

NEWS



of the History Department at Boston University

October 2010

Diana Wylie publishes work on Tangier museum

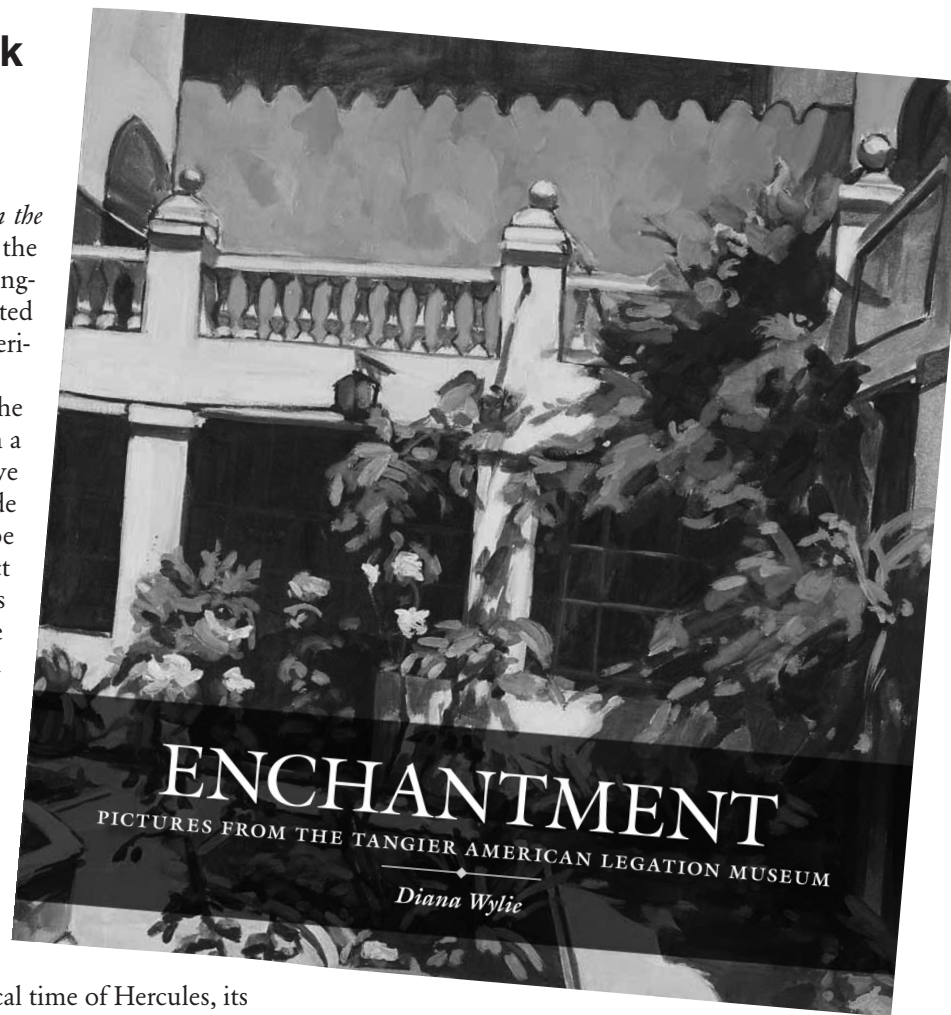
Diana Wylie's book *Enchantment: Pictures from the Tangier American Legation Museum* was launched at the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C., on September 29. The launch was hosted by the Moroccan embassy and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

The book jacket provides some background: "The Tangier American Legation Museum was born on a shoestring with serendipity and individual initiative as parents. The motives of the Americans who made the museum what it is today can perhaps be summed up as 'respect for tradition.' But respect for tradition doesn't explain everything. There's also the factor of enchantment. The beauty of the land makes it easy to appreciate, and Moroccan arts—tiles, carved and painted wood, stucco, metalwork—have also been a potent attraction. The pictures and objects in the museum vary in quality, but they all reflect the fascinated affection the place has long evoked in visitors, as well as in people who were born on this cusp of Africa."

