

Volume 8 No. 1

HISTORY MATTERS

Fall 2017

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DEPARTMENT NEWS

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

The faculty and students in our department have been thinking a lot recently about what a history education should look like. What sorts of skills and knowledge should undergraduates master? What about MA and Ph.D. students? How can we certify their accomplishments, and should we even try? How can we best prepare them for life after college or graduate school? These are big questions, and we need to address them while remaining true to the core of goals of history education: teaching ourselves and others to understand the past in the proper context and interpret it both systematically and comprehensibly.

The shifting landscape of higher education has done a lot to prompt this moment of reflection. Fewer students major in history than a decade ago (though our classes are as full as ever), while new regulations have complicated licensure for aspiring public school teachers. The job market for Ph.D.s in history remains tight whether they enter higher education (in any of various roles) or move to greener pastures. These are not purely economic or vocational concerns; they have something to do with the much-discussed “crisis of the humanities” and the declining emphasis on a Liberal Arts education in favor of the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

But there’s nothing to be gained by framing education as a competition between disciplines, nor does our current drive to rethink the curriculum emanate from a sense of crisis. Instead, we want to keep up with best practices in our field and push ourselves to reflect on the multiple abilities that historians acquire in the course of their education. We seek to build a broader understanding of what an education in our discipline *means*.

We have lots ideas about what to change and what to reinforce, but I want to draw your attention to two new initiatives in the department. In the first place, the undergraduate internship that sends students to museums, libraries and archives is now in its second year. Professor Rama Mantena has led this project since its inception, and you can read about the internship program on page 3.

Second, our department was selected along with about 40 others to participate in an American Historical Association initiative known as Career Diversity for Historians that aims to help departments think about developing skills that better prepare them for a careers within the professoriate or beyond. The initiative prompts us to ask how we can add new dimensions to our program to help students develop skills that will more fully prepare them for whatever path their careers take after leaving UIC.

I’m excited about exploring these new dimensions of our undergraduate and graduate programs, and perhaps you find them intriguing as well. If so, we can always use your advice and collaboration. Perhaps you’re in the Chicago area and have documents that need archiving, or have an idea for a public history project. Or maybe your undergraduate or graduate education has taken you places you never expected. Maybe you just want to catch up with your friends and professors. Whatever the case, I’m always thrilled to hear from our graduates, so feel free to get in touch with me at crboyer@uic.edu with any thoughts, insights, or stories you’d like to share.

- Professor Chris Boyer

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Fall 2017

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Internships are essential for History majors to gain experience in potential career fields and to acquire on-the-job skills. The department began to offer history credit for internships starting in Spring 2016. In a pilot program during 2016 and 2017, history majors were placed at the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, Special Collections & University Archives at the Richard J. Daley Library and the Indo-American Heritage Museum. The UIC Department of History offers an internship course every Spring semester specifically designed for History students to earn credit towards the History major. According to Prof. Rama Mantena, who is overseeing the project, the students benefited a great deal from concrete experience in the workplace, and from research that goes into museum work and public history. Student interns delved into and developed skills in archival organization at Special Collections at Daley Library as well. Professor Mantena and the department are continually working to build links with museums and other cultural institutions in and around Chicago to offer internship opportunities for our majors. More information about the internship program, requirements and list of possible sites of internship can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/uic.edu/uic-history440-internships/home?authuser=1>

Please contact Rama Mantena at rmantena@uic.edu for any further queries regarding the internship program.

(below) Jane Addams Hull
House Museum.
Photo courtesy Google



(above) Richard J. Daley Library
Photo courtesy Flickr

FACULTY NEWS

Kevin Schultz continues to serve his third year as president of the Society for US Intellectual History (S-USIH), the largest professional organization focused solely on the study of American ideas. His book, *Buckley & Mailer: The Difficult Friendship that Defined the Sixties* (WW Norton & Co.) won the 2016 Robert Lucid Prize from the Norman Mailer Society. He was invited to deliver the 2016 Ramon Lecture at Loyola University in Chicago on “The Catholic Presidency.” He was also interviewed on WBEZ on “Teaching Millennials about 9/11.”

