



YEAR  
IN  
REVIEW

# HISTORY

## C U R R E N T

Issue 11 | 2021



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## **Publisher**

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# A Message from the Chair

It feels very different writing this message in January 2023 compared to my last two, when we were still relatively early in the pandemic and so uncertain about where it was going. There's still uncertainty all around us, of course – there is the continued presence of COVID-19, there is war, there is insurrection – but as the contents of this newsletter shows, we have found ways as a department and as individuals to continue to research, teach, and learn both about our various historical subjects and about the world all around us.

Just look at the long list of news items featuring our historians! Our colleagues demonstrate again and again the ways that we can understand our present better by understanding our past.



Over the past year or so it has been a true pleasure to see so many of our graduate student and faculty colleagues embark on research trips again, to see them winning awards for their research and teaching, and to see the many books and even more articles they have produced to share their research with the world. We've welcomed new faculty, new students, and new postdoctoral fellows whose presence in our department enriches the experience for all of us. And of course, as of last fall, we are almost entirely back in the classroom in person. I at least am finding that to be truly reinvigorating – though getting questions all the time means it can be harder to stay on schedule, I appreciate the back and forth of discussion so much that it feels entirely worth it.

It's exciting to read though this newsletter and to see all the things members of our community have been doing – and even more exciting to think about all the things they'll keep on doing to in the work of unearthing and at times reckoning with the past so that we can continue to build our future.

**-Alison Smith**

*Professor & Chair, Department of History*

# Welcome, New Colleagues!



**Safia Aidid** is an interdisciplinary historian of modern Africa and **Assistant Professor** in the Department of History and African Studies Program, New College. Her research addresses anticolonial nationalism, territorial imaginations, borders, and state formation in the Horn of Africa, with a particular focus on modern Somalia and Ethiopia. Her current book manuscript, titled *Pan-Somali Dreams: Ethiopia, Greater Somalia, and the Somali Nationalist Imagination*, traces the history of Pan-Somali nationalism and its desire for a state form, a Greater Somalia, commensurate to the geography of Somali identity. Her research and writing have been supported by the Social

Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Faculty of Arts and Science at UofT, the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and Department of History at Harvard.

**Esmat Elhalaby** is an **Assistant Professor** of Transnational History. He works principally on the intellectual history of West and South Asia. His areas of specialization include colonialism and anti-colonialism, modern Arab intellectual history, and the critical study of Asia. Elhalaby's current book project, *Parting Gifts of Empire: Palestine, India, and the Making of the Global South* is an intellectual history of Palestine and India's twin partitions and their aftermaths from the standpoint of their victims. Eschewing a focus on colonial forms of knowledge, *Parting Gifts of Empire* narrates the entangled history of Arab and South Asian thought from the turn of the twentieth century to the rise of Non-Alignment and Third Worldism in the 1960s.

Before joining the University of Toronto, Esmat held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of California, Davis and NYU Abu Dhabi. He received his Ph.D in History from Rice University in 2019.



**Azadeh Sharifi** is a **Visiting Assistant Professor** (DAAD-Gastprofessur) at the University of Toronto. Her work engages with (post)colonial and (post)migrant Theatre history, performances by artists of color and the intersections of race, class and gender in contemporary European performances. She is currently working on the history of migrant and minority artists in Germany since 1955 ("Post-migrant German theatre history"). Previously, she was a Visiting Professor (Gastprofessur) at the University of Fine Arts (UdK) Berlin, Postdoc at the Department of Theatre Studies at LMU Munich and fellow at the International Research Center Interweaving Performance Cultures at FU Berlin. She

is a Board Member of Performance Studies international (PSi).

# Postdoctoral Fellows



**Taiwo Bello** is a Faculty of Arts & Science Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of History, where his current research examines the migratory and resettlement experiences of Biafran/Igbo families who fled Biafra for Canada in the 1960s and 1980s. He received a PhD in African History from the Department of History, University of Toronto, an MA in Political Studies from the University of Saskatchewan, MA in International History and Politics, and MA in International History, both from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, and a BA in History from the University of Ibadan. His areas of research expertise include women's and gender history; war and violence studies; conflict, trauma, and memory; human rights and humanitarian histories; and global history. His works have appeared in peer-reviewed outlets such

as *Africa Today*, *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, *War & Society*, *The International History Review*, *Journal of World History*, and *Journal of Globalization Studies*. He has a forthcoming article in the journal, *Gender & History*. He is currently revising his dissertation into a publishable book manuscript.

**Travis K. Bost** joins the department as a University of Toronto Faculty of Arts & Science Postdoctoral Fellow and is also affiliated with the Caribbean Studies Program at New College. He holds a Ph.D. in Planning also from the University of Toronto. His research examines the political economy of development and theories of postcolonial planning across the Greater Caribbean. His dissertation project examined how the early twentieth-century formation of modern environmental planning institutions in the U.S. state of Louisiana – institutions that have famously and disastrously failed to address the growing challenges of climate change – was shaped by the region's historic regime of plantation sugar. His current research project addresses comparative Black/Third Worldist thought on the political economy of development in post-plantation societies between the U.S. South and the English-speaking Caribbean.



**Felix Cowan** joins the department as a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow after finishing his PhD at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He is delighted to return to the University of Toronto, where he previously completed a BA in History (2013) and MA in European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (2015). His research focuses on late imperial Russian history, and he is currently working on a book manuscript, *On the Path of Truth and Progress: The Imperial Russian Penny Press, 1908-1918*, examining how newspapers for poor readers transformed the political culture of the Russian Empire in the early twentieth century. In addition to numerous conference presentations and several online publications, Felix's work has appeared in the journals *Revolutionary Russia*, *Canadian-*

*American Slavic Studies*, and *Russian History*.

