

HISTORY CURRENT

Issue 9 | 2019 Annual

2019

YEAR IN REVIEW

AND
STUDENT
SPOTLIGHT



Siew Han Yeo brings us
"Notes from the Field"



THOUGHTS ON 2019 FROM 2020: A Message from the Chair




It is very odd to be reading through this account of our department's many activities in 2019 while sitting at my desk at home in May 2020. At the time that I write this, we have been working and staying at home for eight weeks. In those eight weeks, faculty made a huge effort to switch teaching from in person to online, students made a huge effort to remain engaged in their classes despite all of the challenges of moving back home or otherwise into very different everyday patterns, and the history department staff made the move to working at home seem nearly seamless.

In so many ways the beginning of March feels far away, let alone 2019! For me, 2019 was my first year as the Chair of the Department of History—I began in January, and was immediately confronted by both how remarkable we are in our faculty and students, and how complicated and busy we are as an institution.

Particularly in this moment, when no one is crossing borders (or at times even crossing the threshold), I think about all the ways that some of that complication is due to the ways that our faculty and students cross borders in their work, and cross disciplines in their approaches to research and teaching.

There are so many ways in which this becomes apparent looking through this newsletter. We welcomed two new colleagues whose research and teaching speak to the ways that our department is part of a wider community here at the University. Dmitry Anastakis, who holds the Wilson-Currie Chair in Canadian Business History, is cross-appointed to the Rotman School of Management, and Rebecca Woods is cross-appointed to the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology.

And of course, we also welcomed scholars who visited us as guest lecturers. These amazing speakers—Tina Loo, Mike Morgan, Marline Otte—gave thought-provoking talks to public audiences, ran master classes for our students, and took part in panel conversations with our faculty members. They added so much to the intellectual life of our department, and we look forward to the moment in the future when we can start bringing people back to campus to share their research and expertise with us. Right at this moment it is hard to imagine that time returning to us. But I think the one thing we can agree on is that we look forward being able to come back together not just virtually but in person, to talk about the world of the past and the world we live in now, letting our knowledge of the past help to shape our understanding of the present.

 Alison K. Smith, Professor & Chair, Department of History

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History Current is edited and designed by Amy Ratelle, Research Grants & Communications Officer, with many thanks to our contributors. Submit your story or news to: history.research@utoronto.ca.

WELCOME, NEW COLLEAGUES!



Dimitry Anastakis is the L.R. Wilson and R.J. Currie Chair in Canadian Business History at the University of Toronto in the Department of History and the Rotman School of Management. He joins U of T after 15 years at Trent University, where he was a member of the History Department and the Frost Centre for Canadian and Indigenous Studies and was a former chair of the department of Canadian Studies. Prior to Trent, Dr. Anastakis worked in the Ontario government as a Senior Advisor in the automotive office. Professor Anastakis's work addresses the intersection of business, the state and politics, particularly in the post-1945 period in Canada.



Rebecca Woods (MIT, 2013) joins the History Department from U of T's Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IHPST). Rebecca is an historian of 19th-century science and the environment whose work often centres on animals. Her first book, *The Herds Shot Round the World: Native Breeds and the British Empire, 1800-1900*, was published by UNC Press in 2017. Her current work focuses on frozen mammoths. Prior to coming to U of T in 2016, Rebecca was a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the Columbia University Society of Fellows in the Humanities.

Postdoctoral & University College Fellows



Safia Aidid joins the department as an Arts & Science Postdoctoral Fellow. Trained as an interdisciplinary historian of modern Africa, her research addresses anticolonial nationalism, territorial imaginations, borders, and state formation, with a particular focus on modern Somalia and Ethiopia. She completed her PhD in History at Harvard University in November 2019.



Eric Fillion joins the Department of History as a SSHRC/FRQSC Postdoctoral Fellow. He holds a PhD from Concordia University. His research explores the social and symbolic importance of music, within countercultures and in Canadian international relations. His ongoing work on cultural diplomacy and Canadian-Brazilian relations builds on the experience he has acquired as a musician. He is the founder of the Tenzier archival record label and the author of *JAZZ LIBRE et la révolution québécoise: musique-action, 1967-1975*. His postdoctoral research will examine international music festivals as transnational, contested sites of cultural performance during the long sixties.