Jonathan Daly took part in a roundtable that he organized, “Michael Karpovich’s Brilliant Cohort: Haimson, Malia, Pipes, Raeff, Riasanovsky,” at the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEES; formerly AAASS), Annual Meeting, in Washington, D.C., on November 17, 2016. He also published *Hammer, Sickle, and Soil: The Soviet Drive to Collectivize Agriculture* this summer with Hoover Institution Press and in September with Hackett Publishing Company he and PhD graduate, Leonid Trofimov, published *The Russian Revolution and its Global Impact: A Short History with Documents*.

Michael C. Alexander published a chapter titled “Multiples Charges, Unitary Punishment and Rhetorical Strategy in the Questions of the Late Roman Republic” in *Cicero’s Law: Rethinking Roman Law of the Late Republic*, edited by Paul J. Plessis and published by Edinburgh University Press (2016)

Kirk Arden Hoppe served as a visiting scholar at the United Nations University Gender Equality Studies and Training Program (UNU-GEST) and the Department of Philosophy and History at the University of Iceland, Reykjavik in the Spring of 2017. The students, mostly local activists, development workers and junior-level academics from conflict zones in their home countries, were enrolled in a semester-long certificate program in Gender Equality Studies sponsored by the United Nations. He provided guidance to students on research proposals and development projects including anti-female genital mutilation education in Somalia, integration of women into peacekeeping forces in Ethiopia, anti-domestic violence education in Jamaica, and co-ed youth sports programs in Palestinian refugee camps located in Lebanon. The goal of the program was to have participants return to their home nations to promote programs and educational and policy agendas furthering gender equality. He also presented research papers at the National Museum in Reykjavik, and at the World History Association Annual Conference in Boston.

Richard Fried gave a paper “Gossip: Semi-Secret Weapon of the McCarthy Era” at the Policy History Conference in Nashville (June, 2016). He was quoted in Uri Friedman’s “Trump and Russia: Lessons from the Red Scare” in *The Atlantic* on February 17, 2017 (online).

Junaid Quadri received fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies and the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation to work on his book on the history of Islamic law in the modern period.

FACULTY NEWS

Paris Papamichos Chronakis's

chapter "Global Conflict, Local Politics: The Jews of Salonica and World War I," was published in Jonathan Karp's & Marsha Rozenblit's *World War I and the Jews* (Berghahn Books, 2017). He won the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Greek Diaspora Fellowship, where he worked between May and July 2017 to design a blended course on the Jews of Greece and the Mediterranean to be offered by UIC and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. Finally, during the past academic year, Paris gave five conference papers based on his manuscript in progress and related research on Post-Ottoman Urban Identities (at the Urban History Association Biannual Conference); Jewish Illicit Trade in WWI Eastern Mediterranean (Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference); Refugees in the Balkan Wars (Ben Zvi Institute, Jerusalem); Anti-Zionism in Interwar Greece (Birkbeck College, London); and on Digital Visualizations of Greek Jewish Holocaust Survivors' Social Networks (University Ca Foscari, Venice). His chapter "'We lived as Greeks, and We died as Greeks: Salonican Jews in Auschwitz and the Meanings of Nationhood,'" is forthcoming in Giorgos Antoniou & A. Dirk Moses (eds.), *The Holocaust in Greece*, (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

Robert Johnston won UIC's highest teaching award, the University's Award for Excellence in Teaching. He served as academic director for the fourth time for a four-week NEH summer teachers institute titled "Rethinking the Gilded Age and Progressivism: Race, Capitalism, and Democracy, 1877-1920." Leon Fink and Jeff Sklansky were among the many presenters, as was UIC graduate student Jeff Helgeson. He has recently joined the national development committee for the Advanced Placement U.S. History exam. (cont'd)

He is in the final year of co-editing the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* and published an essay on "Influential Works about the Gilded Age and Progressive Era" in Blackwell's *A Companion to the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*. He has been interviewed several times about the history of conflicts over vaccines (the subject of his current book project), including "The Rise of Anti-Vaxxers," on Gimlet Media's podcast "Science Vs.," September 20, 2017, <https://gimletmedia.com/episode/history-of-vaccine-fear/>. He also serves as the chief steward for our union, UIC United Faculty.