**Katie Davis** is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Contemporary International History. She completed her PhD in History from the University of Toronto in 2022. Katie's work focuses on the relationship between public opinion, civil society, and foreign policymaking in the United States. Her current book project, *Learning to Live with the Atom*, examines these themes in the context of US debates about international control of atomic energy in the 1940s. She is particularly interested in exploring how historians can incorporate public opinion research into their work.



**Constance de Font-Réaulx** is a scholar of early modern France. She is a former student of the École Normale Supérieure (Ulm) and holds her Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University. Her research focuses on the commercialization and commodification of drinking water in early modern Paris. She examines debates over the governance of the supply of water when commercial and financial capitalism had begun transforming nature into a commodity. She is currently working on a manuscript entitled *The Power of Water: The Politics of the Parisian Waterworks (1660-1800)*. Her research has been supported by the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies.

**Gasper Jakovac** is a cultural and literary historian of the early modern period. His research focuses on drama, performance, and religious politics in Protestant England and beyond. As Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellow at University College London and the University of Toronto, he is working on a project entitled 'Catholic Performance Culture in Early Modern England' (CaPer). The project investigates how Catholics used theatre, dance, music, sports, and ceremonies to form communal bonds, negotiate their place in a hostile society, and advance Catholic Reformation in the period between Elizabeth I's accession to the throne in 1558 and the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. Relying on a variety of archival and literary sources, CaPer will rethink the cultural history of English Catholics, introduce to historiography previously neglected historical actors and practices, and expand our knowledge of religious coexistence in early modern Europe. As part of CaPer, Gašper is currently preparing a scholarly edition of Robert Owen's manuscript play *The History of Purgatory* (BL, Add. MS 11427), a unique example of Catholic vernacular drama from the early seventeenth century, which is to be published by the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (University of Toronto).





**Sinhyeok Jung** is Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of History at the University of Toronto. Prior to obtaining his Ph.D. in History from the University of Toronto in 2022, he received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea. His research has focused on the entangled historical interconnections between Okinawa and mainland Japan within the broader colonial and Cold War geopolitical context. He is currently working on his book project, in which he examines intellectual movements and connections between Okinawa and mainland Japan with a focus on critical discourses on Asia in the 1960s and 1970s.



**Owain Lawson** (he/him) is a historian of environment, development, and social movements in the modern Middle East. He joined the department as SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow in 2022, and he is currently completing his first book manuscript, *Power Failures: Development, Sovereignty, and Environmental Justice in Lebanon*. Owain received his PhD in History from Columbia University in 2021 and holds degrees from the American University in Cairo and Concordia University. Prior to Toronto, he was Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Oberlin College. He serves as Co-Editor of *Arab Studies Journal* and is a founding member of the Jadaliyya Environment page editorial collective.

**Juan Carlos Mezo-González** is a historian of sexuality in Mexico and the transnational Americas. He earned a PhD in History from the University of Toronto in 2022 and he is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of History. His research and teaching focus on Mexican, Latin American, and LGBTQ+ history. His current book project examines the relationship between transnational gay liberation politics, periodicals, and visibility across the Americas from the early 1970s to the mid-1990s. He is also co-curating a digital exhibition that features a collection of Mexican graphic arts at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Juan Carlos Mezo's work has been published in *Hispanic American Historical Review* and *Left History*.



# *“Feeling” Safe:*

## Security, Emotions, and History



What does feeling safe, well, feel like?

Along with colleagues from Germany, Dagmar Ellerbrock at Technische Universität Dresden and Eckart Conze at Universität Marburg, we have begun an examination of the international dimension of this question – in a multinational collaborative project on security and emotions in history. Although we are still in the exploratory phase, we are tapping into recent developments in the history of emotions to offer innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to problems of global security and insecurity.

Our collaborative effort started in 2019 with a workshop here at the University of Toronto. Hosted by the Munk School and the Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, “Feeling Safe” brought scholars together to conceptualize and historicize the emotionality of “security.” Although some of us were feeling our way (no pun intended) through ideas and vocabulary for the first time, we could sense the value that International Relations History—as opposed to International Relations more broadly—could add to current understandings of the experience of security in different contexts. Applying methods drawn from emotions history to questions of international security could open up productive avenues about the ways in which the security concept has always been bound up in culture, politics, race, and gender.

Interrupted by Covid-19, the project was then ironically propelled by the growing comfort with Zoom that emerged during the pandemic. We picked things back up in the fall of 2021, with monthly discussions of readings covering a gamut of topics: “emotionology”; the distinction between emotional standards and emotional experiences; deep dives on specific emotions such as fear and happiness; the role of emotions and emotional

optics in “securitizing” certain issues; the emotional culture of security; the politics of emotions in international relations; the influence of affect in shaping international / inter-relational communities. We also added colleagues to the mix along the way: Will Riddell at Historical and Cultural Studies (UTSC), Will McFadden in the UofT Ph.D. Program, and Candace Sobers at Carleton University. We all come at this topic from different perspectives and with varying degrees of comfort, but there is a basic understanding that getting at the complexity of security requires problematizing the rationalist paradigm in IR History – which itself begins with accepting the intertwining of emotion and reason.

Our growing familiarity with the topic—and with each other—is spurring discussion of “next steps,” specifically our wish to start sharing our work with others and inviting guests to share their specific writings and ideas with us. This will likely take multiple forms during the upcoming academic year: panels and roundtable discussions at various professional meetings and in journals; presentations about our project to international research centers; an ad hoc lecture series or set of workshops with visiting experts. A bit further down the line, we are also envisioning publication of an edited volume – and the establishment of a “summer school” or “bootcamp” program involving an international group of graduate students and interested faculty.

