recipient of the Pell Medal for excellence in United States History.



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Graduate Program

Reflections from the Director of Graduate Studies

Jennifer Lambe

Director of Graduate Studies

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL YEARS, graduate studies in the Department of History began to return to a new kind of normal. Though pandemic disruptions continued to make themselves felt, this year Ph.D. students intrepidly trekked to archives near and far; participated in (and organized) conferences; and otherwise resumed the customary routines of taking classes, studying languages, preparing for exams and writing dissertations.

It has been exciting to watch our newest and most advanced students alike harness renewed intellectual momentum toward their intellectual goals. It has been equally gratifying to see them receive external recognition for their efforts, from Fulbright and American Council of Learned Societies Fellowships to postdocs, research associateships, visiting professorships and tenure-track jobs at institutions such as Swarthmore College, Williams College, Oxford University, University of Basel, University of Vermont, Boston University and John Jay College. Uncertainty around the future of the academic job market unquestionably persists, but these achievements allow for a cautious sense of optimism that things might yet improve. Meanwhile, both the Graduate School and the Department of History have expressed their continued commitment to supporting our students throughout their studies and research, up through the final stages of dissertation completion and beyond.

This year the department also undertook revisions to its curriculum and preliminary exams procedures. We have added a new class (History Now) to the core sequence, which will introduce students in their first semester to current forums for and areas of historical and historiographical innovation. This will be followed by Roots of History



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(formerly Colloquium) in the second semester of the first year, with an emphasis on diverse theoretical and methodological perspectives, and Writing History (formerly Writing Workshop) in the fall, in which students draft an article-length treatment of archival research conducted over the summer. In lieu of the Professionalization course students formerly took in the second semester of the second year, over the course of the first two years (and beyond) students will now participate in Practice of History workshops, which will cover such topics as teaching, grants and fellowships, preliminary exams, job market and more. In Fall 2023 we will also be debuting two new initiatives: a graduate Writing Fellows program and a Group Independent Study Project option for students in their coursework years. We have also adopted new procedures to provide for more flexibility in timing and outcome for the written section of preliminary exams.

This year marked the debut of a new faculty officer position in the graduate program, the graduate admissions director (or GAD for short), held by Professor Cynthia Brokaw. The GAD now oversees doctoral recruitment and admissions, from Diversity Preview Day to the fall admissions cycle and Visitation Day in the spring. It was a pleasure to work with Brokaw to manage the department's usual admissions activities and take steps toward making forward-looking recruitment a permanent feature of our graduate program. In collaboration with Mary Beth Bryson, Cherrie Guerzon and Julissa Bautista, who provided critical assistance at all stages of this process, I look forward to further strengthening and streamlining our recruitment and admission procedures in the year to come. I would also like to express my gratitude for the dedicated work of Faiz Ahmed, who concluded his tenure as director of graduate advising (DGA) in the fall semester, and Robert Self, who served as interim DGA in the spring, as well as the outgoing and incoming co-presidents of the History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) (Imen Boussayoud and Alexandra Morehead, and Paul Aste and Augusta da Silveira de Oliveira, respectively). It has been a pleasure working with them and the other HGSA officers, who this year planned a conference on "The Social Life of Things," helped to organize graduate orientation in the fall and recruitment in the spring, and otherwise contributed in important ways to building a dynamic graduate community.

In short, it has been a busy — sometimes hectic! — and exciting year for the history doctoral program. Next year, I look forward to working closely with department students, faculty and staff as we continue to seek our own paths to a new normal while sustaining a robust, rigorous and inclusive graduate program.



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Accomplishments of Graduate Students in 2022-23

René Cordero

Presented at the Latin American Speaker Series at Yale

Received the Gaius Charles Bolin Fellowship at Williams College, 2023-25

Accepted a tenure-track position as an assistant professor in the Latin American and Latinx studies department at John Jay (CUNY) starting Fall 2025

Kate Elizabeth Creasey

Received Summer 2022 Center for Middle East Studies Graduate Student Research Travel Award

Received Spring 2023 Global Mobility Fellowship from Brown Graduate School

Augusta (Guta) da Silveira de Oliveira

Forthcoming article “‘O Espantoso Casamento de Caxias’: lesbianidade e transmasculinidade nos anos 1960” in *Novas Fronteiras das Histórias LGBTIA+ no Brasil* (edited collection)