Shira Lurie (University of Virginia, 2019) joins the department as the University College Fellow in Early American History. She is currently working on her book *Protest and Power: Liberty Poles and the Popular Struggle for American Democracy*, which examines the struggles of early Americans to determine the power of the citizen and the place of protest in American politics. Dr. Lurie's writing has been published in the *Journal of the Early Republic*, *The Washington Post*, *The Toronto Star*, and *The Conversation*, and she has appeared as a guest on BBC Radio, CBC News, and CTV News. Her work has been funded by SSHRC, the Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture, and the Jack Miller Center.



Timo Schaefer's research examines the social history of law and politics in modern Mexico. His first book, the award-winning *Liberalism as Utopia: The Rise and Fall of Legal Rule in Post-Colonial Mexico, 1820-1900* (Cambridge University Press, 2017), described the emergence of republican legal institutions, as well as the attempts of powerful private interests to limit those institutions' reach and accessibility, in a variety of Mexican social settings. He is currently working on the biography of an indigenous militant in late-twentieth century Mexico and on a general history of Latin America that explores how the region came to be associated with a radical utopian politics.

2019 GRAHAM VISITING FELLOW: Marline Otte



The inaugural Helen E. Graham Visiting Fellow was Professor Marline Otte, Associate Professor of History at Tulane University in New Orleans. Having completed her PhD studies in our department in 1999, Professor Otte was a fitting choice as the first Graham Fellow.

On February 27, Professor Otte delivered a public lecture entitled “Image Worlds of the Eastern Front (1914-18): Trauma, Art, and Occupation.” A large audience in the Natalie Zemon Davis Conference Room heard her discuss the photographic collection of one soldier, Helmuth Grisebach, who became the principal architect of the recovery plan for the Polish city of Kalisz/Kalisch after its near-destruction by the German Army in August 1914.

On March 3, Professor Otte offered a Master Class to graduate students on the topic of “The Use and Interpretation of Photographs in Historical Research.” She did so with her colleague Rebecca Manley, Associate Professor and Chair of History at Queen’s University. Before leading a question-and-answer session and general discussion with the assembled students, the two visitors compared and contrasted critical decisions they have made in their own use of photographic sequences and the larger conclusions they have drawn about how historians can and should analyse images in their proper historical context. Other questions that arose included: What constitutes “truthfulness” when a historian selects and reads an image for a given historical project? Can the image be appreciated alone? How can we determine authorship or audience of an image, particularly in the internet age? And what determines the relationship between image and text, then and now?

During her visit to Toronto Professor Otte was also able to advance her own research project. She is currently working on a book manuscript that explores the intricate three-way relationship between photographic memory of soldiers and civilians on the Eastern front during the First World War, historical preservation efforts during wartime, and the complex ways that policies of occupation and conquest, urban planning and recovery, intersected with the resurgence of Polish nationalism and an ongoing humanitarian crisis. While in Toronto, Professor Otte worked with a large collection of First World War photographs at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

What constitutes “truthfulness” when a historian selects and reads an image for a given historical project?

Every year, an early- or mid-career scholar specializing in nineteenth- and/or twentieth-century European history will be given the opportunity to teach, conduct their own research, and deliver a public lecture as a guest of the History Department for up to two weeks.

 James Retallack, University Professor, Department of History

IRELAND & EMPIRE: Kevin Kenney



Kevin Kenney, the Glucksman Professor of Irish History at New York University, gave a workshop in November 2018 on Ireland and Empire. He examined some of the key conceptual and methodological issues facing students of diasporas, and particularly the validity of definitional frameworks.

If diaspora is used in its original meaning, it would be restricted in its Irish context to traumatic events triggering mass migration; but if it is employed to delineate Irish migration in general (as, in practice, is the case) it becomes devoid of analytical precision.

Professor Kenney also raised the question of Ireland’s relationship to empire. Ireland was both a victim of and participant in British imperialism, and Irish people played a key role in the expansion of the American empire, which was built on the casual genocide of indigenous peoples. A lively discussion ensued.

 David Wilson, Professor, Department of History

2019 CREIGHTON LECTURE: Tina Loo Discusses Forced Relocation



This year's Creighton Lecture events took place March 18 and 19, 2019, with invited lecturer, Professor **Tina Loo**, of the Department of History, University of British Columbia.

“Moved by the State: Forced Relocation and a Good Life in Post-war Canada” was based on research completed on her forthcoming book of the same title, published by UBC Press. From the 1950s to the 1970s, the Canadian state relocated people, often against their will, so they might fulfill their potential as individuals.