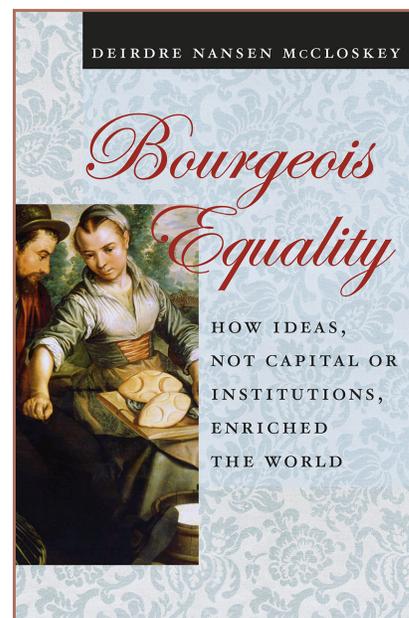
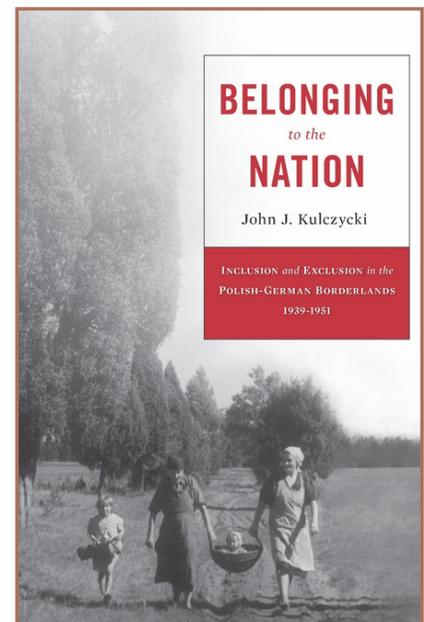
Sandy Sufian serves as the President of the Disability History Association. She served as the Lead Faculty of Health Humanities Working Group (to build Health Humanities presence in medical schools). Her article "As Long as Parents Can Accept Them: Medical Disclosure, Risk and Disability in Twentieth Century American Adoption Practice," was published this year in *The Bulletin of The History of Medicine*. She was the keynote speaker at The International Standing Conference for the History of Education (August 2016) and her talk was titled 'Educability, Disability and the Making of Family: The Case of American Adoption.' As a Co-Investigator, she has also won several grants for her research including one from Arnold P. Gold Foundation and Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) as a consultant. Her work titled "Building a National Contraceptive Registry for Multiple Complex Medical Conditions: A Pilot Proposal Focusing on Cystic Fibrosis" won the Interdisciplinary Innovation Grant in 2017 from The Society of Family Planning Research Fund.

FACULTY NEWS

Burt Bledstein Professor of History Emeritus, directed and supervised an online project titled *In the Vicinity of Maxwell and Halsted streets, Chicago 1890-1930*. The mammoth project presents an intimate fresh urban perspective on years designated as a Progressive liberal era in U.S. history. Embedded in a wealth of engaging archival sources, the historical devil as ever in “human documents” resides in the local detail. A primary objective of this investigation is to tell the story of the compelling role Chicago’s West Side played in the making of modern America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, an era publicized to the world by Jane Addams and the Hull-House Settlement on Halsted Street. Find out more about the project at <http://maxwellhalsted.uic.edu>

Prof. Deirdre McCloskey, Distinguished Professor of History and Economics Emeritus has been awarded the prestigious Hayek Book Prize given by the Manhattan Institute. Her book *Bourgeois Equality: How Ideas, Not Capital or Institutions Enriched the World* (University of Chicago Press, 2016) won the coveted prize. In Prof. McCloskey’s own words her book “argues with social, intellectual, political and literary history, framed within the structure of economic history that argues that liberalism gave ordinary people permission to have a go, as the British say.” Prof. McCloskey’s award-winning book is part of a trilogy. The first book was entitled *the Bourgeois Virtues: Ethics for an Age of Commerce* (2006), which was philosophical and theological, with a dose of literary and social history, and *Bourgeois Dignity: Why Economics Can’t Explain the Modern World* (2010) which was a monograph on economic history.

John J. Kulczycki Professor of History Emeritus’ book *Belonging To The Nation: Inclusion and Exclusion in The Polish German Borderlands, 1939-1951* (Harvard University Press, 2016) received an honorable mention from the committee of the Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEES), in the competition for the best book in Polish Studies published in 2016.