The following excerpt is drawn from *Enchantment's* concluding chapter:

Tangier is a city of tall tales. Since the mythical time of Hercules, its denizens have devoted themselves to fabrication. They continue to do so, even though the professional storytellers are long gone from the Grand Socco. Partly because of this flair for fiction, the town drew Paul Bowles and his friends here after the Second World War, and they found it hard to leave. They heard fantastical as well as credible tales. One of the less credible stories they and others have told is that Morocco is a timeless place where one can go back to Biblical or feudal times. Is this idea of timelessness simply another myth?

Some of the artists in this book—Eugene Delacroix and James McBey come to mind—could not help drawing analogies between what they saw before their very eyes and ancient Roman or Old Testament characters. Paul Bowles confessed that the best thing about Tangier was "the feeling it gives of being in a pocket of suspended time and animation." American writer John Hopkins used similar language to explain why Bowles lived in Morocco: because it is situated between "the eternal nothingness of the Sahara" and the "timeless civilization of the Mediterranean." Truman Capote, too, found Tangier a "basin that holds you, a timeless place...." But, of course, no place actually stands apart from time, at least not if it is alive.



Introduction to

New Graduate Students

Each year we invite the incoming class of graduate students to introduce themselves in the pages of the newsletter. We are pleased to present those who entered the MA and PhD programs this fall:

Patrick Culhane



History, for me, has been a passion since high school. I was inspired by the social studies department there and have been studying history since. I graduated from the University of Massachusetts with my BA in the spring of 2008 and began teaching at the high school level the following autumn at Greater Lawrence Technical School in Andover, MA.

I am primarily interested in medieval European history, especially any conflicts between church and state. The Carolingians on-and-off relationship with the Church is of special interest to me, and I hope to be able to study events surrounding it at BU. I also enjoy the history of religion in general; I had a fantastic professor at UMass who made the topic come alive. I'm also interested in learning foreign languages, which comes with the territory of studying history; I took three semesters

of German at UMass and am currently learning Latin.

I chose Boston University because of its strong focus on European history, but it also has a well-rounded department that will be able to provide me with information from around the globe. I hope that BU will allow me to continue my studies at a much more focused level, and upon receiving my degree I will be much more competitive in applying for doctoral programs or I will be able to resume my career in post-secondary education.

Lilly Havstad



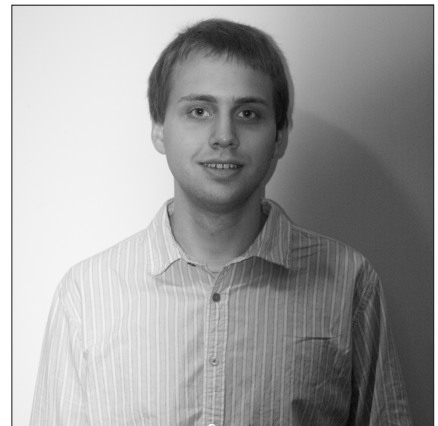
I am a first-year MA/PhD student in African history interested in understanding economic and social histories of contemporary social justice issues such as foreign economic aid, public health initiatives, and other applications of development in colonial and post-colonial Southern and West Africa. I am also interested in studying transnational history and Africa's relationships with other parts of the world, particularly the United States.

As an undergraduate student at the University of California, Davis, I spent

a year living in Durban, South Africa, where I attended the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Howard College, in 2006-07. I received my BA in history from UC Davis in 2008. At UKZN I focused on African historical studies and played for the women's varsity soccer team. South Africa became a real home away from home. I have traveled to other parts of Southern Africa, including Zambia, Swaziland, and Mozambique, and have also spent time in Senegal.

I have been awarded a FLAS Fellowship through the African Studies Center and have begun language training in IsiZulu. I am excited to be working with Professor Diana Wylie as my advisor and look forward to working with many of the BU faculty members in African studies and history. My passion for history, and for Africa, has brought me into this program, and I am excited to see where it will take me in the future.

Aaron Hiltner



I recently received my BA from Gustavus Adolphus College, where I studied US history and literature. I am interested in post-WWII American cul-

tural history and issues of race, masculinity, and identity. My decision to study history comes from my desire to understand our contemporary world and eventually to teach. I chose BU because of the department's commitment to cultural history and interdisciplinary scholarship. I plan to earn my MA and PhD, and then move into teaching after devoting some time to travel abroad. Hopefully, I will be able to return to India, where I spent part of the past academic year studying Buddhism and Tibetan culture.