Focusing on the people who did the moving, what they wanted to achieve and how they did so, Professor Loo explored the contradiction as it played out among the Inuit of the Central Arctic, fishing families in Newfoundland's outports, the farmers and loggers on Quebec's Gaspé region, and the Black and Chinese-Canadian residents of Halifax's Africville neighbourhood and Vancouver's East Side. In so doing she shed light on the power of the welfare state and the political culture of the postwar period.

The day before the lecture Professor Loo moderated a master class on graduate students on “doing historical writing.” Immediately before the lecture the faculty and graduate students were treated to a panel discussion on “displacement” in a global context, featuring colleagues **Julie McArthur** (East Africa), **Max Mishler** (The United States), and **Mark McGowan** (Ireland) engaged in discussion about other forced relocations in modern history. All of the events during the Creighton Lecture were well attended by faculty, students, and alumni.

The Donald Creighton Lecture is the department's flagship annual lecture, and honours the contributions of Donald Creighton, Professor of Canadian History from 1928-1971.

✍ Mark McGowan, Professor, Department of History

2019 STROM VISITING PROFESSOR: Michael C. Morgan's "Final Act"



In November, the Department of History hosted **Michael C. Morgan** (Associate Professor of History, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill) as our 2019 Harold Strom Visiting Professor.

Morgan had a packed schedule, delivering his lecture, “The Final Act: The Helsinki Accords and the Transformation of the Cold War” on November 21, followed by a three-hour master class on “The Uses of History for Policymakers” on the 22. Master class participants were assigned *and* read a full 500 pages in readings!

In addition to guest lecturing and discussing graduate students' work in contemporary international history at a special lunch, Professor Morgan also served as a panel discussant with illustrious fellow participants **Mevyn P. Leffler** (Professor Emeritus, University of Virginia) and **Beth A. Fischer** (Associate Professor, University of Toronto) for the Cold War symposium, “Thirty Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall.” This event packed the

Natalie Zemon Davis conference room to capacity.

The Harold Strom Visiting Professor is an early or mid-career scholar who is pursuing innovative work thematically or methodologically in the area of contemporary history and/or international relations.

✍ Timothy Andrews Sayle, Assistant Professor, Department of History & Director of the International Relations Program



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

John Meehan (PhD, 2000) was recently appointed President of the University of Sudbury (Sudbury, ON).

Leila Pourtavaf (PhD, 2018) is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Middle East and Islamic Studies Department at NYU.

Kathleen B. Rasmussen (PhD, 2000) has been appointed general editor of the Foreign Relations of the US series at the State Department.

Francesca Silano (PhD, 2017) was a postdoctoral fellow at the Russian Studies Workshop (Indiana University) for 2018, and is presently an Assistant Visiting Professor in History and Teaching Fellow at the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies at Miami University.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: *Past Tense Graduate Review of History*



The editorial team of *Past Tense Graduate Review of History* is pleased to announce that Volume 7 was launched online in April 2019.


Volume 7 includes three original research papers by graduate students from across North America. The papers cover a range of topics, from African American responses to northern Jim Crow practices in New Jersey, to the “Russian legacy” of an American naval commander accused of rape in Catherinian Russia, to a reconsideration of conventional narratives about Nicaraguan participation in international World War II diplomacy.

Though they draw from diverse time periods and geographies, these articles all speak to the way activity and passivity have been understood in specific historical contexts. In addition to the graduate research findings in each paper, the book review included in this volume considers a timely political issue.

Hannah Roth Cooley joined **Spirit-Rose Waite** as co-editor in October 2018, and two new associate editors, **Siddharth Sridhar** and **Cal Stewart** came aboard.

The whole editorial team would like to thank the many anonymous volunteer peer reviewers, faculty reviewers, copy editors, and proofreaders from both the Department of History at U of T and history departments beyond. Without their work the publication of *Past Tense's* seventh volume would not have been possible.

Publishing original graduate research is a primary mission of the journal, as is offering opportunities for graduate students to gain experience with the publication process. The Editors would like to encourage course instructors who receive high quality graduate research papers to consider suggesting *Past Tense* as a publication option.

