

AU History Newsletter 2021



American University
Department of History

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From the Chair

From the Chair

The pandemic continued to wreak havoc on the lives of our students and faculty this year. In the face of adversity, it has been inspiring to see our students and faculty supporting each other and continuing to accomplish many things. For example, Mary Frances Giandrea convened a series of online working group discussions on zoom pedagogy. Our intrepid PhD student Nathan Moore shared his tech savvy, bringing profs twice his age up to speed on all the possibilities not just to get by on zoom, but to introduce ways of teaching that can improve the educational experience. Teaching in times of covid has been difficult and we all can't wait to get back to the full classroom experience. But we have all learned a great deal, and doubtless some of the good things we have learned will live on in the post-pandemic classroom.



We've all faced new pressures, but our colleagues with young children have faced disproportionate challenges. I'd like to take one moment to recognize Laura Beers, Andrew Demshuk, Max Friedman, Dan Kerr, Kate Haulman, Anton Fedyashin, Justin Jacobs, Gautham Rao, Theresa Runstedtler and Katharina Vester for the fine work they have continued to do while managing all the demands of childcare and zoom schooling in times of covid.

Enjoy reading about our department's many publications and accomplishments—especially the fine recently published books by our graduates!

We love to hear from alumni. Please send us your news and stay in touch!

Eric



AU History Department Faculty & Staff

Front Row: Elke Stockreiter, Andrew Demshuk, Pamela Nadell, Gautham Rao, Anton Fedyashin, Eric Lohr, Alan Kraut, M.J. Rymza-Pawlowska and Katharina Vester.
Back Row: Sara Gerard, Max Paul Friedman, Pedram Partovi, Eileen Findlay, Mary Frances Giandrea, Peter Kuznick, April Shelford, Kate Haulman, Michael Brenner and Ibram X. Kendi (former faculty).

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who contacted us after our last newsletter!

We are so happy to receive news and greetings from so many of you!

Keep in touch!
Please send your news to: history@american.edu

AU Humanities Truck Receives \$100,000 Grant to Feed DC's Hungry

Emergency Covid-19 grant from Luce Foundation to expand food justice work

www.american.edu/cas/news/humanities-truck-receives-grant-to-feed-dc.cfm

www.theeagleonline.com/article/2020/11/aus-humanities-truck-brings-food-to-dc-communities

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck and people across the DC region began struggling to put food on their tables, American University's **Humanities Truck Project** came up with an innovative way to help. Last summer, the distinctive red-and-blue truck began delivering food to DC communities, helping to feed hundreds of hundreds of people each week.

In December, the truck's team got some exciting news — they received an emergency \$100,000 COVID-19 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to expand their food distribution. Through the grant, the Humanities Truck Project will partner with seven groups to expand its reach: DC Central Kitchen, Food for All, Street Sense Media, Kyanite Kitchen, Trabajadores Unidos de Washington DC, HIPS, and a loosely organized group of activists fighting homelessness who have themselves experienced homelessness.

“The ways in which people share food is really how people build communities,” said **Dan Kerr**, Humanities Truck director and CAS professor. “I think it's kind of part of our larger core mission and it's just kind of a twist on it that the pandemic really pushed on us.”

The grant gives the team an opportunity to experiment with approaches to food distribution to determine which are most effective for different communities. Kerr says that approaches will range from delivering bags of food and providing food vouchers, to partnering with a group that serves prepared vegan meals, to offering substantial cash cards to day laborers in need, or even providing living wage employment to people experiencing homelessness.

“With the grant, the Humanities Truck Program is breaking new ground in developing a new form of **public humanities work** that embraces the principles of mutual aid and seeks to address **basic human needs** in addition to the essential need we all have for **understanding the world we live in**,” Kerr says.



Above: the Humanities Truck on campus.



Left: Professor Dan Kerr



AU student Martin Turriza volunteers to help Professor Grandas load up the Humanities Truck with food from Food for All.

Courtesy of Ludy Grandas
<https://www.theeagleonline.com/article/2020/11>

Michael Brenner Wins First Baron Award for Scholarly Excellence

Described as a "Nobel Prize" in the study of the Jewish experience

<https://www.american.edu/cas/news/michael-brenner-wins-first-baron-award.cfm>

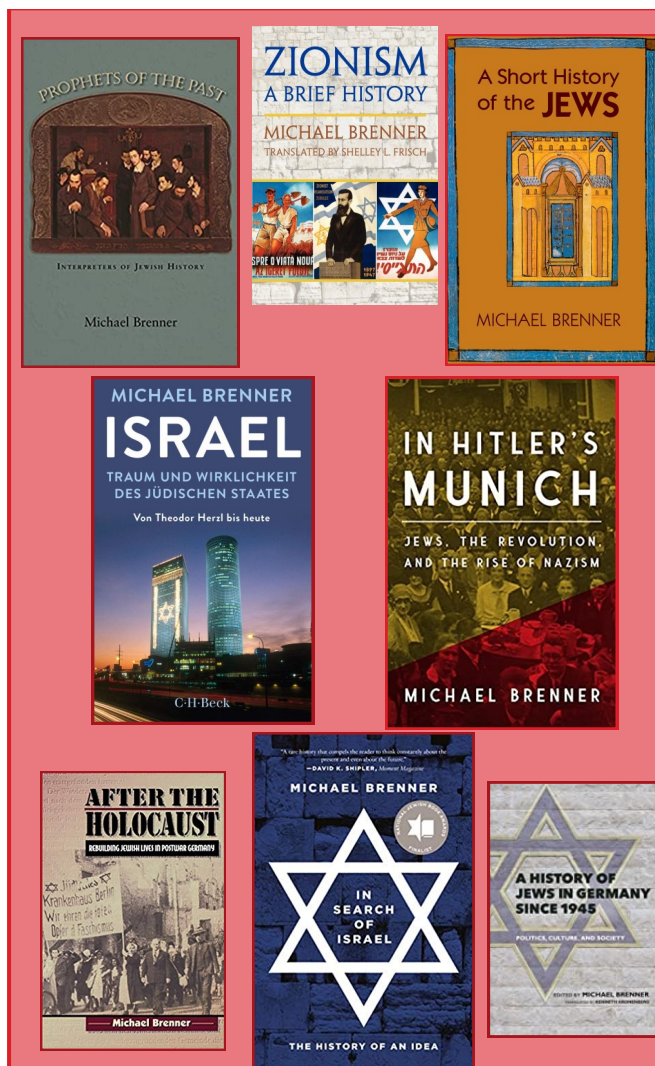


CAS Interim Dean, Max Paul Friedman calls Brenner “a historian with a writer’s sensibility, whose reflections on the visions and nightmares and imaginary utopias that are the Israel of the mind are as lyrical as they are filled with insight. His many books on German Jewish history have given members of his community — survivors of an attempt at total erasure — as well as the Germany of today a window into the rich and varied cultural landscape of their collective past. And he has used his national stature in his country of birth to become a forceful advocate of human rights for all. American University is fortunate to count him among our own.”

American University’s Michael Brenner has received the very first Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Award for **Scholarly Excellence in Research on the Jewish Experience**, established this year by the University of Vienna and the Knapp Family Foundation. The University of Vienna states that this prestigious award “may well be described as a Nobel Prize in the study of the Jewish experience.”

Brenner is American University’s Seymour and Lillian Abensohn Chair in Israel Studies and Director of AU’s Center for Israel Studies. He says he is greatly honored by this recognition. The University of Vienna and the Knapp Family Foundation created the Baron Award to honor the legacy of Salo Wittmayer Baron, widely considered to be the greatest Jewish historian of the 20th century.

In addition to his positions at American University, Brenner is the Professor of Jewish History and Culture at Ludwig-Maximilian-University in Munich. He received his PhD at Columbia University, taught previously at Indiana and Brandeis Universities, and has held visiting appointments at **numerous universities**, including Haifa, Paris, Budapest, Stanford, Berkeley, and Johns Hopkins. Brenner’s research focuses on the history of the Jews from the 19th to the 21st century, including the Shoah and the State of Israel. **His books have been translated into ten languages.** They include *In Search of Israel: The History of an Idea*; *A Short History of the Jews*; *Prophets of the Past: Interpreters of Jewish History*; *Zionism: A Brief History*; *The Renaissance of Jewish Culture in Weimar Germany*; and *After the Holocaust: Rebuilding Jewish Lives in Postwar Germany*.



Jack Johnson, the Fight of the Century, and Race in America

Professor Theresa Runstedtler weighs in on the intersection of sports and race

<https://www.american.edu/cas/news/jack-johnson-the-fight-of-the-century-and-race-in-america.cfm>



In 1908, African American prizefighter Jack Johnson took on the reigning world heavyweight champion, Tommy Burns. In front of thousands of spectators in Sydney, Australia, Johnson defeated Burns in 14 rounds, becoming the **first Black Heavyweight Champion of the world**. Johnson would go on to hold the crown for seven more years, during a time when racial animosity, segregation, and even lynchings were widespread across the United States.

Vox recently aired the last surviving film frame of the Johnson-Burns fight, along with an interview with American University Associate Professor of History Theresa Runstedtler, who provided historical and racial context. Runstedtler is the author of the book *Jack Johnson, Rebel Sojourner: Boxing in the Shadow of the Global Color Line* (University of California Press, 2012). She is a scholar of African American history, and her research examines Black popular culture, with a focus on the intersection of race and sports.

Runstedtler explained that boxing fans at the turn of the twentieth century viewed the sport through the prisms of nationality and race, and they lined up to see Black boxers pitted against white boxers. “They imagined that boxers in the ring, particularly for interracial fights, were almost engaged in this **kind of Darwinian struggle**,” she said. “Fights between white men and Black men became a kind of **metaphor for race relations**. So, in other words, if a white man won, it would reinforce ideas of white supremacy. But if a Black man won, then it would upend ideas of white supremacy.”

The Fight of the Century

Jeffries came out of retirement to fight Johnson in what was billed as the “Fight of the Century” on July 4, 1910. But it was a fight that did not turn out like many white Americans had hoped. Johnson knocked out Jeffries in the fifteenth round, securing the heavyweight crown again. **His victory sparked racial violence across the United States**. At least 19 people were killed, and hundreds more were injured — most of them Black. And they called them race riots, but essentially it was white **mob violence against African Americans**,” says Runstedtler. “It became this kind of attempt to put African-Americans back in their place.”