Forthcoming article “Teoria Queer e Escrita da História: apontamentos para uma teoria crítica de gênero e sexualidade” in *A História Escrita: Teoria e História da Historiografia* (edited collection)

Received 2022 Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Pre-Dissertation Research Award

Ebru Erginbas

Presented Paper, “Science in Exile: An Analysis of the German Jewish Scientists in Early Republican Turkey,” at the 34th Deutscher Orientalistentag at Freie Universität in Berlin Germany in September 2022

Conducted archival research in the U.S., England and Germany in Summer 2022

Luiz Paulo Ferraz

Appointed a Peter Green Doctoral Scholar (Brown History Department), 2022-23

Received 2022 Graduate Program in Development Summer Funding Award

Received a Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative Student Research Grant

Shih-Yu Juan

Forthcoming journal article in Chinese, “Identifying Metals and Stones: The Transformation, the Dissemination, and the Limitation of American Mineralogy in Late Nineteenth-Century China,” in the *Taiwanese Journal for Studies of Science, Technology and Medicine* 36 (2023)



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Phoebe Labat

Received 2023-24 Fulbright Award to France

Selected for and presented at the American Society for Environmental History Conference

Co-hosted Brown History Graduate Student Association Conference, October 2022

Joseph Leidy

Published “From Their Classes to the Masses: Youth Volunteerism and Rural Welfare in Interwar Lebanon and Syria,” in *Interwar Crossroads: Entangled Histories of the Middle Eastern and North Atlantic World between the World Wars* in November 2022

Published “El Zaím: Youth, Authority, and Syrian Nationalism in the Mahjar, 1938–1944,” forthcoming in *Mashriq & Mahjar*

E.M. Nielsen

Received the Spring 2023 Global Mobilities Research Fellowship

Joaquin Marreros Nunez

Presented paper, “Lesbian and Gay Networks in 1980s Lima, Peru: The Case of the Grupo de Autoconciencia de Lesbianas Feministas and the Movimiento Homosexual de Lima,” at the Queer History Conference 2022, San Francisco State University, June 15

Published book, “HomoGénesis: una historia del Movimiento Homosexual de Lima en los años 80” (Lima, Gafas

Moradas, 2022), ISBN: 9786125058119

Presented paper, “‘One less faggot in town!’: Understanding Early-Twentieth Century Homosexuality in Lima, Peru, through Two Novels,” 26th Annual Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Conference, Virginia Tech, April 1

Aaron Stark

Received 2023 Institute at Brown for Environment and Society Graduate Research Award. Will be using the funds to visit various archives and national parks in Taiwan.

Jenny Lhamo Tsundu

Co-organized and participated in six-day seaside “sommerfrische” on theme of “Underground” in Madison, Connecticut
Presented at Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Annual Convention in November 2022

Received Deans’ Faculty Fellowship in History for 2023-24

Stephanie Wong

Published essay in *Eater*, “The Migration of Milo”

Published interview with Levi Vonk in *Public Books*

Published essay in *Los Angeles Review of Books*, “In the Memory House”



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Doctor of Philosophy, 2022-23

Anne Brooke Grasberger

Spirits of the Sea: the Faith of Sailors through the Death of the Age of Sail

Director: Linford Fisher

Aaron Jacobs

When Lightning Strikes Twice: Race, Memory, Performance and the Revival of the Ku Klux Klan

Director: Robert Self

Joseph Leidy

An Old Head on Young Shoulders: The Popular Politics of Youth in Lebanon, 1840-1950

Director: Beshara Doumani

Rebecca Marisseau

The New Bedford Whale Fishery and the Production of the Early American State

Director: Seth Rockman

Suvaid Yaseen

Islamic Intersections: Religion and Politics in Kashmir in the Long Twentieth Century

