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HISTORY MATTERS

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AT UIC



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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Kevin Schultz

When, in Fall 2017, the current Chair of the Department of History, Christopher R. Boyer, asked if I would step in for a semester and serve as Acting Chair while he took a research leave in Mexico, I of course said yes. Little did I know how much fun the job would be, primarily because I got a better glimpse at the day-to-day accomplishments of our students, colleagues, and the Department in general.

But also: what a time to be Chair! From the actions in Charlottesville, where battles over Confederate monuments spark violence and fervor, to the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, which has ever since divided the Christian world, to the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, which set forth the momentous battles of the twentieth century, history seems everywhere.

Here in Chicago, of course, the 50th anniversary of 1968 resonates most loudly. I was at an event at the Chicago Hilton a while back and took a moment to myself, to look out the window onto Michigan Avenue. I thought of the battles outside the Democratic National Convention in 1968, of the violence right at that spot in front of me, where the collision of police and protestors shattered the huge restaurant window, spilling the violence on the streets right onto the dining patrons inside. I thought of the abandoned and trampled high-heeled shoes that dotted the streets for days afterward, and the blood that stained the sidewalk. The whole thing was televised, too, with the networks using split screens to show the convention on one-half of the screen, and the protests (and beatings) on the other. It was a remarkable moment fifty years ago.

As I was contemplating all this, a man I'd never met before came up behind me and asked if I knew what had happened right here in '68. I said I did. When I turned to see who the history aficionado was, there stood before me David Axelrod, the campaign strategist who had engineered President Barack Obama's two election victories. We marveled at the power of history, and of the excitement one feels when one is literally standing right where the action was. That's the feeling the amazing people around me share and convey every day. And fortunately for me, they are very, very good at what they do.

Our students continue to amaze me. We in the Department of History teach something like 1,500 students each and every semester. There are somewhere in the ballpark of 100 history majors at any given time. And our graduate program continues to bustle, producing MAs and MATs and PhDs at the top level. I've just read an Honors capstone paper about the history of sanctuary cities in the United States. It was marvelous, and stemmed from this particular student's personal history. In a few weeks, we'll give our annual awards for top undergraduate history students, and believe me, the pool this year was competitive. The winners of this year's Edinger and Goodman Prizes have done excellent work.

Our faculty constitute a dynamic force as well. As you'll read in the pages below, they are publishing books and articles, winning awards and fellowship, and being recognized as some of the top in their field. One of our professors, Associate Professor Jennifer Brier, was just named a 2018-19 Distinguished Lecturer by the Organization of American Historians. Professor Jonathan Daly just published his eighth (!) book, this one on Crime and Punishment in Russia: A Comparative History from Peter the Great to Vladimir Putin. Assistant Professor Adam Goodman continues to be called on as an authority on the history of deportation, including having had an essay appear in the Washington Post. These really are top-notch people.

We also just hired a new faculty member. In August, we'll be lucky enough to be joined by Hayley Negrin, who is finishing an astonishing PhD at NYU on Native Americans in the early colonial slave trade. You can read more about her later in this newsletter.

And our Department continues to reap the bounties of UIC's dynamic growth. Our classes are fuller than ever before. We hope to continue to grow our faculty numbers after the past ten years of retirements. In short, our students are making the case for the humanities as clearly as ever. The Department of History teaches them a wide range of skills—in researching, in writing, in locating, collating and analyzing data, in presenting information to wide groups of people. All of these are transferable skills, and we're delighted to be putting our students out into the world. Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of the University, the College, and private donors like many of you. Gifts from you make possible the research and teaching that appear in the pages below. You should be proud. I know I am.

In the meantime, I'm going to head back to Bilbo and Michigan Avenue, to see if I can smell any of the tear gas from '68 and, more likely, ponder the course of our democracy ever since.