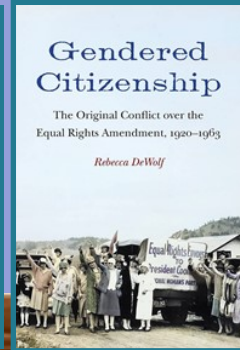
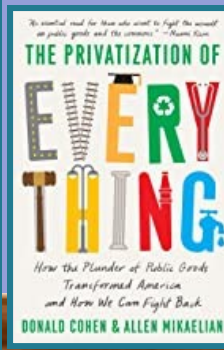
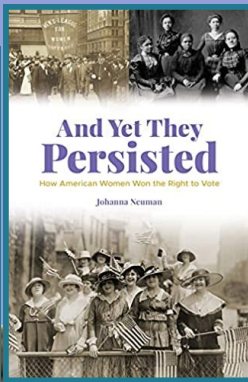
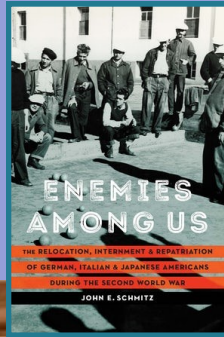
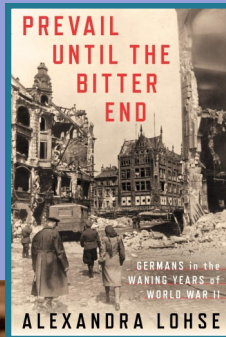
Fears of further unrest led to an immediate **attempt to ban the Johnson-Jeffries fight film**, and in 1912, the US Congress banned the screening of all title fight films entirely. “White authorities were worried about the symbolic implications of the Jack Johnson victory being replayed,” explains Runstedtler. “They worried that any demonstration of Black victory, and any demonstration of white weakness or defeat, would undercut the narratives of white supremacy. Not just in the United States, but in colonies like South Africa, also India, the Philippines.

Runstedtler first started researching Johnson back in graduate school at Yale University. For her dissertation, she originally focused on Black transnationalism and internationalism. Intrigued, Runstedtler began to read about African American boxers, including Jack Johnson. “In some ways, he was the **first global Black celebrity**, traveling all over the world,” she says. Johnson fought against the color line in Sydney, London, Cape Town, Paris, Havana, and Mexico City. His life was a living example how issues of race, gender, and empire played out globally in the early twentieth century.

In her book, *Jack Johnson, Rebel Sojourner*, Runstedtler traces Jack Johnson’s fabulous, furious, iconic life across five continents and through four paradigms (race, masculinity, imperialism, and popular culture), setting a formidably high bar in the emerging genre of transnational biography.



ALUMNI BOOKSHELF



Prevail Until the Bitter End:
Germans in the Waning Years of World War II
Alexandra Lohse '04, '15

Cornell University Press, 2021
Alexandra Lohse explores the gossip and innuendo, the dissonant reactions and perceptions of Germans to the violent dissolution of the Third Reich. Alexandra Lohse is an applied research scholar at the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Enemies among Us:
The Relocation, Internment, and Repatriation of German, Italian, and Japanese Americans during the Second World War
John E. Schmitz '06

University of Nebraska Press, 2021
Son of former internee and history professor at Northern Virginia Community College, John Schmitz, PhD, examines the causes, conditions, and consequences of America's selective relocation and internment of its own citizens and enemy aliens, as well as the effects of internment on those who experienced it.

And Yet They Persisted:
How American Women Won the Right to Vote
Johanna Neuman '16

Wiley & Sons, 2020
And Yet They Persisted traces agitation for the vote over two centuries, from the revolutionary era to the civil rights era, excavating one of the greatest struggles for social change in this country and restoring African American women and other women of color to its telling. Johanna Neuman, PhD, is a historian who specializes in the history of women's suffrage.

The Privatization of Everything:
How the Plunder of Public Goods Transformed America and How We Can Fight Back
Donald Cohen & Allen Mikaelian '17

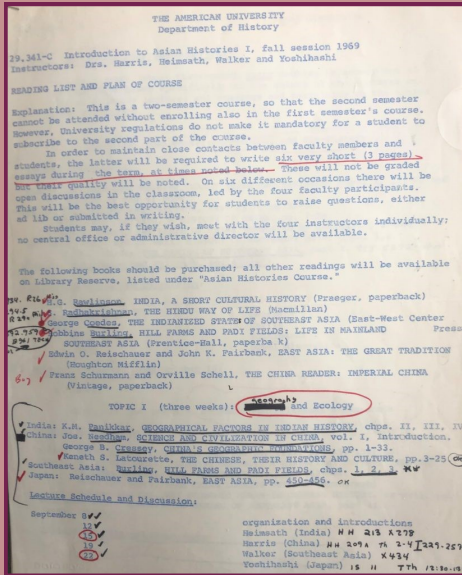
The New Press, 2021
Cohen and Mikaelian show us how to prevent the private takeover of our cherished public resources. Allen Mikaelian, PhD, is a historian and the author of the New York Times bestseller *Medal of Honor: Profiles of America's Military Heroes from the Civil War to the Present*.

Gendered Citizenship:
The Original Conflict over the Equal Rights Amendment, 1920–1963
Rebecca DeWolf '14

University of Nebraska Press, 2021
Gendered Citizenship, tells the dramatic story of how the original conflict over the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) transcended traditional political divides and transformed the nature of American citizenship. Rebecca DeWolf, PhD, is a historian whose research has achieved recognition through several fellowships and grants, including the Dirksen Center Congressional Research Grant.

AU History Alum Revisits Love, War, Cambodia, Vietnam, and a Career in Journalism

Justin Jacobs



Fall 1969 syllabus for HIST 29.342-C, "Introduction to Asian Histories I."

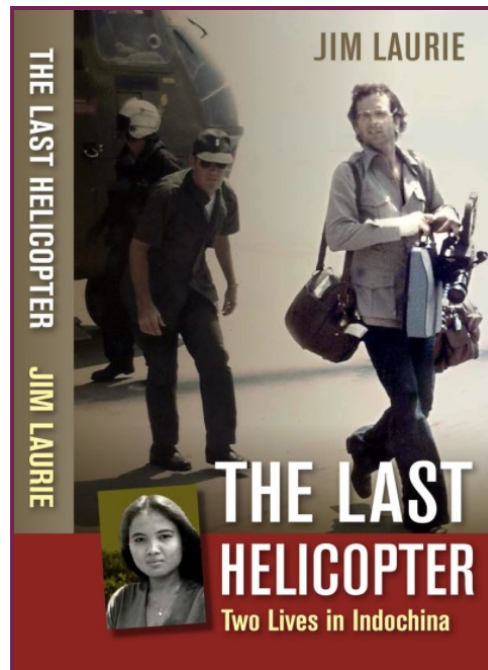
As an AU junior in the Fall of 1969, Jim Laurie took a course that inspired him: HIST 29.342-C: "Introduction to Asian Histories I." The first of a two-semester series taught by four instructors, this course prompted Laurie to drop out of college and jump on a plane to Asia. "My classes at AU piqued my interest in Asia," he said. "But textbooks were not enough. I had to see it for myself." He would not return for four years, later graduating in 1973. "When I left AU, I was an ordinary undergrad," he said. "But when I returned one professor referred to me as 'a mature student who had seen the world.'"

Laurie, who is waiting out the global COVID pandemic in rural Maine, has just published a book that reflects on his lengthy career in journalism and the many fascinating peoples and places he reported on both during and after his time at AU.

In *The Last Helicopter: Two Lives in Indochina* (FocusAsia, 2020), Laurie recounts the dramatic story of his time in Cambodia and Vietnam during and after the Vietnam War. After dropping out of AU, Laurie went to Japan, where he worked as a copy editor for English-language publications associated with Expo '70, a world's fair held that year in Osaka. *The Last Helicopter* narrates the next five years, during which he fell in love with a Khmer woman named Soc Sinan, returned to Vietnam in 1975 to report on the Communist takeover of Saigon, and worked tirelessly to extricate Soc Sinan from the killing fields of Cambodia.



Jim Laurie on the microphone at WAMU, the campus radio station, in 1967.



The book alternates between two unique perspectives. There is the account of the young reporter learning his craft and deepening his knowledge of Indochina. In contrast to that, there is the compelling first-person account of Soc Sinan as she struggles to survive what she called her "prison without walls" under the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime.

Laurie's career in journalism put him on the front lines of the wars in Southeast Asia. "Ironically, I probably saw more combat in Vietnam as a reporter than if I had been drafted into the military," he said. Laurie's time at AU as an undergraduate student in history had helped prepare him for the real-world encounters he would experience abroad. Back then, Prof. David Brandenburg, for whom the annual Brandenburg Lecture is named, was chair of the history department. He encouraged Laurie to focus on Asian studies, particularly the French colonial period in Indochina. While taking history courses, Laurie also worked part time for WAMU, the local campus radio station that would later gain a national profile through its affiliation with NPR.

Reflecting on a lengthy and decorated career, Laurie points to the Asian history course he took way back in 1969 at AU. "I just wanted to take a path less traveled," he observed, "and that's why I went into Asian studies as an undergrad."

For more stories like this:
<https://edspace.american.edu/auhstorydept/>

Bridging the Research Gap

Justin Jacobs

Over the past year and half, as the Covid pandemic closed borders and put a halt to long-distance travel, many scholars have been forced to put their research agendas on hold. For those who depend upon access to archives in foreign countries, on-site research has been difficult to conduct. **Ivan Grek**, a recent graduate of the doctoral program in AU's History Department, has come up with an ingenious solution. It's called "**The Bridge Research Network**," and it helps scholars gain access to archives throughout the former republics of the Soviet Union without actually having to visit in person.

Grek, who in August 2020 defended his dissertation, "Illiberal Civil Society in Russia, 1992–2012," says he came up with the idea while attending the 2018 convention of the Association for East European and Slavic Societies in Boston. "Everyone was complaining about how difficult it is to travel from the United States to Russia to conduct archival research," he said. "The visas, the long flights, the cost—it was just so difficult and expensive to do research in Russia." Thinking back to his time in the pharmaceutical industry, where he helped organize clinical trials, Grek saw firsthand how pharmaceutical companies outsource research abroad. So he decided to apply those methods to archival research.

The result is **The Bridge**, which now facilitates access to archives in fourteen countries throughout post-Soviet states in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. For a modest fee—far cheaper than organizing a research trip in person—The Bridge will draw upon Grek's extensive network of freelance researchers to visit archives in person and procure digital images of documents. They will also help to conduct on-site interviews and obtain hard-to-find primary and secondary sources outside of archives. "Our researchers are scholars themselves," Grek says, "so they know how to formulate research questions and look through archival files with a critical eye."



AU graduate Ivan Grek, who defended his dissertation on civil society in modern Russia in August 2020



Instructions from a KGB training manual for agents in Finland: "Sweater. It doesn't go in pants." "Byt i Nrvay Naseleniia Finliandii" [Daily life and Customs of the Finns], 1970.



Mugshot of a Ukrainian engineer who received payments in North Korean ginseng root in exchange for intelligence. Archives of the State Security Service, Ukraine.

Grek's research network has already uncovered fascinating—and occasionally humorous—revelations in the archives. From the **former KGB archive in Ukraine**, "we learned how North Koreans once recruited an engineer from a factory in Kiyv." According to Grek, they promised the engineer money, but soon shifted to **payment in ginseng roots and vodka**, healing extracts, and paintings from North Korea. "In the declassified reports, Ukrainian KGB agents were basically making fun of this guy for accepting payment in ginseng." And in another humorous find, The Bridge uncovered sage advice from a 1970 KGB manual for its agents in Finland: "Sweater. It doesn't go in pants." Apparently, tucking a sweater inside your pants is a dead giveaway that you are not a local!