More immediately, we intend to expand the group of participants engaged in monthly seminar discussions. We will also host a lecture or workshop in the upcoming Fall Term with Dagmar Ellerbrock, a familiar face to many thanks to her stay in 2018-2019 as the Hannah Arendt Visiting Professor at the Munk School of Global Affairs, Center for European and Russian and Eurasian Studies.



As we continue to sharpen our conceptual skillset and begin to sketch out our more specific historical case studies, we are bound to encounter (more) epistemological and methodological challenges to understanding the emotional dynamics of international security/insecurity. And yet, even if we cannot hope to capture this feeling in all its individual, collective, and relational complexities, interrogating the implicit rational/irrational dualism

that shapes our understanding of “feeling safe” seems worth the effort, not least because the collaborative journey so far has been enlightening and its scholarly significance is already visible

- **Ronald W. Pruessen**, *Professor Emeritus & Matthieu Vallières*, *Postdoctoral Fellow*

## Podcasting Popular Portrayals of the Past

As historians, we must contend with the fact that popular media, rather than scholarly research, often define how the public understands history. In the summer of 2021, I launched a podcast that grapples with this idea.

**Off-Campus History** is a podcast about popular portrayals of history, such as films, TV shows, games, museum exhibits, and more. In each episode, I interview a fellow historian about a portrayal of the history they



Logo by [Instagram.com/nethkaria](https://www.instagram.com/nethkaria)

specialize in. The goal of the show is to put historians in conversation with the media that, for better or worse, shape public interpretations of the past.

While these discussions address the historical accuracy of these depictions, I seek to get into greater depth than just this one topic. The show explores the role of a particular medium in shaping the impression of history it leaves on its audience; why some topics and styles of portraying history are popular; how and why popular interpretations of a given history change over time; and much more.

At the time of writing, I have released 23 episodes; a new episode comes out each month. About half of the guests to date have been members of our own Department of History, and the show has gained a reputation as something of an unofficial department podcast. Beyond our own department,

recent guests on the show include CHA Best Book Prize recipient Benjamin Hoy, History Slam podcast host Sean Graham, and NiCHE (Network in Canadian History and Environment) editor Jessica DeWitt.

Creating the podcast has been a wonderful chance to learn about histories beyond my own particular research focus. Indeed, one of the reasons I started the show was my desire to continue learning about histories beyond my area of specialization. Topics covered on the show to date range from Arthurian legends to Indigenous-newcomer relations in North America, from the Troubles in Northern Ireland to early modern Caribbean piracy, from the Winnipeg General Strike to South Asia during WWII.

You can find Off-Campus History on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, and other podcast platforms. Follow the show on Facebook and Instagram to get announcements about new episode releases and see historical images related to each episode. Also, any historians interested in appearing on the show are invited to contact me at [offcampushistory\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:offcampushistory[at]gmail.com)!



*Louis Reed-Wood, Host of the Off-Campus History Podcast*

- **Louis Reed-Wood**  
*PhD Candidate, Department of History*

# History in the Time of... Series, 2021-2022

Throughout the pandemic, we have all had to figure out new ways to gather together, share our research, and discuss the pressing historical questions of our time. Building off the important initiative of Professor Tamara Walker, the 2021-2022 Intellectual Community Committee hosted three panels as part of our “History in the Time of” speaker series. This series aimed to bring together faculty and graduates for informal presentations and open discussions on topics of wide interest and contemporary relevance. These virtual meetings provided a space for graduate students and faculty alike to share experiences, both in the classroom and in our research, of what has gone well, what challenges we have faced, and what it all means for our current and future work as professional historians.



Our first session examined “History in the Time of... Now”. Professors Jens Hanssen and Tong Lam, and graduate students Mónica Espaillet Lizardo and Koby Song-Nichols offered short presentations on how the present informs and shapes historical work, and the possibilities of doing histories of the present. Mónica reminded us of the importance of narrative in commemorative practices and of Michel-Rolph Trouillot’s idea that “pastness is a position”. Professor Hanssen spoke about the implications of doing history in the throes of revolution and opening up our minds to the possibility of alternative or even negative futurities. Professor Lam explored the weaponization of the media, in the past and in the present, and our responsibilities as historians to the discourse of “truth”. Koby offered a very personal reflection on building spaces to mourn and heal, and networks of care

and activism, as we sit and read from our privileged positions as “the world is on fire”. The discussion that followed these thoughtful interventions allowed us all to reflect on the politicization of history, the marginalization and silencing of certain histories, and the ongoing challenges of doing history in our contemporary moment.

The second session, “History in the Time of... History on Film” focused on the multiple intersections of history and film: in research, in pedagogy, and in creative historical outputs. Professor Charlie Keil, History faculty member and Principal of Innis College, started us off with his experiences researching and teaching film and history. Professor Lilia Topouzova challenged us to think about how we can best communicate our research and the potentials that film offers to tell difficult histories. Graduate student Alison MacAulay offered her own research into the place of film in Rwanda to explore how film can impact historical narratives and the role historians have and can play in the production of filmed histories.



The third and final session for the year, co-organized with Professor Heidi Bohaker, focused on “History in the Time of... Here: Land and Treaties”. This panel provided a space to reflect on and discuss the relationship between history and “here”, the place in which we all live and work. Professor Bohaker led the discussion by offering an overview of the history of treaties and their legal, social, and spiritual (“ensouled”) dimensions. Graduate student Sheila Annette Wheesk then offered a personal and historical intervention



on the realities of being a “treaty person” and the material and ecological hardships and violences of settler colonialism. Taking treaties as living rather than static documents, graduate student Thomas Blampied focused on the contractual nature of treaties and the need for dynamic approaches to treaty relations to account for changing ecological realities and the mobility of people and territory. Professor Brian Gettler rounded out our speakers by offering an instructive comparative approach with Quebec, looking at treaties and non-treaty land titles as actions and performed relationships, enforced through surveillance and financial systems. This final session led to one of the most lively discussions, as audience members and speakers shared their own relationships to the land, to these histories, and to the impact of place on their scholarly and pedagogical orientations.