 Hannah Roth Cooley & Spirit-Rose Waite, PhD students, Department of History (image credit: Jonas Jacobsson, unsplash.com)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Canada Declassified

The University of Toronto is the home of *Canada Declassified*, a new website designed to share recently declassified records related to Canada's role in world affairs. The website and research project showcase the work of undergraduate and graduate students who have researched in these records and selected specific documents for display. The website, and the History students who build and maintain it, makes public the previously secret history of a range of Cold War issues — from atomic weapons to accusations of “subversion.”



Today's students and scholars of Canada and the Cold War contend with a good news/bad news story when it comes to archival research.

Due to peculiarities in the Canadian *Access to Information Act* and other policies, an enormous portion of the Government of Canada's post-1945 archival folders are closed and cannot be opened without a formal request from a researcher. After a researcher makes a request, the requested records are scanned by Library and Archives Canada, put into a disc format and then mailed.

The *Canada Declassified* site hosts a number of “Briefing Books”— curated selections of important documents from larger declassification release packages — that have been prepared by students from History and other disciplines. The inspiration for the program came, in part, from the George Washington University-based National Security Archive. Senior undergraduate students wishing to research Cold War foreign policies online, however, are often limited to American and British sources. *Canada Declassified's* aim is to enrich the study of Canadian and international history by making the Canadian records available online. We were fortunate that the History Department's Intellectual Community Committee helped sponsor a visit from **Thomas Blanton**, Director of the National Security Archive, who visited U of T and discussed the challenges and prospects for a Canadian “national security archive.” Blanton also gave a public lecture on how declassification efforts have changed the study of history.

“*Canada Declassified* offers a means of making these records more broadly accessible.”

What is particularly special about *Canada Declassified* is that the website features the work done by undergraduate students via the History Department's fourth-year Independent Study offerings, through the 2018 and 2019 iterations of the Jackman Humanities Institute Scholars-in-Residence program, and via Research Assistantships funded by **Tim Sayle's** SSHRC Insight Development Grant. The project is also supported by the Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary International History, the University of Toronto Libraries, and the abilities of one of History's SSHRC postdoctoral fellows, **Dr. Matthew S. Wiseman**.

Alexandra Southgate, recent History major and incoming MA student, is an example of how these records, and the process of building *Canada Declassified*, can be integrated into History's undergraduate curriculum. During her HIS499 Independent Study, Alex built two briefing books: one on the Berlin Wall Crisis and a second related to Canadians accused of subversion in the United States. She continued to work on the project as a Northrop Frye Undergraduate Fellow and as a Jackman Scholar-in-Residence in 2018. In 2019, she assisted a new group of Scholars-in-Residence, while also preparing to enter the MA program. As an MA student, and with the aid of a prestigious SSHRC CGS-M scholarship, she will study the Canadian Joint Intelligence Bureau and its relationship with the North. The research will utilize newly-released files that will then be uploaded to *Canada Declassified* and be available for future students to study.

Canada Declassified presently includes a dozen briefing books and approximately 500 recently declassified documents, all word-searchable. Thousands of other documents are in the process of being tagged with metadata and prepared for upload, and will be ready soon for use in courses and other research projects.

✍ Timothy Andrews Sayle, Assistant Professor, Department of History & Director of the International Relations Program & Alexandra Southgate, MA student, Department of History

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Siew Han Yeo's "Notes from the Field"



"Are you finished with the files?" ["Case Pi-thwa-bi la?"]. Upon agreement, Daw Zin Mar would promptly take a stack of archival files and return them to another room ('Daw' in English is translated as 'aunt', and is also used as a form of address for civil servants).

Within minutes, she returned to swiftly hand me a new request form. Daw Zin Mar was incredibly patient, and after seeing her almost every day during my time in the archive, she knew my working routine as well I did hers.

This process, and that opening question, formed one of the most common parts of my daily interactions in the National Archives (NAD) during my year of research in Yangon, Myanmar – one of

the government institutions in which I had the privilege of working from October 2018-2019.

Walks in Yangon's downtown offer sobering reminders of the living histories that are forsaken in other bustling cities dominated by towering skyscrapers. There were the usual rhythms unique to the city: the street vendors at the foot of my apartment who would begin setting up shop from 5 a.m. to sell fresh seasonal produce; the strong workers who pushed carts filled with water jugs up and down the street into apartments and businesses; the morning sermons from the *ghanmayone* (Buddhist religious hall) across the street; the fragrant smell of *mohinga* – a quintessential Burmese breakfast of rice noodles in fish soup – wafting from the teashop on the street corner in the early morning.