Though Grek's early clients were mostly doctoral students working on their dissertations, The Bridge has now expanded to work on field work for documentaries, research cosponsored by the **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**, partnered with a number of research institutes, and awaits for the decision of the National Science Foundation to sponsor a large project based on The Bridge's proposal. Historians, political scientists, and sociologists have all found The Bridge to be a great help in facilitating greater access to relevant research materials. "Scholars have always been hiring assistants in foreign countries and delegating tasks abroad," Grek says. "The Bridge is designed to streamline this process and make the collaboration between professors and research assistants more efficient and affordable."

For more articles go to:
<https://edspace.american.edu/auhhistorydept/>

GRADUATE NEWS

AU CAS Changemaker Mia Owens, MA Public History

Mia Owens was recently named one of ten AU CAS changemakers who are already making their mark on the world.

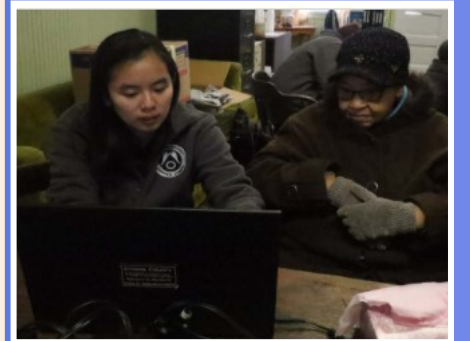
MA in Public History candidate **Mia Owens** is the inaugural fellow for a two-year **Public History Graduate Fellowship in the History of Slavery and Its Legacies in Washington, DC**.

Mia says she is gaining valuable experience in conducting research and creating content to engage and inform the public. "I am grateful for the mentorship and support of the historians and my fellow History Fellows at WHHA. Their guidance has been invaluable in helping me learn and grow as a public historian. At AU, I am happy to be a part of a wonderful and supportive Public History Program. I am thankful for our director, Dr. Malgorzata Rymysz-Pawlowska, for her dedication to helping me and other students secure public history opportunities throughout Washington, DC. I am also grateful for the wisdom and guidance of AU's history department. Through my time at AU, I have had the opportunity to develop a variety of skills that will help me in the field of public history."

During the first year of the fellowship, Mia is working at the **White House Historical Association** (WHHA) to conduct research for its *Slavery in the President's Neighborhood* initiative. During the second year, she will be working with AU's Antiracist Research and Policy Center (ARPC) on *The Influence of Slavery at American University*.



Mia Owens (MA Public History)



ALUMNI NEWS

A Novel approach—Alum Sarah Adler



Alum Sarah A. Adler '18 took an unusual route to landing her recent book deal. She recently "sold at auction" and successfully secured a two-book deal with Berkley/Penguin Random House. The first book, *Mrs. Nash's Ashes*, will be coming out in summer 2023.

Sarah Adler is a historian and fiction writer based in Frederick, Maryland. Adler's historical nonfiction short stories have appeared in the magazine *Contingent* and in *Nursing Clio* (<https://nursingclio.org/2019/08/01/ample-justification-for-the-deed-public-interest-in-the-sickles-tragedy-as-gender-performance/>).

Left: An image from Sarah Adler's *Contingent* historical nonfiction short "Where is Dorsey Foultz?"



contingentmagazine.org

Where Is Dorsey Foultz?

When the D.C. Metropolitan Police failed to catch a murder suspect, white residents criticized and mocked. Black residents worried.

RECENT PHD GRADUATES

Rebecca Brenner Graham

Rebecca Brenner Graham '21, successfully defended her PhD dissertation, entitled "*When Mail Arrived on Sundays, 1810-1912*," on her 28th birthday in August 2021. Dr. Graham works full time as a History Teacher at the Madeira School, which is an all-girls college-preparatory boarding/day school in Northern Virginia. She will also be teaching a few classes as an Adjunct Professorial Lecturer in the American University Department of History.



Andrew Chatfield

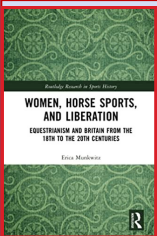
Andrew Chatfield '18 is enjoying teaching in Boston area education centers. He has recently had **three articles** published in peer reviewed journals. The first article was published in the journal *South Asia*, the second in the *Australasian Journal of American Studies*, and the final one in *The American Journal*. In the second article, he argues that the American anti-imperialists were more proactive and color-blind than the anti-imperialists of 1898

Rebecca DeWolf

Rebecca DeWolf graduated in 2014 with Allan Lichtman as her PhD advisor. Her recent book, *Gendered Citizenship: The Original Conflict over the Equal Rights Amendment, 1920–1963*, tells the dramatic story of how the original conflict over the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) transcended **traditional political divides** and transformed the nature of American citizenship. Her writing has also appeared in the *Washington Post*, *New America Weekly*, *History News Network*, and *Frontiers*. Her **website** also provides an overview of her research and work.



Erica Munkwitz



Erica Munkwitz '14, recently published *Women, Horse Sports and Liberation: Equestrianism and Britain from the 18th to the 20th Centuries*. The book is the first, full-length scholarly examination of British women's involvement in equestrianism from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries, as well as the corresponding **transformations of gender, class, sport, and national identity in Britain and its Empire**. Erica Munkwitz is a Professorial Lecturer in Modern British and European history at American University in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. Her research focuses on **gender, sport, and empire in modern Britain**, and specifically on women's involvement in equestrianism.



CURRENT PHD STUDENT NEWS

Jonah Estess

Jonah Estess was recently a finalist for the **K. Austin Kerr Prize** for first-time presenters at the **Business History Conference!** He was deeply honored and humbled to have been considered for the prize. He presented a section from chapter one of his dissertation at the Conference. In it, he discussed the use of **social coercion to compel the use of Continental dollars** by merchants in New York during the American Revolution.

Andrew Sperling

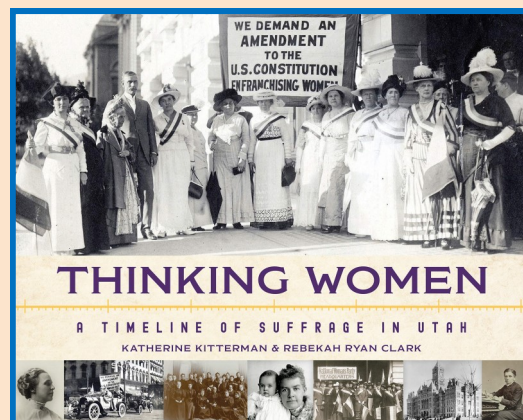
Andrew Sperling recently won **Mark and Ruth Luckens International Prize in Jewish Thought and Culture**, sponsored by the University of Kentucky. The Luckens Prize is awarded to the best unpublished original essay that is also suitable for oral presentation to a general audience and is written by a graduate student or recent Ph.D. In addition to this, **Sperling** had an article "**Creative Power: A Jewish Refugee in the Jim Crow South**" accepted for publication. It will appear in a forthcoming issue of the journal *Southern Jewish History*. Journal editor Mark Bauman wrote: *Great job on your article. It is fascinating, well organized, and well written and will be a major, unusual contribution to the field.* The article grows out of Andrew's master's thesis.

Two of our Recent PhD Graduates

Katherine Kitterman

In her recent book, *Thinking Women: A Timeline of Suffrage in Utah*, Katherine Kitterman makes use of the timeless words of Emmeline B. Wells, Utah's premier suffragist, "I believe in women, especially thinking women." to aptly capture the passion and power women have to be a force for change in their own lives.

Katherine Kitterman '21 graduated last Spring and is currently the Historical Director for Better Days 2020. Kitterman's research focus is in American women's history and Mormon history. Her dissertation, "'No Ordinary Feelings': Mormon Women's Political Activism, 1870—1920.", analyzed the rhetoric of Mormon women's struggle for suffrage in nineteenth-century Utah, highlighting the two-way connection between suffragists in West and East.



Thinking Women: A Timeline of Suffrage in Utah, Katherine Kitterman '21 and Rebekah Clark. Deseret Book, 2019.

Curtis Harris



Dr. Curtis Harris recently successfully defended his dissertation:
"Hardwood Revolution: The NBA's Growth and Player Revolt, 1950-1976"

Dr. Curtis Harris holds a B.A. in International Studies and an M.A. in Public History, both from AU. Harris recently successfully defended his dissertation: "Hardwood Revolution: The NBA's Growth and Player Revolt, 1950-1976". Harris' research has covered many subjects all with an eye toward the struggle for rights in the United States. His dissertation examined the efforts of professional basketball players in the mid-20th century to secure their civil and labor rights. Since 2012, Curtis has managed Pro Hoops History an independent blog and newsletter focused on exploring the history and complexities of professional basketball in North America.

Curtis's academic research has been presented at the North American Society for Sports History; his popular work on basketball history has appeared at ESPN, Bleacher Report, Sporting News and NPR; and his time as a public historian has included work at President Lincoln's Cottage, the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the Philadelphia 76ers.

Our first Virtual History Career Night!

Thanks to all our wonderful alums who made this event such a success!

Justin Jacobs



yourself short,” she reminded the audience. “We have lots of marketable skills.” It is thus important for history majors to learn how to highlight these skills when applying for jobs and how to talk about them with potential employers.

Several of the panelists also encouraged history majors to be proactive in seeking out people and opportunities in the Washington, D.C. area. **Reza Akbari**, now a Ph.D. student in the AU History Department, provided advice on how to break into the policy and think tank world. While reaching out to accomplished professionals may seem intimidating at first, Akbari noted, most are eager to offer advice about how they got where they are today. “Anyone in D.C. has been where

you are right now,” he said. “People are understanding. They remember being exactly where you are today.” **Elizabeth Charles** echoed that sentiment. “Talk to the people who have the jobs that you think you might want to do. Don’t be intimidated by titles and institutions. Most people will be very happy to talk about their jobs.”

On March 10, 2021, the AU History Department hosted a virtual “**Career Night**” event for majors and prospective majors. More than thirty students turned out to engage a diverse panel of former AU history majors who talked about their own experiences after graduation. Panelists included those who work in the federal government, those who work as research consultants for private companies, high school teachers, graduate students, and the **Smithsonian Institution**, among others. Department **Chair Eric Lohr** opened up the session by noting that history majors cultivate tangible skills that are in perennial demand in the marketplace. Not only that, but studies have also shown that over the long term history majors end up making higher salaries than many other majors that are often viewed as more “applicable” and “relevant” after graduation, including business and economics.

As several panelists noted, the key is getting history majors to learn how to promote the skills they cultivated as an undergraduate student. **Justin Broubalow**, who graduated with an AU history degree in 2009, pointed out that many people have little idea what exactly historians can do other than recite the battles of the Civil War. “But history is actually a way of thinking rather than a means of compiling facts,” Broubalow observed. “We can evaluate evidence, know when to take something at face value, when to investigate further, and when to synthesize. We know how to approach and solve a problem.” **Elizabeth Charles**, who now works as historian for the federal government, also emphasized the organizational skills of historians. “Don’t sell

Why Study History?