Sincerely and with gratitude,



Kevin M. Schultz
Professor and Acting Chair
Department of History
University of Illinois at Chicago

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FACULTY IN THE NEWS

SUNIL AGNANI



Prof. Agnani was invited to present at Princeton University. The talk, entitled “Colonial Ressentiment: Enlightenment Thought and the Impasses of Decolonization,” was part of the Fung Fellows Program offered through the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS). He also participated in a panel presentation on, “Edmund Burke and Hannah Arendt: The Global Context of Poverty, Revolution and the Social Question” at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA). Utrecht, the Netherlands (July 6-9, 2017)

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

Emeritus Professor Michael Alexander's new book, ‘Roman Amoralism Reconsidered: The Political Culture of the Roman Republic and Historians in an Era of Disillusionment,’ is available for download at <https://romanamoralismreconsidered.com>. In the book, Alexander argues that no ancient evidence supports the belief that the politics of the Roman Republic was amoral (it uses Chicago as an example to illustrate what an amoral political culture looks like!). It then tries to show that Roman political morality was an unstated premise assumed in the works of some of the most important historians who wrote about the Roman Republic during what the book calls an “era of disillusionment,” from shortly before the First World War to the mid-1980’s. It explains this premise in terms of how history was often written during this period, and places that mode of historiography in the context of major events and developments of the era. In an appendix, Alexander explains his interest in the issue of political amorality as a reaction to a developing anti-governmental inclination in the U.S. during his life. A blog (RomanAmoralismReconsidered.com) accompanies the book.

FACULTY IN THE NEWS

CHRIS BOYER



Professor Boyer has spent the Spring semester as a visiting scholar at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), where he is co-teaching a class on the anthropocene in Mexico. He has spent the lion's share of his time doing research on his next book project, which studies how the production and consumption of food has changed in the wake of the so-called Green Revolution of the 1940s. The combination of (light) teaching and (so far, quite successful research) has really energized him, and is grateful to Kevin Schultz for taking over as acting chair and letting him take this special opportunity to spend some quality time in Mexico City.

JENNIFER BRIER



Professor Brier has been chosen as a 2018-19 OAH Distinguished Lecturer, a huge recognition of her place in the field. Brier was also quoted in an article of the Chicago magazine (March 2018) that examines the secret life and death of Nicolai De Raylan, a Russian immigrant who was found to be a woman upon death in 1906. Brier's research helps detail some of De Raylan's life story in the article, which includes a piece of content from Brier's 2012 co-edited book 'Out in Chicago: LGBT History at the Crossroads.' The article can be found at: <http://chi.mg/2Fs8AEp>

JONATHAN DALY



Professor Daly's latest monograph "Crime and Punishment in Russia: A Comparative History from Peter the Great to Vladimir Putin," has just been published by Bloomsbury Academic (London and New York, 2018). And his article, "The Pleiade: Five Scholars Who Founded Russian Historical Studies in America," was published in "Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History," Vol.18, no. 4 (Fall 2017): pg. 785-826. Congratulations Prof. Daly!

FACULTY IN THE NEWS



ADAM GOODMAN

Professor Goodman published a chapter on “Mexican Migration, Family Separation, and US Immigration Policy Since 1942” in the edited volume “Forced Out and Fenced In: Immigration Tales from the Field” (Oxford University Press, 2017). He also wrote a short note on, “The Human Costs of Outsourcing Deportation” for the journal “Humanity,” and penned pieces for the Washington Post and NACLA about the long history of self-deportation campaigns in the United States. His forthcoming book on the history of deportation is now under contract with Princeton University Press's Politics and Society in Modern America series. He presented portions of his manuscript at the Organization of American Historians annual meeting, in addition to conferences and colloquia at Princeton University, Brown University, Vanderbilt University, and the Huntington Library. He is the new faculty advisor for UIC's Fearless and Undocumented Alliance, and he will be a fellow at the Institute for the Humanities during 2018-19.



LYNN HUDSON

Professor Hudson received two fellowships for the 2018-19 academic year. In the winter, she will be the E. Peter Mauk Jr./ Doyce B. Nunis Fellow at the Huntington Library in California, and in the spring, she will be the Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professor at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Bristol (UK). Hudson will be affiliated with the Centre for the Black Humanities at UoB where she will be conducting research for her study of African American psychotherapist and expatriate Marie Battle Singer.