In the archive as well, there is a certain repetition with how things work. Though the specifics may vary depending on the archive in question, the routine is generally the same: a request, receiving of material, and scanning of said files to find an answer to the specific questions we ask of the past. This process is fundamental to the archival work of a historian.

"Walks in Yangon's downtown offer sobering reminders of the living histories that are forsaken in other bustling cities dominated by towering skyscrapers."

Though my experience as a researcher in Myanmar was marked by my position as an outsider and foreigner, the reality of living in Yangon would shutter in and out every so often at the archives and the libraries. Dagon township, where the NAD and foreign embassies are located, is no exception to the city-wide rotating power cuts during the hot season (February-June), though these cuts are less frequent during the cool season (October-January). One of my most vivid recollections are the numerous conversations I had with archivists during these electricity cuts. When the power stops, so does the work: there is no electricity, and along with it, no retrieval of materials or searching in the catalogue. So, we wait and we chat.

There are other factors to consider, too – all file requests and photocopies require approval by NAD authorities. The NAD organizes its records by the name of singular casefiles, rather than by department or as a dossier filed with other enclosures. Published reports and books are available, but the NAD has few newspapers in its holdings. Most of the Burmese-language magazines and newspapers are only available at Yangon University's University Central Library (UCL). Much of my archival work thus required a constant shuffling back-and-forth between the NAD, UCL, and the Burmese-Chinese library in Yangon's Chinatown.

I was fortunate enough to learn about Myanmar's history during my working hours, and live in its present the rest of the time. The duality of such experiences has continued to influence my ongoing approach to writing a history of Myanmar in the colonial period – an important reminder that my work had in fact, only just begun.

Research travel between 2018-2019 for my dissertation would not have been possible without funding support from the SGS Travel Research Grant, Department of History's Pre-Dissertation Research Award, and the Robert Ho Center for Buddhist Studies Graduate Student Travel Grant.

✍ Siew Han Yeo, PhD student, Department of History

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Éric Pecile Talks “Private Wealth & Public Profits”




My summer 2019 dissertation research began with a move from working at the Archivio di Stato in Florence (ASF) to the Archivio di Stato in Bologna (ASB).

After enjoying a week at the 2019 Getty Digital Art History Workshop in Venice for the first week of June and a quick train ride, I got to work at the ASB. This archive is far more analogue than its relative in Florence, relying on pencils and carbon paper pads instead of computers to make document requests. After initial adjustments, I became enamoured with the reliable nature of paper receipts and handheld writing instruments instead of computers, printers and stamps.

Research began with an immersive look into the accounts of Bologna’s prominent noble family, the Pepoli. Focusing on the accounts of local nobleman Giovanni Pepoli (1521-1585), I investigated how he distributed his assets to get a sense of the extent of his financial network and determine the accounts from which he drew the funds to start his charitable food provisioning initiative, the *Pio Cumulo della Misericordia* (PCM).

After three weeks of going through relevant account books, commercial correspondence and contracts, I was pleasantly interrupted by a weeklong workshop called “Far quadrare i conti” (“Balancing the Books”) offered by Bologna’s Fondazione del Monte. Hosted by Professors Francesco Guidi Bruscoli (Queen Mary University of London), Mauro Carboni (Università di Bologna) and Vera Zamagni (Johns Hopkins University), the workshop brought together a mix of early modern economic historians of Italy and economists. The curriculum included lectures, workshops and roundtable discussions of various themes in Italian economic history and in-depth analysis of early modern commercial documents to assist participants in their research efforts. It was rewarding to network with scholars handling similar documents and dealing with comparable thematic issues. Our discussions were useful to troubleshoot some of the issues that arise when handling account documents, which greatly facilitated my research over the summer.

After the workshop, I started to explore the administrative and account documents of the PCM proper. Overall, the summer’s research was fruitful and productive, putting me on the right track to start writing my dissertation’s Bolognese case study.

 Éric Pecile, PhD Student, Department of History

MAKING HISTORY AT: The 2019 CHA Annual Conference



The 98th Annual Meeting of the **Canadian Historical Association** (CHA) was held at the University of British Columbia, June 3-5, 2019, in conjunction with the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences. Our department was well represented by presenters including Kassandra Luciuk, Shane Lynn, Mia McKie and Simon Vickers; University College teaching fellow Andrew Kettler; postdoctoral fellows Christo Aivalis and Matthew Wiseman; course instructor Sujata Thapa-Battarai; as well as faculty members Heidi Bohaker, Mairi Cowan, Mark McGowan, Sean Mills, Cecilia Morgan, Steve Penfold and David Wilson.