Warren Hynson



Greetings, fellow history colleagues, I am excited and honored to join this distinguished department. I graduated from North Carolina State University in May 2009 with a BA in history and a minor in philosophy. My primary historical interests as an undergraduate revolved around European intellectual history. Following graduation, I became increasingly interested in 19th-century American intellectual history and was admitted to the PhD program at Boston University to study with Charles Capper.

While at NC State, I wrote my honors thesis on Friedrich Nietzsche and Franz Overbeck, a close friend and colleague of Nietzsche's at the University of Basel. My work focused on their criticisms of late 19th-century German popular and intellectual culture. I sought to demonstrate a reciprocal intellectual influence, which previous

scholarship had overlooked, in two texts they published simultaneously in 1873.

In my junior year, I presented at the third annual ACC Meeting of the Minds Conference at Florida State University. While there, I met students and professors actively engaged in research at each of the universities in the Atlantic Coast Conference and received valuable feedback and encouragement regarding my own work. This experience confirmed my interest in attending graduate school and pursuing a career in academia.

After graduation I served eleven months in AmeriCorps as an employment advisor with the North Carolina Employment Security Commission. My primary responsibility was to help older workers and ex-offenders find gainful employment. Serving with AmeriCorps was an enlightening experience and I continue to remain interested in matters pertaining to the advancement of social justice.

I look forward to working with and getting to know the faculty, staff, and fellow students of the department soon.

Aaron Knapp



I am delighted and honored to be joining the department as a PhD student this fall, and look forward to meeting and getting to know everyone here. After spending the last eight years working as a trial lawyer in San Francisco, I am returning to intellectual life

with a renewed commitment to historical scholarship, along with some interesting experiences to throw into the mix. I have my BA from the University of California at Berkeley, where I majored in rhetoric, and my JD from the University of Virginia School of Law, where I focused on constitutional law. In San Francisco, I practiced law in a broad range of substantive areas, including constitutional law, insurance and securities law, writing and speaking on a number of related topics. But it was in the evenings and on the weekends when I fed on the food that was mine alone—history! Over the past few years in particular, I have cultivated a deep passion for historical inquiry and writing, culminating in my decision to pursue graduate studies. I chose Boston University because of the department's exceptional strength and diversity in the area of United States intellectual history. The intercollegiate dynamism and historical richness of the Boston area were also significant factors in my decision to attend.

I will be studying the history of legal and constitutional thought, with an emphasis on the intellectual origins of American constitutionalism in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The themes I want to explore in this connection include the idea of factionalism in the constitutional imagination, ahistoricism in modern constitutional thought, and the changing faces



The following students passed foreign language examinations in September:

- Joel Pinsker: German
- Sarah Westwood: Pulaar

Andrew David has been named winner of the prize for the best paper written in HI 701 (*The Historian's Craft*), spring 2010.

of the concept of “balance” in the American political consciousness. Temperamentally, I am attracted to the works of Hofstadter, Trilling, Santayana, and Niebuhr; and, substantively, to the seminal works of Bailyn and Pocock, among others. In addition to gaining expertise in the field, my goals include participating in conferences and panels, publishing my own historical essays, and, above all, contributing in the most positive way I can to the intellectual culture of the department. I am hoping to work with Professors Capper and McConville.

Joel Pinsker



Philip Rotz



Katie Moore



I received my BA in economic history from Barnard College in 2009. I will be working in the field of early American history, within which my primary research interests include economy, race and gender, and early America in the Atlantic world. I am particularly interested in paper money in colonial America. For my undergraduate thesis I researched the early American economy using a backing theory framework to explain the diverse economic experiences of the colonies across time and space. I chose to pursue my PhD at Boston University for the opportunity to work with Professor Brendan McConville in early American history and for the wealth of research opportunities available in Boston within my field.

I came to history in a roundabout way, having studied English, philosophy, and German before obtaining my BA at Clark University in 2001. After a year as Fulbright fellow in Germany teaching high school English, I wandered around the corporate world a bit, from paralegal work to real estate to finance, all the while wondering if, when, and in what capacity I should return to academia.

The history of ideas and modern German-Jewish culture in late 19th- and early 20th-century Germany and Austria were of particular interest to me as an undergrad, and continued to be throughout and after my time in Germany. I decided that history is, for me, the ideal path for investigating the ways lives, language, identities, and national ideas intersected amid the political and social turmoil of the late modern period in the German-speaking world.