**- Julie MacArthur**

*Associate Professor*

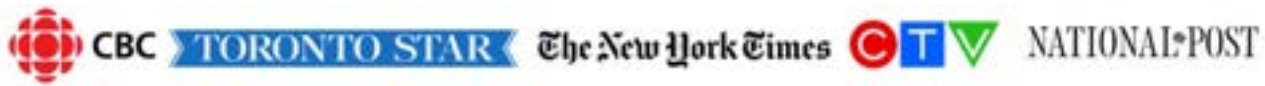
*2021-2022 Chair of the Intellectual Community Committee*

The 2021-2022 Intellectual Community Committee would like to thank all of our speakers and attendees for contributing to these invigorating dialogues and enriching our intellectual fellowship.





# HISTORIANS IN THE NEWS



## [Robert Bothwell, Toronto Star](#)

Canada's Trudeau resumes campaigning after irate crowds disrupt rallies

## [Dimitry Anastakis, Toronto Star](#)

Supply-chain impact on the production of new cars due to a shortage in computer microchips.

## [Anver Emon, Toronto Star](#)

How the 2001 terror attacks changed these Muslim Canadians' relationship with their faith.

## [Robert Bothwell, Associated Press](#)

To unseat Trudeau, Conservative leader seeks middle ground

## [Dimitry Anastakis, Toronto Star](#)

Rogers 'family feud' comes at a surprising time, experts say — and now Toronto's mayor is acting as mediator

## [Michelle Murphy The Conversation](#)

Why pollution is as much about colonialism as chemicals — Don't Call Me Resilient

## [Margret MacMillan, CBC News](#)

13 Canadian books to read for Remembrance Day

## [Dimitry Anastakis, National Post](#)

From Vincent Massey to Ed Rogers: Canada's history of family firm feuds rivals 'Succession'

## [Melanie Newton, The Guardian](#)

Nelson, BLM and new voices: why Barbados is ditching the Queen

## [Dimitry Anastakis, Toronto Sun](#)

Toronto new car dealers clam up as lots sit empty

## [Dimitry Anastakis, National Post](#)

Canada must once again grab its share of the auto industry, despite U.S. protectionism

## [Dimitry Anastakis, Toronto Star](#)

The Saturday Debate: Will most of us be buying EVs in a few years?

## [Lynne Viola, Toronto Star](#)

Amid push to tweak realities of the Stalinist era, University of Toronto historian works to document modern Russian history

## [Melanie Newton, Mississauga Times](#)

'Put that one to bed': 4 things to know about Mississauga council's Dundas Street renaming decision

## [Sean Mills, Radio-Canada Intl.](#)

The evolution of the Haitian diaspora in Quebec

## [Margaret MacMillan, CBC Radio](#)

How the pandemic compares to historical conflicts and how it may shape human nature

## [Funké Aladejebi, CBC Radio](#)

Spoken word poet publishes book about growing up Black in N.B.

## [Andres Kasekamp, The Globe and Mail](#)

In eastern Latvia, NATO gets an icy reception from ethnic Russians as Canada eyes mission extension

## [Timothy Sayle, Toronto Star](#)

Security expert. Mountie. Soldier: Meet three men working with the 'Freedom convoy'

## [Robert Bothwell, The Globe and Mail](#)

Remember: Those who wave the Canadian flag do not get to define it for everyone else

## [Margaret MacMillan, The Globe and Mail](#)

From Trump to Putin, the Age of Disruption is now under way

## [Andres Kasekamp, Global News](#)

Russia faces new sanctions amid Ukraine tensions. What will this achieve?

## [Timothy Sayle, National Post](#)

'Their real value is symbolic': Why Canada shares details about weapons for Ukraine

## [Andres Kasekamp, CTV News](#)

Russia-Ukraine peace talks

## [Robert Austin, CityNews](#)

'Fortress Russia': Will sanctions work? Expert says Kremlin has been self-isolating

## [Margaret MacMillan, Globe and Mail](#)

Putin's war on Ukraine has brought the past to the present, and made the future very uncertain

## [Timothy Sayle, CTV News](#)

Crisis in Ukraine: To Russia, it's a 'special military operation' not 'war'

## [Wesley Wark, Toronto Star](#)

Inquiry into Emergencies Act must be public and tackle the difficult questions

## [David Wilson, Daily Hive](#)

Irish Heritage Month: The legacies of the Irish in Canada

## [Dimitry Anastakis, Canadian Business](#)

The Canadian Companies That Are Pulling Out of Russia—and What It Means for Ukraine

## [Robert Austin, National Post](#)

'Not only Putin's war': Why some say the Russian people are also culpable for the Ukraine conflict.

## [Andres Kasekamp, Global News](#)

Why is Russia invading Ukraine? Amid 'astounding' resistance, here's what you need to know

## [Margaret MacMillan, CBC's The Current](#)

The challenge Russian President Vladimir Putin poses to international order

## [Robert Bothwell, The Washington Post](#)

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's deal with the NDP will likely expand the social safety net.

## [Andres Kasekamp, Global News](#)

West shifting from sanctions to Ukrainian military aid as war intensifies: experts

## [Lynne Viola, CBC Radio](#)

The archives of the Soviet secret police in Moscow and Kyiv.