Understanding history provides context and tools that help people navigate the contemporary world. History is as much about today and tomorrow as it is about yesterday. Lonnie Bunch, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and Founding Director, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, quoted by *Careers for History Majors*, AHA

History Provides Invaluable Marketable Skills

“Few disciplines on your campus will come close to demanding the kind of writing and effective argumentation that your degree requires.” Loren Collins *“Talking to Employers about Your Degree.”*

Top 10 Skills Employers Seek in College Graduates

1. Communication
2. Teamwork
3. Making decisions and solving problems
4. Planning, organizing, and prioritizing
5. Obtaining and processing information
6. Analyzing quantitative data
7. Technical skills related to the job
8. Using computer software
9. Creating and editing written
10. Selling and influencing others

Source: Loren Collins *“Talking to Employers about Your Degree.”* American Historical Association Perspectives, April 2017.

Careers of History Majors

Figures 1: National data from U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2010-2014 five-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). Source: Paul Sturtevant, “History Is Not a Useless Major: Fighting Myths with Data.” American Historical Association Perspectives, April 2017.

Why Study History?

Studying history prepared me to thrive in a fast-paced, often high-stakes policy environment. Society’s problems aren’t solved in a vacuum. Applying historical context to contemporary challenges is imperative. Study history and you’re part of the solution.

Michelle Emick Ronholm, Policy and Communications Consultant. Michelle Ronholm Communications. Quoted by *AHA Perspectives*, April 2017.

Careers for History Majors

History majors go on to become teachers, museum curators, public historians, archivists and publishers. Others pursue careers in such fields as law, government, non-profits, business, advertising, entertainment and journalism. College graduates with a degree in history earn median incomes of \$55,000. This is only marginally less than the \$60,000 earned by business majors, and more than the \$51,000 median for people with life sciences degrees.

Median Income by Bachelor’s Degree Field

Source: Paul Sturtevant, “History Is Not a Useless Major: Fighting Myths with Data.” American Historical Association Perspectives, April 2017

A CAPITAL EXPERIENCE

American University’s location in Washington, DC, puts you within minutes, by Metro, of incomparable learning and professional opportunities: hands-on internships at world-class institutions, mentoring with top professionals, and networking with our well-connected alumni—all assets to kick-start your career.



GRADUATE AWARDS

Richard and Carol Breitman Endowed Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to a graduate student who is pursuing a PhD, preferably in European history.

This award is made possible through the generosity of Margaret Anthon in honor of Professor Emeritus Richard Breitman.

Maurizio Recordati

Roger Brown Dissertation Completion Fellowship

This fellowship supports a graduate student who has completed or is in the final stages of completing their dissertation, and preparing for an academic career.

This award is made possible through the continuing generosity of AU History Professor Emeritus Roger Brown.

Nathan Moore

Patrick Clendenen Dissertation Fellowship

This fellowship is given to a graduate student to support the costs associated with completing their dissertation.

This award was established by Mary Graydon in memory of Patrick Clendenen.

Julie Hawks, Rebecca Brenner Graham & Katherine Kitterman

Valerie French and Robert Beisner History Education Endowment Fund

This student support is provided to a graduate or undergraduate student to attend a conference or conduct research for a project.

This funding was established in honor of the late AU History Professor, Valerie French.

Ivan Grek

Dorothy and Victor Gondos, Jr. Graduate Research Support

This funding recognizes excellence in historical research and provides support to conduct research.

This funding was made possible through the generosity of AU History Professors Dorothy and Victor Gondos, Jr.

Curtis Harris Amy Langford

Robert Griffith Education Fund for Public History

The funding supports student travel to the National Council on Public History's annual conference.

This support was established in memory of AU History Professor Robert Griffith by Barbara Griffith and family.

Maren Orchard

History Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

This award recognizes excellence in graduate student teaching and contributions to the academic mission of the department.

Laura Auketayeva

Janet Oppenheim History Prize

This prize is awarded annually to honor excellent work produced by a student in the department.

This prize was established in memory of AU History Professor Janet Oppenheim.

Ivan Grek Katherine Kitterman Nathan Moore

GIVING

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL
OUR AWARDEES!

YOUR SUPPORT

Your support means a great deal to our students. Please consider giving to one of our scholarship funds, or simply designate your gift to "History Department", in which case we will direct your funds to our area of greatest need.

One of our priorities right now is building up the Brown and Breitman fellowships to support the excellent work of our PhD students in a time of declining public support.

Questions?
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history@american.edu
202-885-2401

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Dorothy Gondos-Beers Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded annually to honor excellent work produced by a student in the department.

This award was made possible through the generosity of AU History Professors Dorothy and Victor Gondos Jr.

Yael Isaacs Jonah Kaufman-Cohen

History Single-Semester Capstone Prize

This prize honors excellent work produced in a single-semester Capstone research semester for undergraduate students.

Dana Stevenson Alexander Rabinowitz

Janet Oppenheim History Prize

This prize is awarded annually to honor excellent work produced by a student in the department.

This prize was established in memory of AU History Professor Janet Oppenheim.

Katherine Kerekes

Anna Kasten Nelson Award for Excellence in History

This award is given annually to senior History majors, who have earned at least a 3.5 in the major, and provides recipients with a one-year membership to the American Historical Association.

The award was named in memory of Distinguished-Historian -in-Residence Anna Kasten Nelson.

**Austin Bartola
Celeste Bobro
Abigail Bowers
Madeline Bruno
Aidan Connor
Abigail Corona
Julia Cronin
Gabrielle Dellaripa
Ethan Friedland
Hannah Hayes**

**Yael Isaacs
Jonah Kaufman-Cohen
Ismah Khan
Camryn Libes
Myles Maxson
Connor Mitchell
Jada Newell
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History Major Analyzes Emotional Theater in Politics

Justin Jacobs



We are living in an era of unprecedented political passions on both ends of the spectrum. With emotions running high, voter participation in our democratic system has never been greater—as was clearly demonstrated by the 2020 presidential election. But what sort of a role do our emotions play in such political engagement? This was the question that Richard Norman decided to tackle in his senior thesis in Spring 2020.

As a case study, he took a closer look at the Black Panthers and their rise to political prominence in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Amid the trying conditions and restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, Norman was able to make use of a digital archive of the *Black Panther*, a periodical published every week from 1966 to 1980. In its pages, Norman repeatedly encountered mention of two emotional discourses: anger and altruism. “These were two parallel emotional trends that got utilized for strategic purposes,” Norman said. “On the one hand, they harnessed the justified anger

their community to redress various grievances, while simultaneously promoting the ideal of altruistic behavior as a means of caring for that same community.”

Norman’s research led to a very important insight about the evolution of political movements. In short, while political engagement may be initiated by emotional responses to social and economic circumstances, effective political action tends to make strategic and sophisticated use of those very same emotions as a form of political theater. “All human groups of all sizes create norms about emotional expression and how and when they should be felt,” Norman said. “Thinking of a political community as a type of emotional community allows us to view groups like the Black Panthers from a new perspective.”

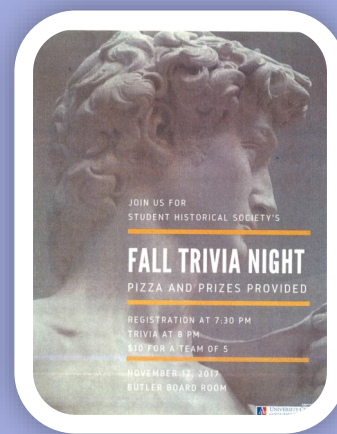


Throughout his research, Norman benefited from close collaboration with faculty members in the History Department such as Christopher Petrella, who taught “From Black Power to Black Lives Matter,” and April Shelford, who taught a historiography seminar on the history of emotions. “

“Prof. Shelford was an immense help throughout the entire research process, and I would meet with her every two weeks to go over my research and ideas,” Norman recalled. “She was really helpful in teasing out things that were promising and pointing out which ones didn’t make much sense. This helped me to narrow my focus.” With his AU degree now in hand, Norman plans to apply to Ph.D. programs in history, where he hopes to study the history of radical thought and politics in the United States during the twentieth century.

Student Historical Society

Founded in 2011, the Student Historical Society is a recognized student organization on the campus of American University open to all AU students. Our purpose is to promote the study of history, to encourage student involvement in the fields of historic preservation and public history, and to provide a place for historically inclined students to share a common interest. We work to accomplish these goals by volunteering for DC area historic sites and organizations, holding discussion sessions, sponsoring speakers, organizing trips to historic sites, and advocating for historic preservation.



The Student Historical Society is a thriving student group on campus. Highlights of the past years include trips to Bull Run Battlefield, a DC Scavenger Hunt, a Ghost Tour, the movie *Hidden Figures* and Mount Vernon. The History Trivia Night is always a not-to-be missed event!



A Few of our Spring 2022 Course Offerings!

HIST-296

Captain Cook and the Pacific

Professor Justin Jacobs



This course examines the history of European maritime exploration of, and dominion over, the Pacific Ocean, with a particular focus on the three voyages of the British navigator James Cook. It pays close attention to interactions between Westerners and native Pacific Islanders, including such matters as disease, commerce, war, land rights, religion, hostages, and deserters.

Spring 2022

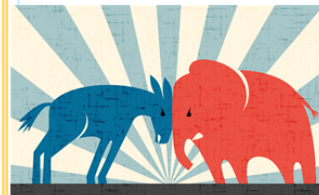
**Tuesday & Friday
9:45—11:00 AM**

**Polarized America:
Understanding Conservatism, Progressivism
and the Current State of America**

HIST-396

Professor Mary Habeck

This intellectual history course seeks to illuminate the reasons for the polarization of American society. The increasing alienation and hostility of both sides of the political and cultural spectrum since the election of 2016 is obvious to every American, but the problem has much earlier roots. The Cold War, the civil rights movement, Vietnam, and the sexual revolution began to split American society along political and value lines in the 1950s, reaching a crescendo after 1968. Both ends of the political spectrum claimed to represent authentic American values. The course follows the development of today's polarization through an examination of the intellectual and political history of both conservatism and progressivism and asks whether we can heal the chasm that divides America today.



**Wednesday
2:30-5:20pm
Spring 2022**

HIST-265

**HISTORY OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXPEDITIONS**

Habit of Mind Course



An introduction to the history of Western archaeological expeditions in the non-Western world, from Napoleon to the Nazis. This course examines the political and cultural ideologies that motivated such expeditions, the role of museums in legitimizing them, interactions with local peoples who assisted or resisted these expeditions, and the rise of efforts to obstruct Western archaeologists in the twentieth century.



**Tuesday & Friday
12:55—2:10 pm**

**Professor Justin Jacobs
Spring 2022**

History of the White House

HIST-212

PROFESSOR MATTHEW COSTELLO

This course explores the history and evolution of America's most prominent home and national landmark. Spanning from the founding of our nation's capital to the present, it examines the architectural transformations of the President's House; the history of its occupants and staff; the presidency; the conceptualization of the White House as a "living museum"; and the building's development as a cultural symbol for political democracy and diplomacy.