I entered the MA program in history at BU in 2010, and hope to continue on to a PhD. BU’s resources for the study of late modern European intellectual history and modern Jewish history are ideal for examining the ways assimilated German Jews imagined both their Jewishness and Germanness amid growing nationalist and reactionary trends, as well as the ways such minorities were imagined by others. I hope that such study will prove especially relevant in our increasingly globalized and heterogeneous world.

I completed my undergraduate studies in history at Eastern Nazarene College in 1999, including a stint as a visiting student at Keble College, Oxford. The following summer, I completed a seminar at Notre Dame with George Marsden and anticipated a prompt entry to a graduate program and promise of further study. I did not anticipate that it would be 10 years before I became a first-year graduate student.

At that time, my primary interests lay in African American history and the development of the protest tradition in the early part of the 20th century, particularly in weekly newspapers, like William Monroe Trotter’s *Boston Guardian*. The intervening years shaped my historical interests, in terms of both geography and themes.

In late 2000, I began working with the Educational Programs team at the (then) Harvard AIDS Institute at the Harvard School of Public Health. I relocated to Botswana two years later, when Botswana made a commitment to provide antiretroviral therapy (ART) to all citizens living with AIDS. This was an unprecedented undertaking and required several supporting programs, including ongoing training of health-care workers to prescribe the new medicines and effectively manage patients receiving therapy. From 2002 to 2007, I helped develop and operate KITSO, the Botswana Ministry of Health’s continuing education program for HIV/AIDS care and treatment.

In 2007, I joined the William J.

Clinton Foundation and moved to Johannesburg, South Africa. Until last month, I worked across several countries in Southern and East Africa assisting government laboratory leadership in strengthening national laboratory networks, training personnel, and the delivery of reliable testing services.

Over the last eight years I developed a keen interest in African history. This led me to apply to BU's history program based on the quality of the African history scholars on the faculty, their work in Southern Africa, and the presence of the African Studies Center and its African language program.

While my interests are broad, I am most interested in work on the development and management of national health systems in Southern Africa, medical education and the migratory patterns of doctors within the region, and health service delivery and how government ability—or inability—to deliver services affects citizen perceptions of legitimacy.

Brady Tully



My name is William “Brady” Tully, and I study United States history. I graduated from Oberlin College in 2009 after majoring in both history and philosophy. As a historian, I am interested in Tocqueville’s “associations,” and how group entities have wielded power in America to cause change.

Having lived in the Midwest and on the West Coast, I have always had a vague fascination with New England as

a source of American culture, patriotism, and historic narration. A desire to experience America in America led me to Boston University. My favorite working definition of history, one that explains my interest in history as an academic discipline, was provided to me just yesterday by Professor Wylie: “History is philosophy with the facts left in.”

As a graduate student, I hope to position myself as a competitive applicant for teaching in secondary schools and evaluate whether or not I would thrive in pursuing a doctorate in the future.

Benjamin Twagira



Before I decided that history is the subject I am most passionate about, I was a graduate student of journalism and mass communication at the University of Wisconsin. At the time, I wanted to study the role of the mass media in Rwanda (I am from there) and, in particular, the 1994 genocide, but over time I discovered that I was most passionate about historical explanations of violence. For my MA thesis I read oral traditions from pre-colonial Rwanda to understand how state actors legitimized state-based violence, especially when such violence targeted the elite and powerful people. I received my MA in 2008 and moved to New Jersey, where I lived with my wife, Laura Ann. During this time I also worked for the New York Public Library as an in-house researcher for the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

When I decided to pursue a PhD in African history, I also wanted to broaden my vision of focus to include the greater East African region, and possibly to undertake a comparative research project. Boston University is a perfect place to pursue my interests, because of its excellent program in African history and an African Studies Center that is configured to support an inter- and/or cross-disciplinary academic program. ◆



On October 16 graduate student **Michael McGuire** will present a paper—entitled “Making Major Differences Minor: American NGOs, French Refugees, and Reconstructing the Ravages of War, 1917-1920”—at the New England Historical Association on the University of New England’s campus. The following week he will be presenting another paper—“Cultural consonance, not dissonance: American charity, French culture, and American non-governmental aid to French civilian refugees, 1914-1924”—at the Western Society for French Historians 38th Annual Conference (Lafayette, Louisiana).