## [Andres Kasekamp, Toronto Star](#)

Canada is fighting Russia's invasion of Ukraine with sanctions. But are they actually working?

## [Doris Bergen, The Globe and Mail](#)

Ottawa's Holocaust memorial is a place for solemn reflection, not photo shoots

## [Diana Cucuz, Toronto Star](#)

Overturing Roe v. Wade can act as an opportunity for women voters

## [Paul Cohen, The New York Times](#)

How comprehensively journalists should credit experts, with respect to the outlet's multipart series on Haiti.

## [Charlie Keil, The Globe & Mail](#)

Pitching in: Innis College screening raises \$30,000 to fund scholarships for refugee students

## [Robert Bothwell, The New York Times](#)

Did the 'Freedom Convoy' Change the Meaning of Canada's Flag?

## [David Wilson, The Pembroke Voice](#)

Did the 'Freedom Convoy' Change the Meaning of Canada's Flag?

## [Tim Sayle, The Walrus](#)

How an Unstable US Threatens Canada's National Security

## [Mark McGowan, Toronto Star](#)

What Francis — 'a pope of surprises' — brings to Canada's historic moment of Reconciliation

## [Mark McGowan, Toronto Star](#)

A Pope come and gone, an apology made — and the reality of reconciliation laid bare

## [Ruth Sandwell, Toronto Star](#)

Could historians hold the key to kicking our fossil fuel addiction?

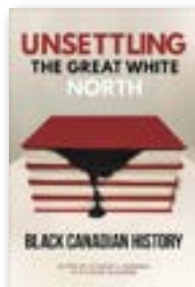
## [Timothy Sayle, Hill Times](#)

Could historians hold the key to kicking our fossil fuel addiction?

# Books Published



***Funké Aladejebi***



***Funké Aladejebi***



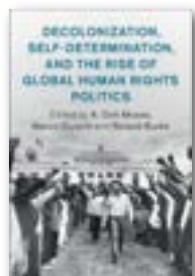
***Kenneth Bartlett***



***Isabelle Cochelin***



***Kevin Coleman***



***Cindy Ewing***



***Jens Hanssen***



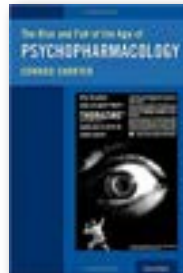
***Alexander Callander Murray***



***William Nelson***



***James Retallack***



***Edward Shorter***



***Alison Smith***



***Alison Smith***



***Yvon Wang***



***Yvon Wang***



***David Wilson***





*Above: Original illustrations of project narrators and imagined scenes from the Palace by Ayo Tsalithaba.*

On September 15, 2000, five Toronto police raided the Pussy Palace, an exclusive sex party and bathhouse event for 350 queer women and trans people. The police charged two organizers with violating liquor laws, resulting in a public trial. There has never been an oral history project about this event, the last police raid of a queer bathhouse in Canadian history. The [Pussy Palace Oral History Project](#) (PPOHP), a collaboration between the [LGBTQ Oral History Digital Collaboratory](#) (Elspeth Brown, PI) and [The ArQuives: Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives](#), historicizes this event within the longer history of Toronto police hostility towards non-normative sexuality, exemplified by the gay male-focused bathhouse raids of 1975-1984.

Between January 2021 and July 2022, Project Manager, Alisha Stranges (MA WGS), and Co-oral Historian, Elio Colavito (PhD Student in History), collected 36 interviews with bathhouse patrons, event organizers, and community activists. Interviews address not only the raid, but also radical sex/gender cultures in turn of the 21st century Toronto.

In June 2022, resident interview coder, Emily Mastragostino (PhD Student in Counselling & Clinical Psychology, OISE), completed synchronous interview coding — a novel process for oral history research — using [NVivo](#) to code both transcripts and video footage simultaneously in preparation for data analysis. Since August 2021, the research team, in

collaboration with the project's Creative Producer, Ayo Tsalithaba (MA WGS), has been working to animate and activate over 45 hours of Zoom interview footage through original research creation in the form of [audio portraits](#), [video shorts](#), and [other visual media](#).

In Spring of 2022, we began presenting our research to the public. We delivered a paper presentation at the 2022 Queer History Conference in San Francisco, participated in a virtual roundtable on Queer Oral History for the University of Lethbridge's Oral History Summer Institute, and hosted a "viewing party," co-presented with 5 project narrators, for the Bonham Centre's Sex Salon series. These presentations centre a discussion on the challenges associated with making queer and trans oral histories digitally accessible for broader publics in meaningful ways.

At present, we are building an immersive, digital exhibition (UX Designer, Peter Luo & Web Developer Matt Lefaive) that invites users not only to engage with the history of the Palace events but also to attend the Palace, explore the physical space, and bear witness to the rich archive of oral testimonies we've collected. Stay tuned for the public launch of the exhibition in November 2022.

**Alisha Stranges**  
*Research Manager for the LGBTQ  
 Oral History Digital Collaboratory*



# Awards & Accolades

SSHRC Gold Medal Award - **Lynne Viola**



Professor Lynne Viola has been honoured with the Gold Medal from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), for her notable contributions to the study of 20th century Russian history and Stalinism, focusing on political and social history, as well as her commitment to justice and human agency

President's Teaching Award - **Charlie Keil**



Professor Charlie Keil is the recipient of a 2022 President's Teaching Award from the University of Toronto, which is the highest honour for teaching at the University of Toronto. Prof Keil will play a prominent role in increasing the profile of the University's commitment to high quality learning and teaching.