**Spring 2022
Wednesday
2:30—5:20 pm**

The Crisis of American Law & Democracy

HIST-296-002 Professor Gautham Rao

This course studies how racism has influenced the American legal system, from the beginnings of chattel slavery in North America in 1619 through the present. It focuses on key court cases and legal decisions that have, either directly or otherwise, enabled white supremacy and structural racism. It also seeks to uncover the lost history of the resistance by Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) against racist legal structures, from practices like fugitivity and marronage in early America to intellectual movements like abolition and Critical Race Theory in modern America.



Although law and legal stories about topics such as enslavement, constitutionalism, vigilantism, and voting rights are the crux of the course, students need not have any background in law or legal history.

**Tuesday & Friday
11:20 AM—12:35 PM
SPRING 2022**

Oliver Stone's America

Professor Peter Kuznick

**HIST-288 Spring 2022
Monday 8:20-10:50pm**



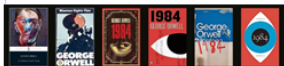
Director Oliver Stone's influence on popular views of recent U.S. history has raised important questions about artistic license, the nature and uses of historical evidence, and the shaping of popular historical consciousness. This course addresses these issues while assessing both scholarly opinion and popular beliefs about the Kennedy assassination, the Vietnam War and antiwar movement, the 1960s counterculture, Watergate, U.S. policy in Central America, the 1980s capitalistic culture, and 9/11 and the presidency of George W. Bush.

A Few of our Spring 2022 Course Offerings!

HIST-235

West in Crisis

Orwell & the Making of the Modern World



Professor Laura Beers



Tuesday & Friday
11:20am—12:35pm

Habit of Mind
Course

Between 1900 and 1950, Europe was transformed from the center of a liberal-imperial system governing more than a quarter of the world's population to a battleground in a Cold War struggle between American capitalism and Soviet communism. This course examines the major social, cultural, and political events that remade Europe, including the two World Wars, the Russian Revolution, the Great Depression, the rise of fascism, nationalism, and anti-colonial independence movements. Using the contemporary writings of George Orwell, as well as other primary source documents and films and scholarly literature, students analyze the forces that undermined the nineteenth-century liberal-imperial regime and gave rise to the Cold War, gaining a richer understanding of both the history of the early twentieth century and the broader socio-historical processes behind regime change.

Professor Allan Lichtman

HIST-449/649

Thursday 5:30-8:00pm Spring 2022

AMERICAN PRESIDENTS



This course examines one of the most powerful offices in the history of the world, the modern American presidency. It focuses on presidents from Franklin Roosevelt to Joe Biden, but also explores the origins and development of the institution itself.

In the Immigrants' Eyes

HIST-500
Spring 2022

Professor Alan Kraut



Monday & Thursday
2:30—3.45 pm

A popular saying among immigrants to the United States in the 19th century was "America Beckons, but Americans Repel." It suggests the complicated, often contradictory reaction that newcomers elicited among the native born. This course explores the history of mass migration to the United States in the period from 1840 to the present. Primary sources such as immigrants' letters, music, and art as well as immigration legislation and political policy will illuminate the experiences of such groups as the Irish, Germans, Scandinavians, Chinese, Italians, Eastern European Jews, Mexicans, and arrivals from the Caribbean as they engage with native-born Americans and American immigration, public health, and refugee policies.

HIST-396-001

Rebellion & Revolution in the Caribbean

Professor Eileen Findlay

The Caribbean's long history as the meeting point of many colonial regimes vying for power as well as many peoples from throughout Africa and Asia coerced into laboring on its profit-generating plantations produced an extraordinary pattern in the region of rebellion and revolution, which terrorized elites across the Americas and the Western World with imagined radically new social orders.



This course explores the roots and legacies of the most compelling of these organized upheavals in the pursuit of justice during the 17th to the 20th centuries, from Jamaica to Haiti to Cuba, and students contemplate their poignant lessons for our times.



Tuesday 5:30—8:00 pm
Spring 2022

Culture & Revolution:

Russia's Twentieth-Century Literature

HIST-296
LIT-296

Professor Anita Kondoyanidi



Twentieth century history shows how easily people surrendered their freedom in order to achieve their lofty goals. Yet this kind of surrender led to violence, insanity, two world wars, and a cascade of authoritarian regimes. This course explores the themes of the quest for humanity and freedom in all its manifestations.



Students read and analyze works by Maxim Gorky, Mikhail Bulgakov, Vasily Grossman, Boris Pasternak, and Alexander Solzhenitsyn, among other Russian writers. The class also explores the lives and art of great Russian composers such as Dmitri Shostakovich, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and Sergei Prokofiev.



Monday & Thursday
8:10—9:25 am
Spring 2022

Ideology, Culture & American Politics

HIST-471/671

PROFESSOR PETER KUZNICK

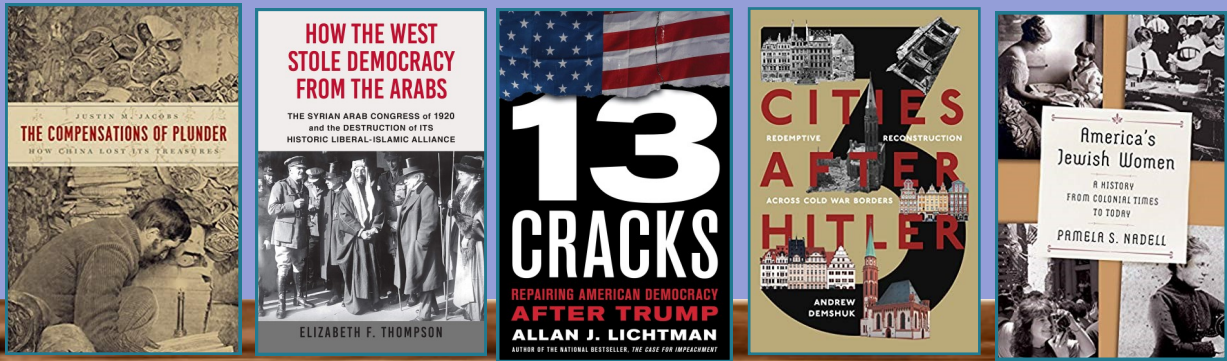
Focusing on the late 19th and 20th centuries, this course will combine elements of American intellectual, cultural, and political history in an attempt to understand some of the key factors that shape the way Americans interpret and act upon the world, individually and collectively.

The course will assess different periods and themes in the development of American culture, paying particular attention to the role of mass media in the formation of beliefs and attitudes, the elaboration and influence of liberal, radical, and conservative ideologies and the challenges posed by radical alternatives to mainstream thought and behavior, and the effect of anti-communism, sexism, racism, and homophobia on American life. In the process, we will draw upon a multiplicity of sources, including novels, plays, films, television, and radio.



Spring 2022
Wednesday
8:20—10:50 pm

FIVE NEW FACULTY BOOKS



The Compensations of Plunder: How China Lost Its Treasures Justin Jacobs

University of Chicago Press, 2020

Recovering the voices of those local officials, scholars, and laborers who shaped the global trade in antiquities, *The Compensations of Plunder* brings historical grounding to a highly contentious topic in modern Chinese history and informs heated debates over cultural restitution throughout the world.

How the West Stole Democracy from the Arabs: The Syrian Congress of 1920 and the Destruction of its Historic Liberal-Islamic Alliance Elizabeth F. Thompson

Atlantic Monthly Press, 2020

Using previously untapped primary sources, including contemporary newspaper accounts, reports of the Syrian-Arab Congress, and letters and diaries from participants, *How the West Stole Democracy from the Arabs* is a groundbreaking account of an extraordinary, brief moment of unity and hope—and of its destruction.

Thirteen Cracks: Repairing American Democracy after Trump Allan Lichtman

Rowman & Littlefield Publisher, 2021

“The question of whether our constitutional democracy will survive the next decade has become the most urgent problem of American politics. In his newest book, Allan Lichtman offers an acute diagnosis of thirteen of the most troubling ailments vexing our political system and prescribes an ingenious remedy for each. Writing with an almost Madisonian concision, Lichtman makes an essential contribution to the growing literature on the danger of democratic decline.” Jack Rakove, Pulitzer Prize-winning Author.

Three Cities After Hitler: Redemptive Reconstruction Across Cold War Borders

Andrew Demshuk

University of Pittsburgh Press, 2021

Three Cities after Hitler compares how three prewar German cities shared decades of postwar development under three competing post-Nazi regimes: Frankfurt in capitalist West Germany, Leipzig in communist East Germany, and Wrocław (formerly Breslau) in communist Poland.

America's Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today Pamela S. Nadell

W. W. Norton & Company, 2019

A groundbreaking history of how Jewish women maintained their identity and influenced social activism as they wrote themselves into American history. What does it mean to be a Jewish woman in America? In a gripping historical narrative, Pamela S. Nadell weaves together the stories of a diverse group of extraordinary people—from the colonial-era matriarch Grace Nathan and her great-granddaughter, poet Emma Lazarus, to labor organizer Bessie Hillman and the great justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, to scores of other activists, workers, wives, and mothers who helped carve out a Jewish American identity.

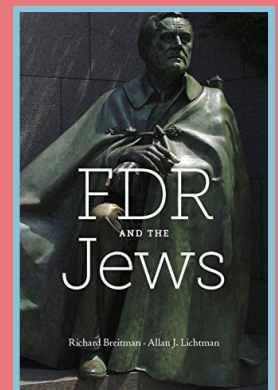
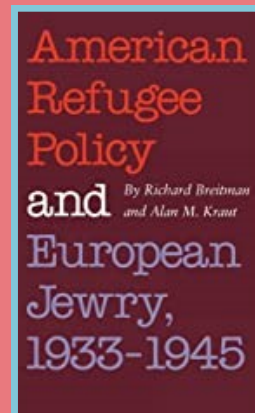
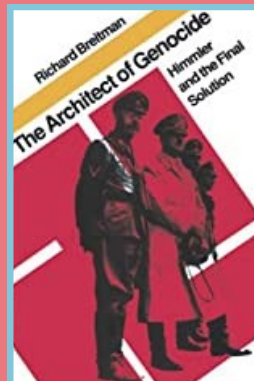
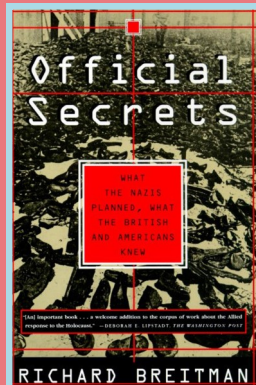
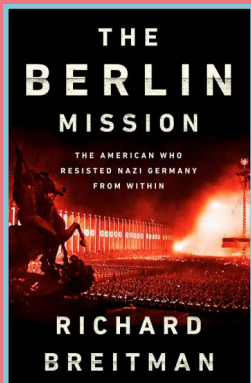
Professor Richard Breitman, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, History In Appreciation

<https://academic.oup.com/hgs/article/35/3/357/6448915>

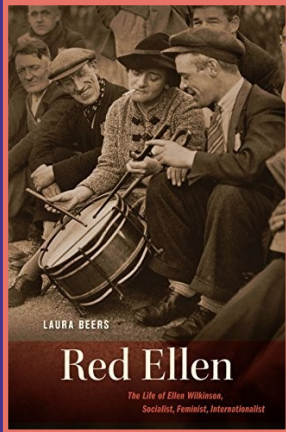
Distinguished Professor Emeritus, History, Richard Breitman was recently celebrated for his decades of service as **Editor-in-Chief of *Holocaust and Genocide Studies***. Breitman is **stepping down from this role** after decades of service. The Winter 2021 edition of this journal contained the following tribute written by Lisa Leff.