Professor **James Schmidt’s** “Cenotaphs in Sound: Catastrophe, Memory, and Musical Memorials” is now available online in the Proceedings of the European Society for Aesthetics (<http://proceedings.eurosa.org/?p=1>). The paper, presented in Udine, Italy, in May 2010, examines the peculiar status of musical compositions (including works by John Foulds, Arnold Schoenberg, Steve Reich, and John Adams) that were written as memorials for victims of political violence and explores the differing ways in which such works confront issues having to do with history and memory. The paper will serve as a point of departure for his October 20 depart-

ment seminar.

Professor **Jonathan Zatlin** has been named to a three-year term on the selection committee for the newly established Ralph Gomory Prize of the Business History Conference. Made possible by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Gomory Prize recognizes historical work on the effect business enterprises have on the economic conditions of a country in which they operate. Two prizes of \$5000 are awarded annually, one for a book and the second for an article.

Professor **Thomas Glick** attended a meeting on “Darwin in Communication” at Peking University, Beijing, August 26-28, where he delivered a talk titled “Darwin by Telegraph: Newspaper Coverage of Darwin’s Death (1882) and the Scopes Trial (1925) in Spain, Uruguay, and the United States.”

Graduate student **François Lalonde** will present a paper titled “Nuclear Policy, Nuclear Politics: The Atlantic Alliance and the Atom, 1957-1963” at the 17th Annual Tri-University History Conference in Waterloo, Ontario, on October 16.

Professor **Andrew Bacevich** published book reviews in *The Nation* and *Raritan* and made presentations at MIT, UMass-Lowell, Villanova, and the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs.

Professor **Allison Blakely** partici-

pated in the Trans-Atlantic Minority Political Leadership Conference held at the European Parliament in Brussels June 1-2, co-sponsored by the United States Helsinki Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament. In an unrelated development, on August 5 he was nominated by President Obama to serve on the National Humanities Council, pending approval by the US Senate. ♦

NOTES ON SPRING 2011 COURSES

The registration period for spring 2011 classes begins on November 3 for graduate students and on November 7 for undergraduates. The department will have special advising appointments available beginning October 21 and continuing through November 10 (after that period students may see faculty members during their regular office hours). History concentrators and graduate students may call the office (353-2551) or stop in (226 Bay State Road, Room 308) to make an advising

appointment. After an appointment, a student should go to the department office to obtain the code for Web registration. The procedure for admission to restricted classes will be as follows: For HI 200 (limited to history concentrators, social studies majors in the School of Education, and students in the College of General Studies who intend to become history majors) students must contact the department office in person or by phone. For colloquia (400- and 500-level courses) students first see the instructor and then visit the department office, where the registration is handled by computer. Permission slips for admission to colloquia will be accepted beginning October 4. The department will maintain a waiting list for any of the restricted courses that reach their enrollment limit; students may sign up for waiting lists by calling the office or going to the “Courses” section of the History website.

Below are notes on new or changed courses for spring 2011:

■ **CAS HI 280: History of Israel.** Visiting Professor Nahshon Perez will teach this course. The description is as follows: Beginning with Israel’s creation in 1948, this course covers the political and military history of Israel, including the 1956 War with Egypt, the 1967 War, and the State’s development to the present day. It also covers immigration and the Palestinian



Graduate student Kathryn Lamontagne and Richard Sands were married at Chelsea Registry Office, London in April of this year. The convalidation of their marriage took place September 11 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Fall River, Massachusetts, followed by a reception at Bittersweet Farm, Westport. In attendance were BU History grad students past and present: An Verscuren, Ellen Horrow, Eliana Lipsky, David Mislin, and David Atkinson.

question.

■ **CAS HI 382: History of Religion in Pre-Colonial Africa.** Professor John Thornton will teach this new course (still in the approval process). It offers a study of the development of religious traditions in Africa during the period prior to European colonialism. An emphasis on both indigenous religions and the growth and spread of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in the continent as a whole.

■ **CAS HI 428: Postwar European Culture.** Although not a new course, this colloquium has not been offered for over a decade. It covers selected topics in western European culture since 1945, including the legacy of war, the impact of economic recovery, the press, colonialism and its critics, new departures in literature and film, the decline of Marxism, attitudes toward America. Robyn Metcalfe is the instructor.