GRADUATE NEWS

Huiying Chen is a Visiting Fellow at the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University for 2017-18 academic year. In September 2017, she presented a talk at the international workshop on “Manchu Studies in Global History” held at Göttingen, Germany.

Rick Elliott has received the Arthur J. Quinn Memorial Fellowship from the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley; a short-term research fellowship from the Huntington Library in San Marino, CA; and the Provost Award from UIC; all awarded to fund research for his dissertation, “A Nation of Silver & Gold: Comstock Mines, California Finance, and the Business of Making Money in America, 1860-1879”.

Tyler Miller began his second year as World History teacher and Model United Nations adviser at Poly Prep Country Day School, an independent high school in Brooklyn, NY. He is teaching 20th Century World History and senior electives in Migration Studies and Native American History. In February 2018, he will lead a student service learning trip to the Navajo Nation in Arizona.

Melissa Hibbard was part of a 2016-2017 collaborative research project called “Health Care Before the Welfare State” based at the University of Huddersfield in the UK. The project aimed to identify a primary source base to explore how hospital provision was established, managed and funded in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary between 1918 and 1939. Now she is teaching 6th and 8th grade history full-time at Poly Prep Country Day in Brooklyn, NY.

Jennifer Schism Ash was a pre-doctoral fellow with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s Sawyer Seminar at the Social Justice Initiative, UIC. The Seminar was a year long opportunity to connect with scholars and activists who work on social movements in three sites: South Africa, the U.S. and Palestine. She presented work from her dissertation research at this series of seminars, and was invited as panelist on the opening plenary for The Toni Cade Bambara Conference at Spelman College in March 2017. The panel was titled “Deep Sightings and Rescue Missions: Radical Black Feminist Activism in the Archives.” She published a book review with the Praxis Center at Kalamazoo College of Heather Ann Thompson’s Pulitzer Prize Winning book, *Blood In the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy*. She also served on the Graduate Student Working Group for *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society* during the Spring 2017 semester. She has also received the IRRPP Dissertation Research Grant 2016-2017.

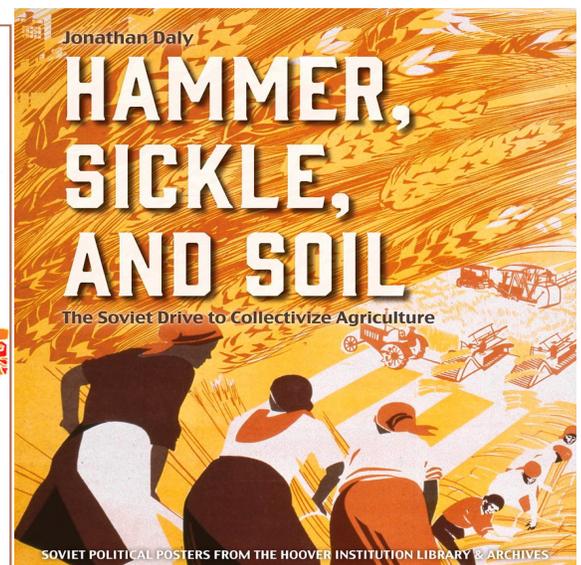
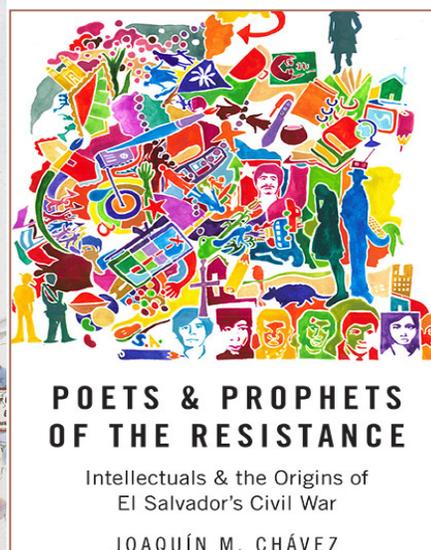
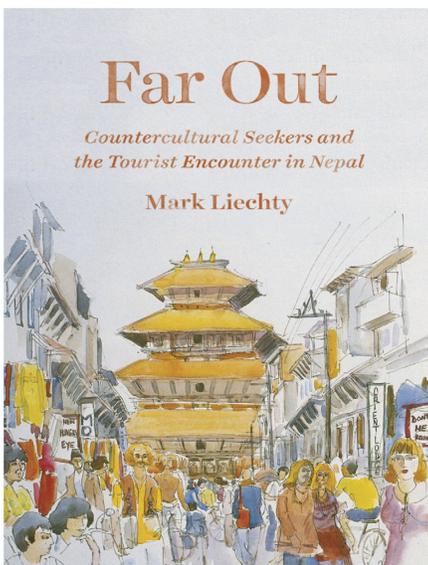
This past summer **Maria Ritzema** had several textbook entries on South Asia published with Gale Researcher, a Cengage company. According to their website, “Gale Researcher was designed to help students and faculty discover materials that are both topically relevant to an area of study and citable for research projects. It offers articles written by subject matter experts on topics commonly taught within the scope of introductory college courses.” In October of this year she presented a paper titled “‘We were Worried for our Children’: Education as a Tool of Ethno-nationalism in Sri Lanka” at The Annual Conference on South Asia in Wisconsin-Madison.