“Part of what has made Breitman such an outstanding editor-in-chief is that he has performed his duties in parallel with his own academic work. For forty years, he served on the faculty of American University in Washington, D.C., where he reached the rank of Distinguished Professor of History before his retirement in 2015. At AU, he taught German, American, and Holocaust history, introducing hundreds of undergraduates to the field. He also trained numerous graduate students, pointing them to new sources and opportunities for research. Breitman also served as **Director of Historical Research** of the U.S. National Archives’ Nazi War Criminals Records and Imperial Japanese Records Interagency Working Group. In that capacity, he made accessible records that expand our knowledge of World War II, the Holocaust, and the Cold War immensely.”

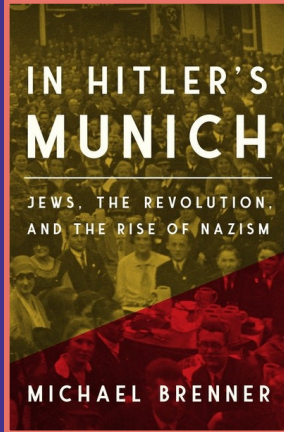
Breitman is best known as a scholar whose publications have had a significant impact. He is the author, co-author, or co-editor of **thirteen books** and numerous articles, known for their exceptional quality and relevance to public debates. The topics range widely, from the political landscape of Weimar Germany, to the development of the Nazi “Final Solution,” to American knowledge of the Holocaust, to the decision-making of American leaders, including Roosevelt, about whether and how to respond. His work has been widely translated, often cited, and much appreciated both in academic circles and far beyond them. Through books like *Architect of Genocide: Himmler and the Final Solution* (1991); *Official Secrets: What the Nazis Planned, What the British and Americans Knew* (1998); and *FDR and the Jews* (co-authored with Allan Lichtman, 2013), Breitman has played an **important role in both the scholarly and public conversation about the Holocaust**. Among the honors he has received are a National Jewish Book Award in American Jewish studies for *FDR and the Jews* in 2013, an honorary doctorate from Hebrew Union College in 1999, and a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Holocaust Educational Foundation in 2018.



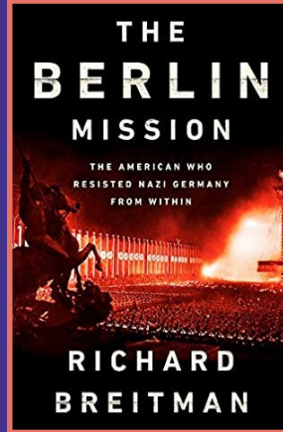
Faculty Updates & Bookshelf



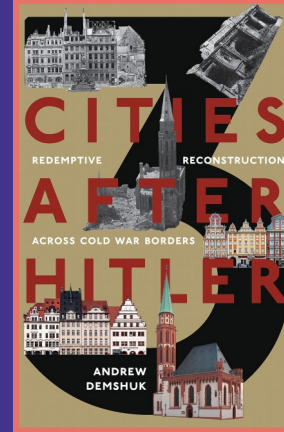
Laura Beers,
Red Ellen: The Life of Ellen Wilkinson, Socialist, Feminist, Internationalist, Harvard 2016



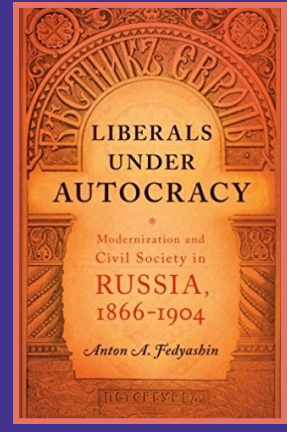
Michael Brenner,
In Hitler's Munich: Jews, the Revolution, and the Rise of Nazism. Princeton Univ Press 2022



Richard Breitman,
The Berlin Mission: The American Who Resisted Nazi Germany from Within. PublicAffairs, 2020



Andrew Demshuk,
Three Cities After Hitler: Redemptive Reconstruction Across Cold War Borders Univ. of Pittsburgh Press 2021



Anton Fedyashin,
Liberals Under Autocracy: Modernization and Civil Society in Russia, 1866-1904. Duke 2014

LAURA BEERS

Professor Beers is currently working on her third book project, on the politics of infertility research and treatment in modern Britain. Earlier this year, she carried out archival research in Britain funded by a **research bursary from the Wellcome Trust**, and has written on infertility for **CNN**. Professor Beers has taken a keen interest in the **UK's Brexit drama**, writing and speaking on Brexit and British history for the *Washington Post*, the *New Statesman*, *The Atlantic*, CNN and the BBC. She was recently awarded the University's **Morton Bender prize**, which acknowledges the extraordinary research achievements of a recently-tenured faculty member.

RICHARD BREITMAN (Distinguished Professor Emeritus)

Richard Breitman continues to serve as editor of *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, a scholarly journal owned by the United States **Holocaust Memorial Museum**. His book, *The Berlin Mission: The American Who Resisted Nazi Germany from Within*, was published by Public Affairs in October 2020. Richard gave a paper entitled "US Government Responses to **Kristallnacht**" on October 13 at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum's virtual conference "Examining American Responses to the Holocaust." (AU alums **Meredith Hindley** (Ph.D.) and **Lindsay Zarwell** (B.A.) also gave papers at this conference.) On December 1st, he presented a virtual talk based on his most recent book *The Berlin Mission* featuring the career of consul and diplomat Raymond Geist. Breitman appeared in the State Department's Ralph J. Bunche Speaker Series.

MICHAEL BRENNER

Michael Brenner was the first recipient of the University of Vienna's Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Award for Scholarly Excellence in Research of the Jewish Experience. His new book, *In Hitler's Munich: Jews, the Revolution, and the Rise of Nazism* will be released in February 2022 by Princeton University Press.

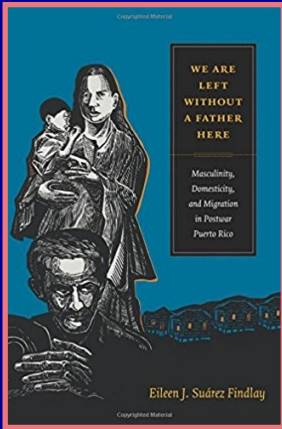
ANDREW DEMSHUK

After publishing *Bowling for Communism* (2020) with Cornell University Press, Andrew Demshuk published *Three Cities after Hitler* with University of Pittsburgh Press (2021). Distinct articles appeared in 2020/21 with *European History Quarterly*, *Contemporary European History*, and the *Journal of Urban History*. Another article will appear in *German History* in early 2022. Initial reading and networking has commenced for his next book, *The Suffocating City*, and he is poised to begin archival and oral-history research on his sabbatical in AY 22/23. Demshuk has also begun planning joint conferences or publications with collaborating Leibniz partner institutions on the politics of urban space.

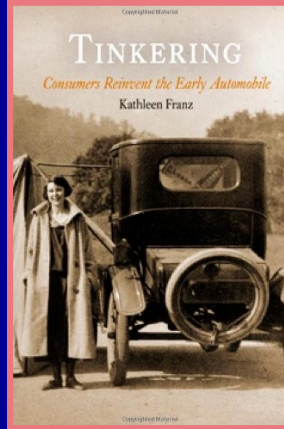
ANTON FEDYASHIN

Professor Fedyashin was visiting professor at the **Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO)** and **Qingdao University in China**. His article "'No End of a Lesson': The Boer War and British Espionage Fiction" will be published in the *Journal of South African History*. He continues to publish book reviews and to give numerous interviews on international relations to media outlets in Europe, Russia, China, and the US. He is currently working on his book *Superpower Subconscious: The Cold War and the Spy Novel*.

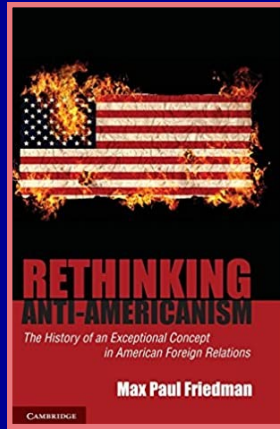
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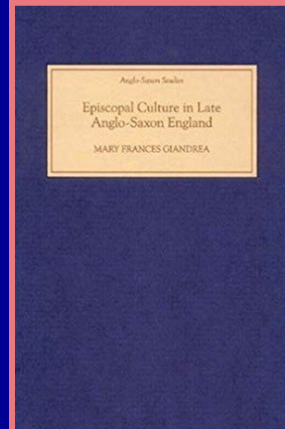
Eileen Findlay, *We are Left without a Father Here: Masculinity, Domesticity, and Migration in Postwar Puerto Rico*. Duke 2014



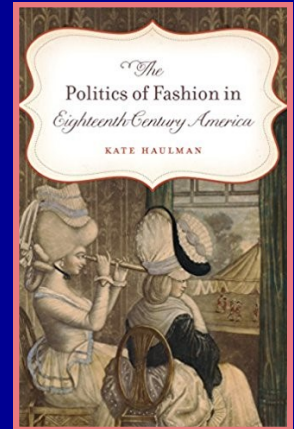
Kathleen Franz, *Tinkering: Consumers Reinvent the Early Automobile*. Cambridge 2013



Max Paul Friedman, *Rethinking Anti-Americanism: The History of an Exceptional Concept in American Foreign Relations*. Cambridge 2013



Mary Frances Giandrea, *Episcopal Culture in Late Anglo-Saxon England*. Boydell, 2007.



Kate Haulman, *The Politics of Fashion in Eighteenth-Century America*. UNC 2011.

EILEEN FINDLAY

Eileen Findlay remains very happy in her position as the **Chair of the new Department of Critical Race, Gender, and Culture Studies**. The CRGC has made great strides in the past year, including launching a **Latina/o/x Studies program** and a certificate in **Disability, Health, and Bodies** based in the American Studies program, as well as recruiting new colleagues Elizabeth Rule (Chickasaw Nation), Quynh Vo, Kirstie Dorr, Sara Kaplan (director of the Anti-Racist Research and Policy Center), and Ashely Tisdale (Diversity Post-doctoral Fellow). The CRGC is also engaged in a tenure-line search for a colleague in African-American and **African Diaspora Studies**. The CRGC is in many ways a sister department to History—Eileen and her colleagues are very thankful for all the intellectual and material support offered to them by the Department of History.