FACULTY IN THE NEWS



RALPH KEEN

Professor Keen, current Dean of the Honors College at UIC as well as Professor of History, took part in the 2017 commemorations of the birth of the Reformation by participating in the International Luther Congress in Wittenberg, where he offered a new angle on the question "Luther and the Jew." He contributed the essay, "Luther and Politics" to The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Martin Luther, and "A Luther for 2017" appeared in Harvard Theological Review. His article "The Critique of Calvin in Jansenius's Augustinus" appeared in "Crossing Traditions: Essays on the Reformation and Intellectual History," a Festschrift for Irena Backus of Geneva. In January he was a participant in a roundtable discussion of Luther biographies at the American Society of Church History in Denver, and presented on "Bellarmine and the consensus patrum" at the American Catholic Historical Association. In October, Ralph spoke on "Nostalgia for the Early Church in 17th Century Controversial Theology" at the "Reformation and Remembrance" symposium at Ohio State, and in December on "Melanchthon as Advocate for Trilingual Humanism" at the KU Leuven in Belgium. This year, he also became president of the American Society of Church History. Congratulations Ralph!



SUE LEVINE

Professor Levine was Consulting Editor and contributor for a special issue of Cobblestone Magazine on "Women Trailblazers of the 1800s." Cobblestone is a history magazine geared toward fifth graders.



MARK LIECHTY

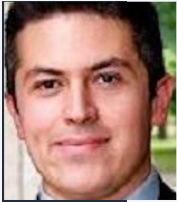
Professor Liechty's book "Far Out: Countercultural Seekers and the Tourist Encounter in Nepal" was awarded the 2017 Kekoo Naoroji Prize for Himalayan Literature, which he received at a ceremony in Mumbai, India on February 17, 2018.

PAST PERFECT (NEW PUBLICATIONS)



**KATIE
BATZA**

"Before Aids: Gay Health Politics in the 1970s" (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018)



**JOHN
FLORES**

"The Mexican Revolution in Chicago: Immigration Politics from the early Twentieth Century to the Cold War" (University of Illinois Press, 2018)



**LARA
KELLAND**

"Clio's Foot Soldiers: Twentieth-Century US Social Movements and the Uses of Collective Memory" (University of Massachusetts Press, 2018)



**MICHAL
KWIECIEN**

"The Road from Paradise: The Kresowianie on the Trail to Rediscover Poland, 1944-46," The Polish Review, Vol. 63, No. 1 (2018)



**ANNE
PARSONS**

"From Asylum to Prison: Deinstitutionalization and the Rise of Mass Incarceration after 1945" (University of North Carolina Press, 2018)



**SARAH
ROSE**

"No Right to be Idle: The Invention of Disability, 1840s-1930s" (UNC Press 2017) has won the 2018 Phillip Taft Prize for best book in Labor and Working Class History



**EMILY LB
TWAROG**

"Politics of the Pantry: Housewives, Food, and Consumer Protest in 20th Century America," (Oxford University Press, 2017)

GRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

- She published a recent blog entry for Public Seminar, a blog site associated with the New School in New York City. Her entry details how female college students pioneered many of the tactics used during the civil rights movement. She also gave a talk from the third chapter of her dissertation titled, 'I Think That the Legislature Would Be Out of Their God-Damned Mind To Pass the Sterilization Bill': Black Feminist Thought and Politics at HBCUs, 1965-1975'

JENNIFER SCHISMASH

- He presented his paper "U.S. Labor's Modernizing Mission: Exporting Industrial Pluralism is the 'Development Decade' at three conferences in 2017: the Northwestern University Graduate Student Conference in Evanston in March, the Labor and Working-Class History Association's biennial conference in Seattle in June, and the History of Science Society's annual meeting in Toronto in November. He was also interviewed on the radio show "America's Work Force Radio" about his reporting for In These Times. The interview can be accessed here <http://awfradio.com/todays-show-9-6-17/>. He also presented a lecture on U.S. labor history at the University of Chicago in October at the invitation of the undergraduate group Students Organizing United with Labor (SOUL). He also won the Provost Award from UIC

JEFF SCHURKE

- She was one of three candidates selected out of a pool of 42 applicants to participate in the NEH Summer Institute "Global Histories of Disability" at Gallaudet University this summer

ELIZABETH
MCFAYDEN

- Is selected to participate in the Northwestern-SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Program. The program includes a 6-10 week summer research trip, interdisciplinary faculty led workshops and professional network building opportunities while he formulates effective research questions, methodologies, contexts and interventions.