2021-2022 UofT Early Career Teaching Award -  
**Funké Aladejebi**



Professor Funké Aladejebi was one of five recipients of The University of Toronto Early Career Teaching Award, which recognizes faculty members who are effective teachers and demonstrate an exceptional commitment to student learning, pedagogical engagement, and teaching innovation.

Canadian Historical Association Teaching Prize 2022 - Early or Alternative Career Award, Canadian History  
**Funké Aladejebi**

2022-2023 JHI Faculty Research Fellowship  
**Dimitry Anastakis**  
**Eric Jennings**  
**James Retallack**

## BOOK PRIZES

2022 Canadian Studies Network Best Edited  
Collection Prize for *Unsettling the Great White  
North*  
**Funké Aladejebi**

2021 OHS Joseph Brant Award  
Heidi Bohaker for *Doodem and Council Fire:  
Anishinaabe Governance through Alliance*  
**Heidi Bohaker**

2021 American Society for Ethnohistory Erminie  
Wheeler-Vogelin Book Award for *Doodem and  
Council Fire: Anishinaabe Governance through  
Alliance*  
**Heidi Bohaker**

2022 Overseas History Book Prize (3rd edition)  
for *Les bateaux de l'espoir. Vichy, les réfugiés et la  
filère martiniquaise*  
**Eric Jennings**

2021 Prix Robert Delavignette Book Prize for *Les  
bateaux de l'espoir. Vichy, les réfugiés et la filière  
martiniquaise*  
**Eric Jennings**

Global Sociology Award for *Brewing Resistance:  
Indian Coffee House at the Emergency in  
Postcolonial India*  
**Kristin Plys**

## ARTICLE PRIZES

Inaugural Amílcar Cabral Prize from the Institute  
of *Contemporary History for Empire and Arab  
Indology*  
**Esmat Elhalaby**

Honorable Mention in the 2020/21 Article Prize of  
the Research Society for American Periodicals for  
article *Consuming the Mexican Body: Gender,  
Race, and the Nation in Macho Tips, 1985-1989*  
**Juan Carlos Mezo-González**

## Cutting-Edge Funded Research

**Funké Aladejebi** received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant for “Teaching and Transforming Canada: Black International Students and the Push for racial Justice, 1950s to 1980s”.

**Funké Aladejebi** received a SSHRC Connection Grant for “Unsettling the Great White North: Re/Viewing, Re/Visioning, and Re/Imagining Black Canada”.

**Laurie Bertram** received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant for “History and the Infordemic: Public History, Social media, and AI in the Age of Disinformation”.

**Sean Mills** has successfully renewed his SSHRC Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Canadian and Transnational History.

**Michelle Murphy** received a SSHRC Insight Grant for “What is Chemical Pollution? Prototyping a Feminist, Place-Based Approach”.

**James Retallack** received a SSHRC Connection Grant for “Work, Class, and Social Democracy in the Global Age of August Bebel (1840-1913).”

**Alison Smith** received a SSHRC Connection Grant for “General Winter and the Snow Maiden: Cold in Russian Culture and History.”

**Yvon Wang** received a SSHRC Insight Grant for “‘Taking Life Too Lightly’: A Critical History of Suicide in China, 1736-1978.”



## Student Awards & News!

**Darlyne Bautista** won the WGSJ Teaching Assistant Award and the UTM Historical Studies Teaching Assistant Award.

**Eriks Bredovskis** published “Practicing Empire: Germany’s Colonial Visions in the Pacific Northwest,” in German and United States Colonialism in a Connected World: Entangled Empires, edited by Janne Lahti (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021), 177-200.

**Ariana Ellis** was one of the Top 25 finalists in the 2022 SSHRC Storytellers Challenge.

**Nicholas Fast** was awarded Chris Kobrak Fellowship from the Canadian Business History Association 2022-2024.

**John Kamau** was awarded the Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear (M.B.S.) by the Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta for his work as a journalist. The award was given by the President of Kenya "in recognition of outstanding or distinguished services rendered to the nation." The Order of the Burning Spear is awarded to "public dignitaries, exemplary members of the public service, and professionals."

**Lindsay Sidders** won the 2021 Finlayson Gold Medal. The Finlayson Medal is awarded annually to the most outstanding doctoral thesis defended in the History Department. The current medal is for theses defended from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021.

The **History Students’ Association** received the ASSU’s Sanjeev (Sanj) Dewett Course Union of the Year Award.

The GRASAC research assistants (**Autumn Epple, Sheila Wheesk, Carlie Manners, and Shenella Charles**) won the Best Graduate Student Paper Award at the 4th Annual Digital Humanities Conference.



## Dissertations Defended

**Taiwo Olanrewaju Bello:** Blockade, Starvation, and Resistance: Gender, Violence, Trauma and Memory in the Nigerian Civil War, 1967-1970

**Thomas Edwy Blampied:** “Ontario’s Development Road”: The Ontario Northland Railway and Provincial Colonialism, 1901-1995

**Kathleen Burke:** Hearth of Empire: Global Cuisine in the Dutch Indian Ocean Empire

**Marilyn Campeau:** Imaging the War: Visual Representations on the Soviet-German Front, 1941-1945

**Chris Pak Cheong Chung:** Fluid Realms: Chinese Visions of Maritime Space in the South China Sea Islands

**Katie Davis:** Learning to Live with the Atom: US Public Opinion and International Control of Atomic Energy, 1945-1950

**Kristina Sara Francescutti:** Women Disputing Inheritances: Status, Material Culture, Law and Agency in Sixteenth-Century Friuli

**Tomasz Frydel:** Village Society and the Holocaust in the General Government: The Case of Kreis Debica

**Sinhyeok Jung:** “Asia” as Decolonial Analytic: Critiques of Cold War Neocolonialisms in Okinawa and Mainland Japan, 1960-70s