KATHLEEN FRANZ

Kathleen Franz opened the **landmark exhibition Girlhood (It's complicated)** that examines the historical construction of gender and how girls develop political consciousness by pushing at the boundaries of girlhood. The exhibit won the Smithsonian Secretary's Research Award for excellence in historical research (awarded December 2021). She also published an article about the exhibition in *The Public Historian* (2021) 43 (1): 138–163. In December 2020, the exhibition she and Kate Haulman curated titled, **All Work, No Pay: Women's Invisible Labor** also won the **Smithsonian Secretary's Research Award**. To date Franz is the only person to win this award in two consecutive years. She co-authored a set of edited oral histories with colleague Catherine Gudis on documenting the Covid-19 pandemic in the *Journal of American History*, Volume 107, Issue 3, December 2020, Pages 692–695, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jahist/jaaa455>. Finally, Franz piloted a new one-credit history class for undergraduates titled *The Dead Speak: History from Cemeteries*, which took students across Washington, DC to listen to past voices. This was tremendous fun and perhaps the best thing she's done in the last year.

MAX PAUL FRIEDMAN

In July 2020, **Max Paul Friedman** was named Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. His primary goal for the College is to navigate the intersecting crises of viral pandemic, financial decline, and long-overdue national reckoning with systemic racism in a way that allows us to **advance our values of inclusive excellence in scholarship** and teaching and our engagement with the community and the wider world.

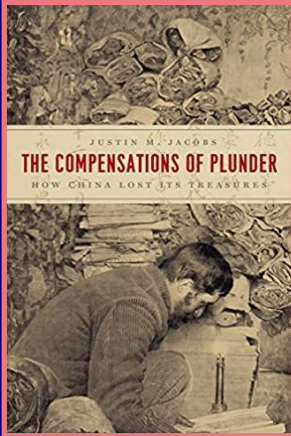
MARY FRANCES GIANDREA

Mary Frances Giandrea has been busy on several committees as American University seeks to reconfigure its core curriculum. A key feature of the new vision is to develop student's intellectual capabilities, while **expanding their perspective** and their ways of **knowing a complex world**. This year, Dr. Giandrea has been teaching courses on the History of Britain, the Crusades, the Vikings, Medieval Europe, Ancient Greece and Religion and Conflict in History.

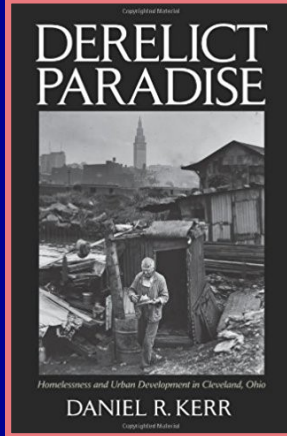
KATE HAULMAN

Kate Haulman was **named a Distinguished Lecturer** by the Organization of American Historians and her co-curated exhibit "All Work, No Pay: A History of Women's Invisible Labor in the Home" at the National Museum of American History **won the 2020 Smithsonian Institution's Secretary's Prize for Research**. She appeared in the **Smithsonian Channel documentary Behind the Holiday: Thanksgiving** and her book *The Mother of the Father: Mary Washington and the Revolutionary Past* is under contract with Oxford University Press.

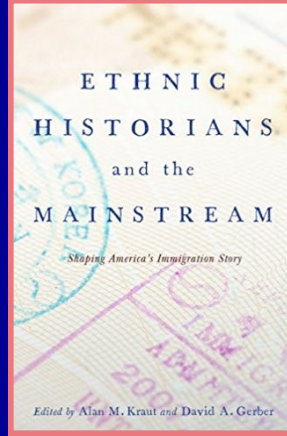
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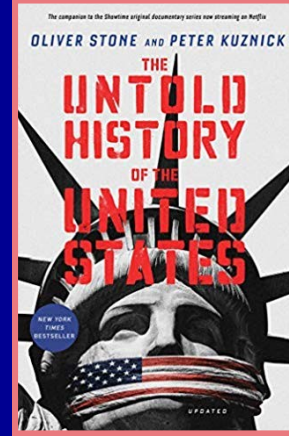
Justin M. Jacobs, *The Compensations of Plunder: How China Lost Its Treasures*. Chicago 2020.



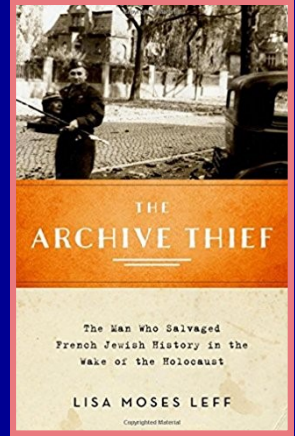
Daniel R. Kerr, *Derelict Paradise: Homelessness and Urban Development in Cleveland, Ohio*. UMass 2011.



Alan M. Kraut (with David A. Gerber), *Ethnic Historians and the Mainstream: Shaping America's Immigration Story*. Rutgers, 2013.



Peter Kuznick (with Oliver Stone), *The Untold History of the United States*. Simon & Schuster, NY, 2019



Lisa Leff, *The Archive Thief: The Man Who Salvaged French Jewish History in the Wake of the Holocaust*. Oxford 2015

JUSTIN JACOBS

Justin Jacobs' latest book, *The Compensations of Plunder: How China Lost Its Treasures* (2020), was translated into Chinese. He also completed the production of a 24-episode series for The Great Courses entitled "World Heritage Sites: Exploring the World's Greatest Places," which was released in March 2021.

DANIEL KERR

Dan Kerr served as **president of the Oral History Association** and directed the Humanities Truck Project. He received a \$100,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to do **emergency Covid-19 relief work** with the truck. In December he delivered an OAH Distinguished Lecture at the Minnesota History Center – "The Roots of **Present-Day Homelessness**." He published two articles, "Allan Nevins Is Not My Grandfather: The Roots of **Radical Oral History** Practice in the United States," and "'We're All Bozos on This Bus': An Oral History with Jeremy Brecher," in published *Radical Roots: Public History and a Tradition of Social Justice Activism*.

ALAN KRAUT

Alan Kraut lectured and gave interviews comparing the COVID -19 public health crisis to that of the **1918 Influenza Pandemic**. He served as a member of a working group at Oxford University considering the question, "How Do Epidemics End?" His paper was entitled "Medicalized Nativism and Epidemics in a Nation of Immigrants." In the aftermath of the storming of the Capitol last January, he addressed the **U.S. Capitol Historical Society** on "**Toward a More Perfect Union: Immigration in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries**." On the 100th Anniversary of the Second International Eugenics Congress, he spoke on "Eugenics and the Johnson-Reed Immigration Act of 1924." He had two book chapters accepted for publication, "**Mass Migration and Immigration Policy**," in Michael R. Cohen and Shari I Rabin, eds. *Oxford Handbook of American Jewish History* and "The Jews and Medicine in American Culture," in Jonathan Sarna and Adam Mendelsohn eds *American Jewish Culture, 1865-1914*. He recruited seventeen other scholars and filed three amicus curiae briefs in support of American Civil Liberties Union cases involving child migrants detained at the U.S.'s southern border and denied amnesty hearings on public health grounds. As chair of the History Advisory Committee of the **Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation**, he is leading the revision of the 30-year old exhibit in Ellis Island's National Museum of Immigration.

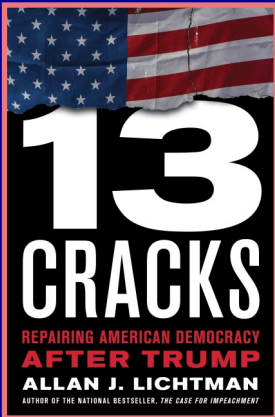
PETER KUZNICK

Peter Kuznick has been busying trying to save the world from various existential threats. In that capacity, he did almost 200 interviews around the world on topics ranging from **removal of Confederate monuments** and **the atomic bombings in WWII** to the **dangers of war between the U.S. and Russia** over Ukraine and U.S. and China over Taiwan and the South China Sea. He also gave numerous talks and webinars in the U.S. and overseas. He, Oliver Stone, and former Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama published a new book in Japanese titled *The Untold Postwar History of the U.S. and Japan*.

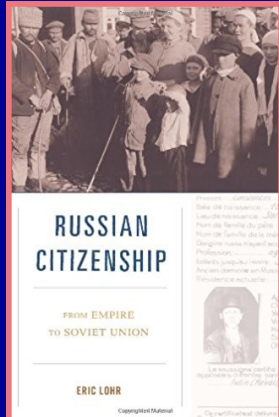
LISA LEFF

Lisa Leff continues her work as **Director of the Mandel Center**, the research arm of the **US Holocaust Memorial Museum**. She has presented her research in numerous zoom rooms over the past year, including at the Jewish Museum, the Museum of Jewish Heritage, Limmud Australia, and others. In June, she was elected a **fellow of the American Academy for Jewish Research**.

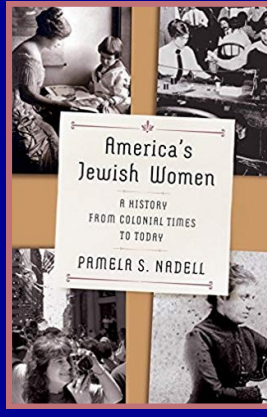
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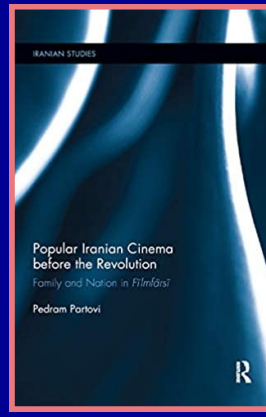
Allan Lichtman, *Thirteen Cracks: Repairing American Democracy after Trump*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers 2021.



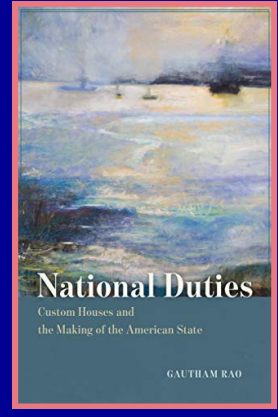
Eric Lohr, *Russian Citizenship: From Empire to Soviet Union, in the 1970s*. Harvard 2012.



Pamela Nadell, *America's Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today*. Norton 2019.



Pedram Partovi, *Popular Iranian Cinema before the Revolution: Family and Nation in Filmfarsi*. Routledge, 2019.



Gautham Rao, *National Duties: Custom Houses and the Making of the American State*. UChicago 2016.

ALLAN LICHTMAN

Professor Lichtman published *Thirteen Cracks: Repairing American Democracy After Trump*, (Rowman & Littlefield). Foreword Reviews called it “a thorough roundup on the threats to democracy that America faced in the past few years—and a useful road map for moving forward.” He testified against Florida’s law that compelled local law enforcement to participate in detainers by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Based on Dr. Lichtman’s testimony, a federal district court judge found that Florida had adopted the law with the intent to discriminate against minorities. He continued to publish op eds, and to provide interviews and commentary in print and broadcast media in the U.S. and worldwide.

ERIC LOHR

Eric Lohr's article “*Tsarism, Tsarist Autocracy, and the Russian Sonderweg*” was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Modern History*. He also published “*The Bolshevik Revolution is Over*” in the *Journal of Modern History* 92 (September 2020): 635-667. He is completing his sixth year as chair of the department and is writing a book titled *Russian Autocracy: Concepts and Practices*.