■ **CAS HI 575: The Birth of Modern America, 1896-1929.** This new class covers the political, economic, social, and cultural history of the United States in the formative years of the early twentieth century. Topics include Progressivism, World War I, immigration, modernism, the Scopes Trial, suffrage, the Harlem Renaissance, and the emergence of modern business practices. Paul Schmitz is the instructor.

■ **GRS HI 719: Readings in European History.** Simon Rabinovitch will offer this graduate seminar on "Nations and National Questions in the Soviet Orbit." In recent years the persistence of national identity under communism has become a major concern for scholars seeking to explain ethnic strife today, from the Balkans to Uzbekistan. In the process, the Soviet Union has been labeled a giant "communal apartment," an "affirmative action empire," and an "empire of nations." The class will try to determine which, if any, of these monikers holds water, looking briefly at how communists and socialists in the early twentieth century viewed nationalism and national movements. For the majority of the semester, however, the class will examine how communist regimes, most importantly (but not exclusively) the Soviet Union, dealt with nationalities and national movements both inside and beyond their borders, during times of both peace and war.

■ **GRS HI 745: Readings in Early American History.** Another readings class to be taught in the spring semester, Brendan McConville, instructor. ◆



Professor Thomas Glick being awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Valencia, Spain, this past June.

Brian Casady wins fellowship

Graduate student Brian Casady received a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship for research on his dissertation, titled "An African City's Metabolism: A History of Energy, Environment, and Priority in Colonial and Post-Colonial Nairobi, 1900-2000."

The funding provides for travel and residence in Nairobi, Kenya, for the academic year 2010-11. His project will use an examination of Nairobi's energy history to explore and illustrate the interrelation between social priorities and environmental change. The project takes the built and natural elements of Nairobi's energy infrastructure as key historical sources, combining these with more traditional archival and oral sources in order to explore the social and environmental implications of the birth and growth of East Africa's largest city from 1900, when the town was gazetted, to the end of the twentieth century.

Department Seminar

October 20, 12 noon

Room 504, 226 Bay State Road

James Schmidt

Professor of History and
Political Science,
Boston University

will speak on

"Centophs in Sound:
Catastrophe, Memory, and
Musical Memorials"

Supported by the Boston University Humanities Foundation

International History Institute

Fate of Empires Series:
"Algeria's FLN and the Lure of Moderation"

Barnett Singer, Associate Professor of History at Brock University (Ontario, Canada), will discuss the FLN and the Algerian war for independence against France.

12:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 9, Room 504, 226 Bay State Road

Summer 2010 saw the publication of two edited books by Professor Houchang Chehabi, who offers some background to these collections:

■ *Persian Literature and Judeo-Persian Culture: Collected Writings of Sorour S. Soroudi*

This volume contains the collected articles of Sorour Sarah Soroudi (1938-2002), lecturer in modern Persian literature and history at the Hebrew University for over three decades. I saw Soroudi only once, at a conference of the Societas Iranologica Europaea in Cambridge, England, in 1995. We hit it off immediately and stayed in touch. In 2002 news of her sudden death made the rounds in cyberspace; only ten days earlier I had received an upbeat e-mail message from her in which she wrote excitedly about her future projects. I felt that outside Israel she had not received the recognition and exposure that she deserved. One reason was that her seminal dissertation on the Persian poetry of the constitutional era had never been published as a book, another that her articles had appeared in hard-to-find journals and edited volumes. It was then that I decided to collect her articles and publish them as a book.

■ *Iran's Constitutional Revolution: Popular Politics, Cultural Transformations, and Transnational Connections* (co-edited by Vanessa Martin)

In the summer of 2006 I was a co-convenor of an international conference organized at the University of Oxford to commemorate the centenary of Iran's Constitutional Revolution. My most important contribution to the meeting was the inclusion of a number of papers that examined the transnational ramifications of the event. These were felt not only in Iran's neighboring countries but as far as Egypt and China, while Irish nationalists took a great interest in developments and supported the constitutionalists against the forces of reaction. The volume's 23 articles examine a wide range of hitherto neglected issues in political, social, intellectual, cultural, and international history of the constitutional era (1905-1911).