**Kassandra Luciuk:** Making Ukrainian Canadians: Identity, Politics, and Power in Cold War Canada

**Shane Lynn:** Global Irish Nationalism and the South African War

**Alison MacAulay:** Filming History: Visual Representations of Rwanda, 1916-2014

**Christina Matzen:** Women’s Prisons and the Politics of Punishment in Nazi and Postwar Germany

**Steven Leon McClellan:** German Economists and the Intersection of Science and Politics: A History of the Verein für Sozialpolitik, 1872-1972

**Nicholas McGee:** “Freeing” the Chinese Migrant: Diasporic Entanglements of Qing and British Universal Empire

**Juan Carlos Mezo González:** A Transnational History of Gay Liberation: Print Culture, Visuality, and Racialized Desires in North America, 1971-1994

**Adrian Mitter:** The Free City of Danzig: Between the Vistula and the World (1919-1933)

**Aaron Peters:** A Complicated Alliance: Indo-Japanese Relations, 1915-1952

**Nisrine Rahal:** A Garden for the Future and a Garden of Destruction: The German Kindergarten Movement and the Politics of Early Children’s Education, 1817-1864

**Roxane Samson-Paquet:** Soviet Peasants and the “Test of War”: Food Politics and the Second World War in the Soviet Countryside, 1939-1945

**Connor Sebestyen:** The Allied War Crimes Programs and the Struggle to enact Justice in Germany 1945-58: Prisons, Prisoners, and the Fight for Legitimacy

**Hana Marie Suckstorff:** Reforming and Rehearsing: Renegades and Ecclesial Obedience in Early Modern Italy

**Michael Weaver:** Liberal Notables, Networks, and the Pursuit of the German Nation-State, 1848-1866

**Amanda Marie Wedge:** Bear Country: Conservation, Recreational Hunting, and the Preservation of Masculinity in the United States (1870s-1920s)

# Books on Higher Ed Reading Group

In the summer of 2021, a group of four graduate students from the Department of History started talking about the challenges of higher education (be it funding, writing, teaching, or the “hidden curriculum”). We thought that it would be vital for us, as early career academics, to share any resources on higher education. This was where we founded the “Book on Higher Ed Reading Group.”

The reading group was open to all graduate students and faculty, and we organized our discussions and the reading list so that anyone could join without having to read the previous books. We read nine books between September 2021 and May 2022. Curious to know where our reading interests would take us, we didn’t agree to a set reading list but picked next month’s book from a co-created list of 23 books.

With a focus on books on higher education, we talked about the challenges of being a graduate student and an early career scholar. The books covered historical but also professional development issues relating to higher education. While each monthly meeting was centered around one book, we would talk about the broader issues of higher education that the author raised, such as the institutional challenges of creating an equitable classroom (Germano, *Syllabus*), the deep connection between North American universities and settler colonialism (papers on, *A Third University is Possible*), or that the “hidden curriculum” of the PhD that needs to be uncovered (Calarco, *A Field Guide to Grad School*).



COVID-19 and remote work added to the challenge of building collegiality and departmental culture between cohorts of graduate students and between graduate students and faculty. Despite most participants being in Toronto, we continued to meet over Zoom. Continuing to meet online, graduate students on months-long research trips joined and could still be part of departmental events. From the kernel of the original four graduate students, another five (spanning four cohorts) attended at least one meeting. Meeting regularly with fellow graduate students and openly conversing about the challenges of being in higher education created new bonds of solidarity—especially among those graduate students who, despite being in their second year, had yet to step foot on campus.

The reading group used Intellectual Community Committee funds to purchase copies of the books we read and doubles of books that we found outstanding. These books are now in the Graduate Study Space on a shelf for future graduate students to read or to organize another reading group.

- Eriks Bredovskis  
*PhD Candidate, Department of History*



# History Lessons Abroad

How have spies shaped the past, and how will they shape the future? In August, Prof. Tim Sayle taught HIS343 “The History of Modern Intelligence” as part of the England Summer Abroad program at Worcester College, Oxford. 29 students in HIS343 explored the rise of modern intelligence over the long 20th century, from Anglo-Russian competition before World War I through to the post-9/11 era. They studied the contribution of intelligence services to victories and defeats in war, and their

role in times of peace. The course also examined the relationship between intelligence services and society.

What do we really know about espionage – and how do we know what we know? Class sessions were held in Oxford and accompanied by field trips the home of

the Ultra-secret code-breaking site at Bletchley Park and the underground bunker where Winston Churchill directed the Battle of Britain. Students also visited the Imperial War Museum in London, the HMS Belfast, and the active airfield and Imperial War Museum site at Duxford, Cambridge.



- Tim Sayle

*Assistant Professor, Department of History*

## History Students' Association

U of T's **History Students' Association** is here for all History undergrads! Whether you're in a program or enrolled in one class, the **HSA** is for you. We host socials, academic talks, an annual research conference, run a mentorship program, and publish a student-run journal!



Sounds like fun? Follow the HSA for updates on all our future events on instagram **@uofthsa** !





# IN MEMORIAM

## Professor John Campbell Cairns



Professor emeritus JOHN CAMPBELL CAIRNS passed away in Toronto, Ontario on July 28, 2022. Born in Windsor, Ontario, April 27, 1924 to Mabel Campbell and William G. Cairns, schooled in England and Canada, winged and commissioned as a pilot in the RCAF (1943-45), he attended the University of Toronto (BA 1945, MA 1947) and Cornell University (PhD 1951). Apart from a first year at the University of North Carolina and a few visiting professorships at Cornell, Stanford, Rochester and Victoria, he taught his entire career in the Department of History of the University of Toronto (from 1952 to 1989).