PAMELA NADELL

Pamela Nadell has joined the advisory board of *Exploring Hate: Antisemitism, Racism and Extremism*, PBS’s new media initiative about the roots and rise of hate around the world. She appeared in its program *Set the World on Fire: How Antisemitism Fuels White Nationalism*. C-SPAN Lectures in History broadcast her class lecture “Antisemitism between World War I and World War II,”

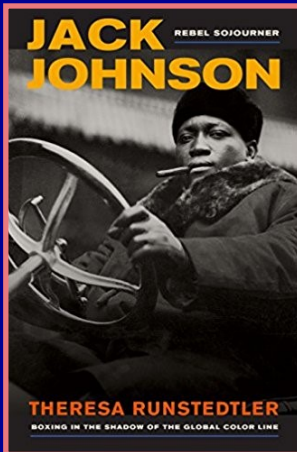
PEDRAM PARTOVI

In 2021, Pedram Partovi contributed a chapter to an edited volume entitled *Counter-memories in Iranian Cinema*, published by Edinburgh University Press. He also wrote an entry about Asghar Farhadi’s 2016 Oscar-winner *The Salesman* for the *Lexicon of Global Melodrama* (Frankfurt: Transcript Verlag). Finally, he completed a chapter on historical narratives of film industry collapse in late 1970s Iran, which will be published in Bloomsbury’s *Handbook of Iranian Cinema* in early 2022. He is currently working on an article about the subaltern consciousness of modern Iranians and presented an early version of it to the Iranian Studies Initiative at the University of Toronto in October.

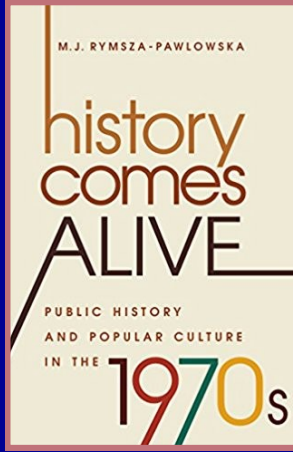
GAUTHAM RAO

Gautham completed his fourth year as Editor-in-Chief of *Law and History Review*, the leading journal of legal history which is published by Cambridge University Press. His essay, “*The Theory and Practice of Federalist Political Economy*,” was published in Max Edling et al., ed., *Washington’s Government: Charting the Origins of the Federal Administration* (University of Virginia Press, 2021). He continues to work on his current book project, *Runaway Slaves and the Making of the American Police State*. He has also begun work on a book about the history behind the hit television show, *The West Wing*.

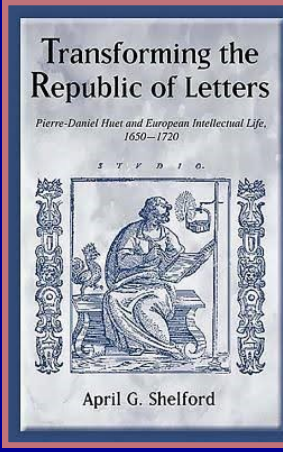
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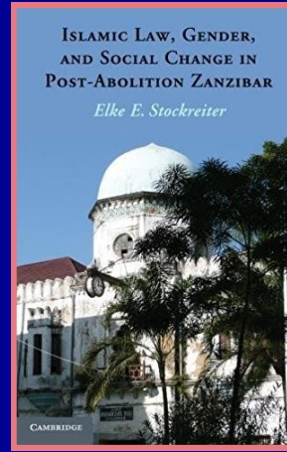
Theresa Runstedtler, *Jack Johnson, Rebel Sojourner: Boxing in the Shadow of the Global Color Line*. UCal 2013.



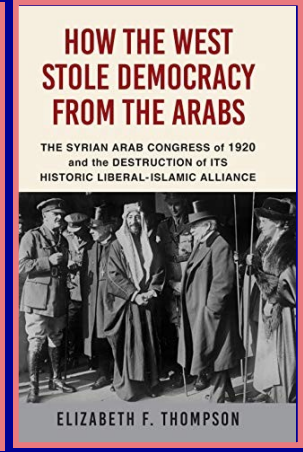
M.J. Rymsza-Pawlowska, *History Comes Alive: Public History and Popular Culture in the 1970s*. UNC 2017.



April G. Shelford, *Transforming the Republic of Letters: Pierre-Daniel Huet and European Intellectual Life, 1650-1720*. Boydell & Brewer, 2007



Elke Stockreiter, *Islamic Law, Gender and Social Change in Post-Abolition Zanzibar*. Cambridge 2015



Elizabeth Thompson, *How the West Stole Democracy from the Arabs: The Syrian Arab Congress of 1920 and the Destruction of Its Liberal-Islamic Coalition*. Atlantic Monthly 2020.

Theresa Runstedtler

Theresa Runstedtler is finishing up a trade book tentatively titled, *Black Ball: The Struggle for the Soul of Basketball in the 1970s*, to be published in 2023 by Bold Type Books (Hachette). In Spring 2021, she shared her research with the Sports & Society Reading Group at Washington University and was a panelist in the Sports History Lecture Series at Emory University. She also interviewed WNBA star **Tina Charles** about **basketball and activism** for the Museum of the City of New York and was nominated for an **AU award for Outstanding Performance or Innovation in Online Teaching**.

M.J. Rymsza-Pawlowska

M.J. Rymsza-Pawlowska spent the summer completing research for her new(ish) project (monograph plus exhibit in collaboration with DC History Center), *Going to Washington: A History of Tourists, Officials, Activists, and Militia* in the Nation's Capital. She also completed and submitted an invited chapter for an edited collection, "Time Capsules in the 20th Century" for the Routledge Handbook of Material Culture Studies (ed. Kristin Ann Hass) and completed substantive public facing administrative work as **Chair of the Program Committee** of the D.C. History Conference and as Series Editor for the National Council on Public History and National Park Service's 2021-2025 American Revolution 250th Commemoration Scholars' Forums. She also filmed a segment as a 'talking head' for a Netflix documentary on the 1970s hijacker D.B. Cooper, directed by Marina Zenovich and airing in March, 2022. In addition to this scholarly and public-facing work, she has been named to the Board of Directors of D.C. Humanities, an honor that recognizes her public history work in the city and her role as a leader in public-facing humanities here. Finally, she served on the National Council on Public History's Long-Range Planning Committee, and on the Organization of American Historian's Lawrence Levine Prize Committee.

April Shelford

Professor Shelford's book manuscript, "**A Caribbean Enlightenment**," is under consideration at a major academic press. She continues to present on this topic at academic conferences, including: "**Protest by Proxy: Saint-Domingue & the Stamp Act Crisis**," at the University of Toulon, France, March 2019; "More Estimable than Sloane? Patrick Browne's *Civil & Natural History of Jamaica* (1756)," at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, March 2021; & "Creating Enlightened Citizens: The Periodicals of Saint-Domingue in the 1760s," French/Francophone Enlightenment Workshop, Online, February 2021

Elke Stockreiter

To pursue her research interests in former **French West Africa**, Elke Stockreiter took up **learning Bambara**, the most widely spoken language in Mali. Thanks to a **Mellon Faculty Development Fund**, she has obtained elementary proficiency in speaking and reading Bambara. She worked on articles in English and French that are forthcoming and further contributed to AU Core by designing two new courses: a first-year Complex Problems Seminar titled "**Sex, Power, Human Trafficking**" and HIST-120 Empires Past & Present, in which she offers an introduction to colonial Africa through mostly primary sources.

Elizabeth Thompson

Professor Elizabeth F. Thompson published a book chapter this year in a volume on Islamic peace movements edited by Juan Cole of the University of Michigan. She was also honored by invitations to speak on her recent book, *How the West Stole Democracy from the Arabs* at Politics & Prose bookstore, at the annual Belton-Cooper lecture on military history at the University of Alabama, Birmingham; the annual Wadie Jwaideh memorial lecture at Indiana University, Bloomington; the Daoud Family annual lecture at Albion College; and at the Princeton University Near Eastern Studies Seminar.

AU Antiracist Research & Policy Center

Sara Clarke Kaplan is the New Executive Director of the AU Antiracist Research and Policy Center

www.american.edu/media/news/20200527-arpc-director.cfm

This summer, Professor Sara Clarke Kaplan was announced as the new executive director of American University's Antiracist Research and Policy Center. "As the nation continues the critical reckoning with structural racism, the work of the ARPC and the university's commitment to inclusive excellence are more important than ever," Acting Provost Peter Starr wrote in a memo to the AU community announcing Prof. Kaplan's appointment. "The Antiracist Research and Policy Center is a vital part of American University's commitment to growth in the areas of racial equity, reciprocal community relationships, and research for social change," Prof. Kaplan said. "The center's current leadership has built a new, expansive vision of antiracism, decoloniality, and intersectional justice that is both inspiring and incredibly exciting.

AU's Antiracist Research and Policy Center plays a vital role in faculty research on race and power and AU's ongoing work to eradicate racial and social injustice. From a joint fellowship with the White House Historical Association on the history of slavery in Washington, to collaborating in a public campaign with Chefs Stopping AAPI Hate, to a recent speaker series on global struggles for freedom, AU is building a unique hub for interdisciplinary, intersectional, and transnational scholarship and advocacy capable of addressing today's ongoing, urgent issues of social, racial and gender justice.

Addressing Antisemitism and Racism

www.american.edu/cas/news/distinguished-scholars-to-talk-about-antisemitism-in-series-of-virtual-conversations.cfm
<https://www.american.edu/cas/israelstudies/antisemitism-series.cfm> <https://www.american.edu/cas/js/>

Last Fall, Michael Brenner introduced a new course on the *History of Antisemitism*, introducing moderated discussion with eminent scholars of antisemitism and AU professors with such topics as "Antisemitism and Racism" and "The Deep Roots of Modern Anti-Judaism". The series is critically important during these difficult times. "Each week, sometimes each day, brings news of antisemitism at home and abroad. It takes many forms—violence, vandalism, and speech," says Pamela Nadell. "Understanding antisemitism today requires examining this hatred in the years since the Holocaust."

Widening the discussion, Pamela Nadell recently joined the advisory board of Exploring Hate: Antisemitism, Racism and Extremism, PBS's new media initiative about the roots and rise of hate around the world. She appeared in its program *Set the World on Fire: How Antisemitism Fuels White Nationalism*.

Recent Doctoral Dissertations

Lindsay MacNeill '20: *Professionalism and Brutality: The Viennese Police and the Public in Extraordinary Times, 1918-1955*.

Lindsay MacNeill is an Historian, Division of the Senior Historian at United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Alon Milwicki '19: *Baptizing Nazism: An Analysis of the Religious Roots of American Neo-Nazism*. Alon Milwicki is an Adjunct Professor of History at Texas A&M University

Jason Weixelbaum '18: *At the Crossroads of Facism: The Decision of Ford, General Motors, and IBM to Do Business with Nazi Germany*. Dr. Jason Weixelbaum is a writer, political commentator, researcher, and musician. He writes expert opinion for the Washington Post and elsewhere.

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