 Mark McGowan, Professor, Department of History
(image credit: John Mark Smith, unsplash.com)

CONGRATULATIONS! Student News & Awards



Ponni Arasu defended “Tamil Thanmai: A Historical Ethnography of Public Political Lives in Taimnadu 1950-1970,” supervisor Jo Sharma.

Adrian de Leon has accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Southern California, Department of American Studies & Ethnicity.

Edward Dunsworth defended “The Transnational Making of Ontario Tobacco Labour, 1925-1990,” supervisor Ian Radforth.

Monica Espaillat Lizardo received the prestigious Vivienne Poy Chancellor’s Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences for 2019.

Bethan Fisk defended “The Wilderness Within”: African Diasporic Religion in New Granada, 1690-1790,” supervisor Melanie Newton.

Kirsten James defended “The Science of Scent and Business of Perfume in Paris and London, 1650-1815,” supervisor Paul Cohen.

Yehji Jeong was in Japan as a Doctoral Research Fellow at the Japan Foundation.

Ryan Masters defended “‘The People Who Make Our Heads Spin’: White Violence in German East Africa,” supervisor Doris Bergen.

Alexandra Southgate and **Karina Michele Stelat** both received the 2019 Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award, for outstanding extra-curricular contributions to their college, faculty or school, or to the university as a whole.

Joseph Sproule defended “Merchants of War: Mercenaries, Economy, and Society in the Late Sixteenth-Century Baltic;” supervisor Jüri Kivimäe.

Gavin Weins defended “In the Service of Kaiser and King: State Sovereignty, Nation-Building, and the German Army, 1866-1918,” supervisor Jim Retallack.

CONGRATULATIONS! Faculty Awards & Honours



Paul Cohen received the designation, *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes académiques* from the government of France, for his exceptional contributions to French language and culture. The title was first created by Napoleon I in 1808, becoming a decoration in 1866 under Napoleon III.

Cindy Ewing received the University of Toronto Connaught New Researcher Award. She was also awarded the International Studies Association's (ISA) Best Dissertation Award (Human Rights Section). The ISA's award recognizes the best dissertation in the field of human rights, which asks timely and important questions, deploys innovative research methods, and engages with ongoing debates within the human rights field.

Franca Iacovetta's co-edited volume, *Beyond Women's Words: Feminisms and the Practices of Oral History in the Twenty-First Century* (with Katrina Strigley and Stacey Zembrzycki; Routledge, 2018) received the 2019 Best Book Award from the Oral History Association. The award recognizes scholarly contributions that use oral history to make a significant contribution to contemporary scholarship, significantly advance understanding of important theoretical issues in oral history and is an outstanding example of oral history methodology.

Eric Jennings was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, for his significant work globalizing and de-centering the history of France. Recognition by the RSC is the highest honour an individual can achieve in the Arts, Social Sciences and Sciences. His 2018 monograph, *Escape from Vichy: The Refugee Exodus to the French Caribbean* (Harvard University Press), also received the Gilbert Chinard Prize from the Society for French Historical Studies and the Institut français d'Amérique. The annual award recognizes the best book in either the history of French-American relations or the comparative history of France and North, Central, or South America.

Julie MacArthur's book, *Dedan Kimathi on Trial: Colonial Justice and Popular Memory in Kenya's Mau Mau Rebellion* (Ohio University Press, 2017), was awarded the 2019 Paul Hair Prize by the African Studies Association. This prize is presented in odd-numbered years to recognize the best critical edition or translation into English of primary source materials on Africa published during the preceding two years. Professor MacArthur was also awarded in the 2019 UTM Annual Research Prize in the Humanities.

Mark McGowan's article, "Uncomfortable Pews: The Catholic Bishops and the Making of Confederation – A Reappraisal" received the Paul Bator Memorial Prize from the Canadian Catholic Historical Association (CCHA), for best article published in *Historical Studies* over its last three volumes. The Bator Award is conferred biennially, and articles are judged on their originality and depth of research, importance to the historiography, and prose excellence.