GRADUATE NEWS

Jeff Nichols published a peer-reviewed article on Chicago newspapers during the First World War in *Journalism History*, book reviews of *1893: Chicago's Greatest Year* by Joseph Gustaitis in the *Middle West Review* and *Crusading Iowa Journalist Verne Marshall* by Jerry Harrington in the *Annals of Iowa*, and pieces on Chicago history for the *Chicago Reader* and *Chicago Magazine*. His research on the earliest discussions on manmade climate change, on Donald Trump, and on Mitch McConnell was featured in the *New York Times*, *Quartz*, *Huffington Post*, *Talking Points Memo*, *Raw Story*, *Vice*, and *The Week*. He was interviewed by WTTW on the digitization of the archives of St. Paul's By-the-Lake Church. He was a consultant for the Kartemquin Films documentary "63 Boycott", which premieres at the 2017 Chicago Film Festival.

Sohini Majumdar presented papers at two graduate student conferences. Her first paper titled "Communal Conflicts and Public Discourses: The Crisis of National Belonging in India" was presented at the Annual UCLA Graduate Student Association Conference on Contexts of Crisis: Danger, Opportunity, and the Unknown. She also presented at the 13th Annual Graduate History Symposium on Canada 150: Defining the Nation in a Transnational World. Her paper at this conference was titled "Contesting the National: Bengali Muslims and the Multiple Forms of Belonging in Postcolonial South Asia".

LATEST FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



UPCOMING EVENTS

OSOFSKY LECTURE - May 2, 2018



The Spring 2018 Gilbert Osofsky Memorial Lecture will be given by Frank Guridy, Associate Professor of History at Columbia University. He is an alumnus of our department, where he received a MA in 1996 before completing his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Professor Guridy is the author of *Forging Diaspora: Afro-Cubans and African Americans in a World of Empire and Jim Crow* (University of North Carolina Press), winner of Elsa Goveia Book Prize from the Association of Caribbean Historians and the Wesley-Logan Book Prize of the American Historical Association. Professor Guridy will present on his new book project *Sport and the Black Freedom Struggle: A View from the Ballpark*, which explores how black athletes and spectators used the stadium space to enact “spatial entitlement” practices on the field and in the stands during the 1960s and 70s.

BROWNBAG SERIES, SPRING 2018

- January 17: Robert Johnston– Career Diversity Initiative
- January 24: Elena Llinas (Tulane University)
- January 31: Gosia Fidelis and Timothy Herbert– Innovative Assignments and Pedagogical Strategies for the Undergraduate Classroom
- February 7: Gosia Fidelis– Professional Development Workshop for Graduate Students
- February 14: Jonathan Daly– Book Project: “How Europe Made The Modern World”
- March 14: Jeff Schuhrke (UIC)
- April 18: Lina Britto (Northwestern University)

6th ANNUAL HOLIDAY EVENT

Wednesday, December 6th, 4 - 7pm

Haymarket Restaurant
737 W. Randolph St.
Chicago IL 60661