John left a mark both on his field of modern French history and on our department. His main research question involved the causes of France's defeat in 1940. British historian Julian Jackson recently credited John's contribution to that field as follows: "Cairns argued that it was necessary to rescue the history of the defeat from the view that France was decadent in 1940." This, John Cairns achieved in a series of influential articles, including one in the *Journal of Modern History*, pointing to broader European and Franco-British stakes, most notably. P.M.H. Bell has written of this article: "Suddenly the whole subject was illuminated, not only by the depth and perspicacity of the author's research, but by the clarity of his analysis and by a historical perspective which was remarkable only fifteen years after the events." John Cairns also authored a well-received survey of modern France as part of a series on "modern nations in historical perspective," published by Prentice Hall in 1965, and he served as editor for an important edited volume titled *Contemporary France: Illusion, Conflict and Regeneration* (1978).

John Cairns supervised several PhD students during his tenure at the U of T, including Kenneth Mouré, who taught for many years at the University of California at Santa Barbara and is now professor at the University of Alberta, Michèle Lalancette, who teaches at the Collège Lionel-Groulx in Québec, and Robert Stuart who taught at the University of Western Australia. Cairns also directed a number of MA students, including Patricia Prestwich (University of Alberta) and Norman Ingram (Concordia University).

John Cairns retired from the University of Toronto in 1989, at the age of 65. He will be remembered as a generous and gentle presence even by colleagues with whom he never overlapped professionally at U of T. Memorial gifts may be made in his name to Doctors Without Borders Canada.

## Professor Emeritus Robert Allan Spencer



Professor emeritus Robert Allan Spencer (b. 1920) passed away in Ottawa on August 28, 2022. Professor Spencer was a stalwart and devoted member of the History Department for many years. He joined it in 1950 when it was still in the old Flavelle House, now much altered as the Faculty of Law. While he welcomed the growth of the Department he never came to like Sidney Smith. He told his tutorial students—in those days tenured faculty held tutorials for their undergraduate students in their offices—that every time he heard the fire sirens on St George Street he hoped they were coming to Sidney Smith. He reassured us that he had worked out what to do. Selected books would go out

the window first, then our essays, and finally, when the pile looked big enough, us.

Bob—as some of us learned to call him when we grew older—was born just after the First World War and served in the Second. One of my fondest memories is seeing him sitting with the handful of remaining veterans

at the 75th anniversary of the Normandy D-Day landings in 2019. He marched down to the beach looking much younger than his ninety-nine years. As an artillery officer in the Canadian Army serving in the 15th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery he survived some of the toughest battles in the latter stages of the war, landing in Normandy in late July 1944 and taking part in the ferocious battles around Caen. His regiment fought on into Belgium and the Netherlands and in 1945 was part of the Allied forces invading Germany. Spencer stayed on after the war as part of the occupying troops and became fluent in German as well as deepening his growing interest in German and European history of the 19th and 20th centuries.

He had just finished his B.A. at McGill in 1941 when he became a soldier. Perhaps he discovered his vocation as an historian at the end of the war when he was tasked with writing the history of his regiment's service. While most units produced dry, factual and short accounts, Spencer's draft was some 300 pages long complete with maps. It became his first publication when it was published in Amsterdam. "A book of good quality," said a reviewer in the *Canadian Historical Review*, "with excellent features." Spencer was later to work with the noted historian of war, Charles Stacey, on the official history of the Canadian army in the Second World War.

Spencer completed his professional training with an M.A. at the University of Toronto in 1957 and a doctorate at St John's College in Oxford. As a member of the History Department he was an energetic colleague, taking on a number of administrative duties. In 1976 he became director of the Centre for International Studies at Trinity College and in his tenure, which lasted until 1986, helped to build it into a centre of research, discussion and teaching. He was a devoted teacher who supported his students fully, encouraging those who were interested to go on to do graduate work. While much of his research and teaching focused on Germany he also had an abiding interest in NATO and Canadian foreign policy. His publications include *Canada in World Affairs: from UN to NATO, 1946-49* (1959), *Canada and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe* (1984) and *Perceptions of the Federal Republic of Germany* (1986). In 2010 he published *A European Affair: Memoirs*. With his fellow German historian Ralph Flenley he wrote *Triumph and catastrophe, 1939-1945* and *The German phoenix, 1945-1963*, and in 1968 he brought out a new edition of Flenley's *Modern Germany*, for a number of years a standard text, adding chapters on the war and the post-war years up to the 1960s.

From 1959 to 1984 he was editor of the *International Journal*. In addition he was a founding member of and long-time participant in a variety of capacities from Secretary to President in the Atlantic Council of Canada, one of a number of such organizations devoted to fostering better public understanding and knowledge of NATO, and played an active part in developing the Atlantic Brücke, an annual Canadian-German symposium. Among his awards were the Canadian Forces Decoration, the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, the Netherlands' Liberation Medal, the French Legion d'Honneur and Germany's the Goethe Medal and the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit. He was also made an Honorary Fellow of Trinity College at the University of Toronto.

In 2016, a number of history graduates from the University who were celebrating their 50th anniversary decided to have a special history dinner. We invited our remaining professors, several of whom came, and we finally had the chance to tell them what we should have said years ago, a thanks for the excellent education they gave us. Among them were John Cairns, also recently deceased, and Bob Spencer, who had travelled by bus from Ottawa and intended to go back the same way. He seemed indestructible and indefatigable and very nearly was. He will be much missed at the end of a remarkably long, busy and productive life.

**- Margaret MacMillan**  
*Professor Emeritus, Department of History*



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