Michelle Murphy received the 2019 Ludwik Fleck Prize for *The Economization of Life* (Duke University Press 2017), from the 4S Council (Society for the Social Studies of Science). The Fleck Prize is bestowed on an outstanding book in the area of Science and Technology Studies (STS). Professor Murphy's award is particularly noteworthy, as she is the only recipient to have been awarded the Fleck Prize twice.

Jim Retallack was recognized as a University Professor, a U of T designation bestowed on faculty members with pre-eminence in their discipline. He also received the Central European History Society's Hans Rosenberg Book Prize for *Red Saxony: Election Battles and the Spectre of Democracy in Germany, 1860-1918* (Oxford University Press, 2017). The prestigious award honours the best book on central European history published in English by a permanent resident of North America.

Shauna Sweeney received a Connaught New Researcher Award, which assists new faculty members establish competitive research programmes.

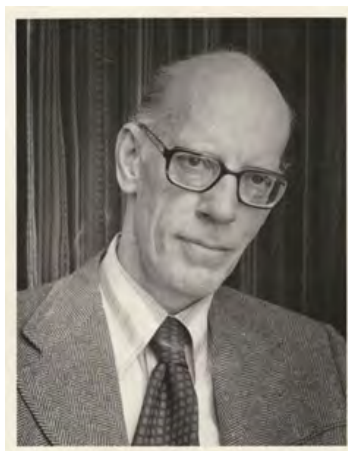
Lynne Viola received the Pierre Chaveau Medal from the Royal Society of Canada for her work on Stalinist Russia. The medal is awarded every two years for a distinguished contribution to knowledge in the humanities. Professor Viola was also awarded the Killiam Prize from the Canada Council of the Arts. The Killiam Prize recognizes the career achievements of eminent Canadian scholars actively engaged in ground-breaking research.

IN MEMORIAM

The department is saddened by the loss of two of our colleagues this past year, Professors Emeritus Robert (Bob) Accinelli last July (2018), and William H. (Bill) Nelson in January 2019.



Robert Accinelli (1939-2019) joined the department in 1965, as a professor of modern American foreign relations. Born and raised in San Francisco, he obtained a BA in history from Santa Clara University, then went on to complete his masters and PhD history degrees at UC Berkeley. Professor Accinelli shared his keen insights into U.S. politics and was generous of time and spirit. Near his retirement he became a dedicated student of Italian at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura and was an active contributor at the Academy for Lifelong Learning at Knox College (University of Toronto). He believed strongly in the importance of philanthropy particularly of the arts, devoting much time to Vanier College Productions at York University (Toronto) as its Executive Producer Emeritus. We were privileged to have a respected scholar and accomplished teacher as a colleague.



William H. Nelson (1923-2020) taught colonial American history in our department and was a prominent contributor to University affairs for over thirty years, from the 1960s to the 1990s. He completed his doctorate at Columbia University, starting his distinguished academic career. Professor Nelson also lectured at NYU and Rice University, before coming to University College here at the University of Toronto. After retirement, he wrote a history of the Toronto Faculty Association and was for many years an active participant in Association affairs and a frequent Chair of Council meetings. Professor Emeritus Michael Finlayson characterizes our colleague as “an outspoken defender of academic freedom and was frequently a harsh critic of ‘Simcoe Hall’.” Professor Nelson was a proud civil rights and environmental activist, who prioritized the needs of others above his own at every opportunity.

CULINARIA RESEARCH CENTRE: “Brews Up the Past”



Professional historians often take a dim view of historical re-enactment. At best, it may be a harmless popular entertainment, as in the case of living history exhibits at Fort York, but at times it can be deeply suspect, as in the example of Americans who dress up in Confederate gray uniforms to re-fight the Civil War. Nevertheless, engaging directly with the material culture of the past can offer a valuable form of experiential learning and research. On September 25, 2019, the Department of History partnered with the **Culinaria Research Centre** to host a workshop on historical brewing with University of Tennessee **Professor Tore Olsson** and a dozen or so graduate students, UTSC undergraduates, faculty, and postdoctoral fellows.

In deciding on a style, we chose the first industrial beer, London porter, in part because the rich flavours of darkly roasted malts helped to cover up the flaws of early industrial machinery. We boiled the wort with an induction burner rather than primitive steam engines but still appreciated the deep colour and full-bodied taste. We also added “mystery hops” grown in the UTSC campus garden, whose origins have been forgotten with the change of personnel.

At each step of the brew, participants smelled and tasted the ingredients to follow the developing flavour.