Director: Vazira Zamindar

MASTER OF ARTS, 2022-23

Paul R. Aste

Marina Dias Lucena Adams

Shu Lan

Joaquin Marreros Nunez

Isaac S. Mensah

Victor J. Naranjo

Kanha Prasad

Haley R. Price

Cecilia Seilern Und Aspang

Georga-Kay D. Whyte



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The Choices Program

Reflections from the Faculty
Director of Choices

Rebecca Nedostup

Faculty Director, Choices Program

THE CHOICES PROGRAM continued to provide expertise and curricular materials backed by cutting-edge research to secondary school teachers around the nation and the world. This academic year, 2022-23, was a year of major transitions for Choices. We said farewell to longtime administrative manager Kathie Magiera and promoted Christine Seguin to succeed her. We are celebrating a year of having Leah Burgin helm the newly created position of digital sales manager, and in early 2023 Molly Scavuzzo-Duggan joined the Choices team as our new administrative coordinator. Our curriculum team also underwent changes, with a new job description for Susannah Bechtel reflecting the work she does to oversee the Choices digital curriculum platform as well as create content, and Sarah Kreckel returning to the program as curriculum developer. Finally, our amazingly skilled video producer Emilia Figliomeni is now pursuing an MFA at UCLA.



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These personnel changes reflect not only personal development but also substantial shifts in the secondary education landscape. Digital delivery of content forms a much larger part of Choices' work than it did pre-COVID. At the same time, the teaching of K-12 history and social studies is the focus of ever-growing political scrutiny and challenges to scholarly integrity. Choices is more committed than ever to making the most up-to-date scholarship accessible to teachers and students, and helping learners develop the skills to understand and engage with contested, complex and evolving accounts of the past.

During the past year a great deal of that work has involved improving the accessibility of our website, our digital editions and our print units. Choices now gathers more data about its sales and uses that to refine our work, whether in directing content, identifying new groups of educators to collaborate with or improving our delivery and usability. This year the program fully resumed its physical presence at national and international education conferences. We also launched teacher focus groups, expanded our collaborations with and support for education methods professors at Brown and beyond and began to organize a new teacher advisory group to help guide our development.

In response to teacher requests, during the past year Choices offered a new unit, Lessons for Ethnic Studies. We made significant updates to two units, publishing new editions of *Confronting Genocide: Never Again?* and *The Middle East: Questions for U.S. Policy*. Choices revisions are not merely about updating information to more closely reflect scholarly advances, although that is a large part of the process. Our updates also commit to expanding the range of historical voices students can engage with and enabling them to do history in innovative ways. The Genocide unit update, for instance, introduced the new case study of the OvaHerero-Nama genocide in colonial Namibia, along with lessons that help students process and direct their learning via clothing, material culture and museum exhibits.

In our free Teaching with the News lessons, Choices this year offered a new Resource Guide: *Transgender Identities and Rights* along with the *#WontBeErased: Source Analysis*. Also new is *Mapping Environmental Justice*, published to coincide with the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP27, and a new lesson in our offerings on the Ukraine war: *The Genocide Convention and War in Ukraine*. Choices also made timely updates to one of our most widely-used Teaching with the News lessons, *An Interactive Timeline: Black Activism and the Long Fight for Racial Justice*.

As we look to the summer, we are excited to host a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, *American Soldiers in American Wars: History and Memory*. We will continue to work with our advisory board and other experts to expand our scholarly networks and reinforce our commitment to enabling students to learn about



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complex and diverse histories analyzed with integrity. Choices has been assisted and guided by the knowledge of Brown undergraduate and Ph.D. students, including curriculum writers Kate Creasey and Michael Aoki Deruelle; curriculum consultants Sarah Christensen and Norman Frazier; curriculum and program assistants Noam Bizan, Mine Kovavisarach, Aidan Wang and Lily Ward-Diorio; and our mapmaker Caroline Zhang. We are grateful for our strong relationship with the Department of History and its faculty, and look forward to continuing to bring the work of Brown scholars to secondary students during this critical time.

Read more:

- [Lessons for Ethnic Studies](#)
- [Confronting Genocide: Never Again?](#)
- [The Middle East: Questions for U.S. Policy](#)
- [Resource Guide: Transgender Identities and Rights](#)
- [#WontBeErased: Source Analysis](#)
- [Mapping Environmental Justice](#)
- [The Genocide Convention and War in Ukraine](#)
- [An Interactive Timeline: Black Activism and the Long Fight for Racial Justice](#)
- [American Soldiers in American Wars: History and Memory](#)



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