CHRISTOPHER
ANDERSON

- She has been awarded both the Chancellor's award at UIC and the SSRC-Northwestern Dissertation Proposal Development Program award for Summer research trips. She also presented at the "Africa Conference" in Austin, TX in April 2017 with a paper titled "Church, School and Printing House: Protestant Missionary Stations between Colonial Censorship and Police Espionage in Eritrea and Ethiopia (1910s-1940s)", and at the African Studies Association Conference in Chicago in November 2017 with a paper titled "Waldensian Missionaries in Colonial Abyssinia (1880s-1941)."

CATERINA SCALVEDI

NEW FACULTY HIRE



Introducing Hayley Negrin

Hayley Negrin comes to UIC from the History Department at New York University. She is a specialist in Native American history, slavery, and gender in early America. Her book project, "Possessing Native Women and Children: Slavery, Gender, and English Colonialism in the Early American South 1607-1772," reframes the rise of racial slavery in the Atlantic world by taking into account the experiences of the thousands of Native women and children who were enslaved on plantations in Virginia and South Carolina in the colonial period. As an organizer in the NoDAPL movement, she is also interested in how contemporary Native nations are currently reframing conversations around sovereignty, environmentalism, and gender equality to gain national attention and recognition. She is thrilled to be joining the faculty at UIC as an assistant professor and is looking forward to learning more about Chicago and the UIC community.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF PROF. JIM SEARING



L-R: Joe Lunn, Ale Dramé,
Patricia Hickling, John
Glover and Martin Klein

Jim Searing, our colleague and former department chair who passed away in 2012, was honored with a panel at this year's African Studies Association Conference that took place in Chicago last November. The panel was organized and chaired by Jim's former student, Aly Dramé, who now teaches at Dominican University. Other panelists included former student John Glover (University of Redlands), as well as longtime friend and colleagues Joe Lunn (University of Michigan at Dearborn), and Martin Klein (University of Toronto, Emeritus) who gave an overview of Jim's research and contributions to the field. Patricia (Trish) Hickling, Jim's wife and academic collaborator, rounded out the panel with commentary and summation. I gave a brief overview of Jim's service to our university and department as did longtime UIC faculty member Lansiné Kaba. Many of Jim's students and colleagues attended, as did his son Alex.

Searing's work had a deep and lasting impact on the field of African history, as the panelists made clear. His scholarship explored the relationship of colonialism, power, religion, and ethnicity in Sénégal. At the time of his death, he was working on a book that would have redefined how scholars think about the origins of ethnicity there.

While the panelists left no question about the deep scholarly footprints that Jim left behind, they spent almost as much time recalling his immense joy of research, dedication to his students, love of Africa, and infectious enthusiasm for music. Like those of us who worked with Jim at UIC, their comments made it clear that, while they miss his intellectual heft, they will miss him far more as a friend, colleague, and partner.

- Chris Boyer

IN MEMORIUM

MARION MILLER

Marion "Babs" Miller Ph.D., UIC Associate Professor Emerita of Italian History and Decolonization, died peacefully on March 10, 2018 in Newton, Massachusetts at the age of 90. She embarked on a distinguished career as a professor of European and Italian history, teaching at Wilson College, Sweet Briar College, University of Minnesota, and finally University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), where she remained until her retirement in 1997. As a Professor Emerita, she continued to serve on dissertation panels and advise doctoral candidates, and she pursued her own research for another two decades as a Newberry Scholar-in-Residence.

Dr. Miller was a prolific writer and speaker on Italian political and cultural history. She contributed book chapters, penned encyclopedia entries, edited three textbooks, and wrote scores of book reviews and scholarly articles. She presented papers and provided commentary at more than thirty academic conferences nationally and abroad, and was a frequent invited lecturer. Dr. Miller also served as an editorial referee for nine different publications, and evaluated grants for the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Humanities Research Center, and the Newberry Library.

ARNIE HIRSCH

One of the history department's most talented graduate students Arnold Hirsch passed away in March of this year. His 1978 dissertation, written under Robert Remini, formed the kernel of his classic book, *Making the Second Ghetto: Race and Housing in Chicago 1940-60*. The book immediately became a cornerstone of urban history and one of the most important books on postwar America. He went on to teach at the University of New Orleans until an illness led him to return to the Chicago area several years ago.