Before returning home, Professor Olsson also gave a seminar at the St. George campus for faculty and students about researching and writing transnational history. He talked about both his prize-winning book *Agrarian Crossings: Reformers and the Remaking of the US and Mexican Countryside* (Princeton 2017) as well as his next book project on the global history of country music.

A few weeks later, students returned to the Culinaria kitchen in order to bottle the porter. Without the expert guidance of Professor Olsson, we failed to add enough sugar to encourage a full secondary fermentation and thereby provide the rich head that porter connoisseurs appreciate. Or maybe we were just too eager to open the bottles before it had developed fully. If it wasn't quite as fizzy as desired, it still provided flavours of coffee and chocolate – neither of which were actually used in the brewing. Thus, participants gained a fuller appreciation of the sensory magic of fermentation.

“Maybe we were just too eager to open the bottles before it had developed fully.”

*In this photo (left to right): postdoctoral fellow **Lisa Haushofer** and graduate student **Valeria Mantilla Morales** watch as Professor Olsson strains the malt for a London Porter.*

✍ By Jeffrey Pilcher, Professor, Department of Historical and Cultural Studies, University of Toronto Scarborough

THE RANSOM ECONOMY: Daniel Hershenzon Keynotes Vagantes 2019



Daniel Hershenzon, Associate Professor of early modern Europe and the Mediterranean at the University of Connecticut, gave the keynote lecture at the [2019 Vagantes Conference on Medieval Studies](#) (hosted by the Centre for Medieval Studies). “Captivated by the Mediterranean: Early Modern Spain and the Political Economy of Ransoming,” exemplified his style of careful and solid scholarship.

Analyzing the letters of Christian and Muslim captives, and documents from religious orders, the Spanish Empire, and North African Muslim powers (specifically Algiers and Morocco), Hershenzon posited that there was a trans-imperial political economy of ransom in the 16th century Mediterranean.

Slavery, he proposes, was not just a system of bondage and human commerce but also a system of communication. Not only could captives write letters to their family with information about how to ransom them and their new lives, but new relations developed when Catholic, Muslim, and Jewish actors collaborated to ransom captives.

These complex networks created new bonds between the Trinitarian friars, Jewish and Muslim merchants, the Spanish throne, and Muslim *pashas* since each group desired to control the economy of ransom but needed to ally with another group in order to try to do so (for example, the Muslim *pashas* frequently sided against Jewish and Muslim merchants). This collaboration forces us to revise the concept of the “Northern Invasion,” which suggests that the Mediterranean became a free market only because of the increased presence of Dutch, English, and French merchants from 1580 onwards.

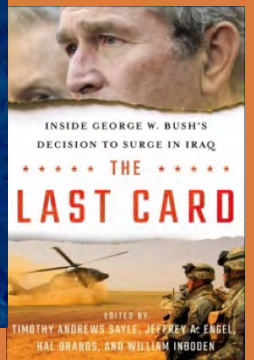
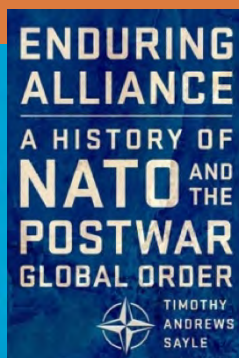
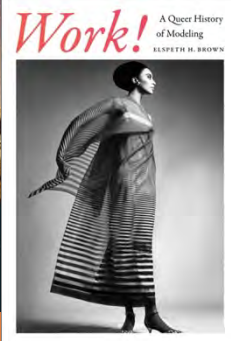
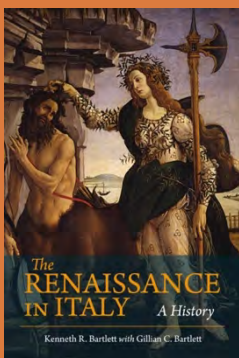
“Slavery was not just a system of bondage and human commerce but also a system of communication.”

Nation-states, Hershenzon argued, did not replace local actors and these interactions, negotiations, and networks which developed across the Mediterranean continued to shape European identities. In this framework, Hershenzon highlighted how fruitful it is to examine the Mediterranean as a site of exchange and to consider the social and political implications of the ransom economy during the 16th and 17th centuries.

The keynote lecture was followed by a reception, where students from the University of Toronto’s Department of History and the participants of the Vagantes conference could further explore these questions.

✍ By Kari North, PhD student, Department of History

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