

THE PRESENCE OF THE PAST



**BU HISTORY
DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER**

**MAY
2022**

FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

NINA SILBER, PROFESSOR AND CHAIR

Dear friends of the BU History Department,

I write to you as we wrap up a busy and challenging year. All of our faculty and teaching fellows worked hard this past year to adjust to “pandemic teaching” but we all remain hopeful that some of the restrictions of 2021-2022 - like masking and testing - will be behind us when we begin the 2022-2023 academic year.

As you'll see, this newsletter is brimming with the significant accomplishments of our faculty, graduate students, undergraduates and alumni. You'll see some innovative pedagogy on display, especially in the spotlight on Professor Phil Haberkern's “What is Europe” course and Professor Sarah Phillips' new course, “Alternative America”. You'll see, too, references (and links!) to the exciting new scholarship which our students and faculty are engaged in. We were also overjoyed to be able to hold several in-person conferences this past spring, something that had been impossible for the preceding two years. This included the re-gathering of scholars who comprise the BoCa LonGa consortium (Boston, California, London, and Georgia) as well as the “Critical University Studies” conference that brought together an exciting array of scholars from around the country addressing topics related to the legacies of slavery and settler colonialism at US universities.

Having completed two successful faculty searches this past year, we are also thrilled to welcome two new Assistant Professors to our department next academic year. One is Dr. Rui Hua, a historian of modern China and transnational Asia. The other is Dr. David Glovsky, a historian of modern West Africa. Look for more detailed profiles of both Professors Hua and Glovsky in the September newsletter.

Since it's graduation season, we'll also be saying good-bye to many undergraduates who have become important members of the History community. This includes our two undergraduate prize-winners (and commencement speakers), Catherine Devlin and Sebastian Porreca and two of our long-term office assistants, Quinn Chappelle and Peyton Coel. We wish them, and everyone in the History class of 2022, best wishes and great success!

Finally, I want to offer my thanks and appreciation to Professor James Johnson who will be taking my place, as of this July, as History Department Chair. I've been honored to work with colleagues and staff and students for these past two years. And, of course, I'd be remiss without offering extra thanks to History Department Administrator Cady Steinberg for helping me – and all of us – navigate the sometimes choppy waters of the last couple of years.

Nina Silber,
Chair and Professor, BU History Department



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Paula Austin won the Gerald and Deanne Gitner Family Undergraduate Teaching Prize in History. This award is given to one faculty member yearly for excellence in instructing the department's students. Austin was also awarded the BU Center for the Humanities Junior Faculty Fellowship for Spring 2023.

Brooke Blower edited the third volume of the Cambridge History of America in the World (CHAW). It is now available and can be found online [here](#).



Arianne Chernock (pictured above) was promoted in early March from associate professor to full professor of History. She also was selected to serve as Associate Dean of the Faculty for Social Sciences, beginning in July 2022.

Additionally, Chernock wrote a review in the Times Literary Supplement on Peter Doggett's book, "Growing Up: Sex in the Sixties." Read the full review [here](#). Chernock also published an article, "A Simple and Rather Tender Thing? Laurence Housman's Victoria Regina in 1930s Britain and America." It is available to read [here](#), in the Twentieth Century British History journal of the Oxford Academic. Chernock wrote another piece for NBC's Think Column. Read the article titled, "Queen Elizabeth II's

Platinum Jubilee highlights 70 years of quiet boundary pushing," [here](#). Lastly, Chernock was named and quoted in [this](#) article in the New York Times, "Royal Nod for 'Queen Camilla' Caps Years of Image Repair."

David Glovsky has been named an ACLS Centennial Fellow in the Dynamics of Place beginning January 2023. ACLS, or American Council of Learned Societies, is a non-profit federation of 78 scholarly organizations and strongly supports scholarship in the humanities and related sciences. Glovsky's project focuses on Alternative Geographies: Mobility, Citizenship and Autonomy in a West African Borderland. Read more about his work with the scholarship [here](#).

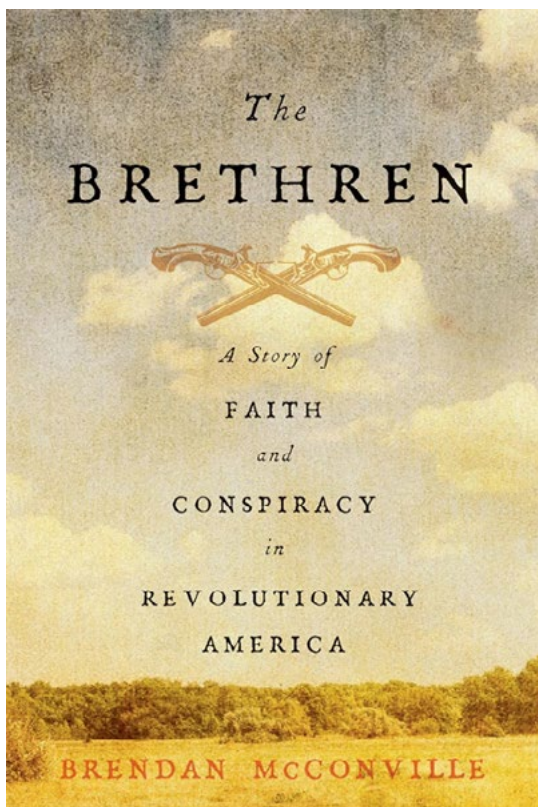
James Johnson was selected to serve as the next chair of the History Department, to begin in Fall 2022. Johnson first came to BU in 1990 and his research and courses focus on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century France, the history of Venice, and music history. In addition to his work as a professor in the history department, Johnson has held administrative roles as Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Director of its Core Curriculum.

Eugenio Menegon (on leave at [Villa I Tatti](#) in Florence) chaired a session at the Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting in Dublin (Ireland) on "[The image of Confucius in the writings of Catholic missionaries between the 17th and 18th Centuries.](#)" Three junior Italian scholars (A. Tosco, R. De Gruttola, and A. Magnani) presented their recent research on biographies of Confucius written for the European public in the early modern period, and the political-religious agendas behind those representations. The panel was sponsored by the [China Christianity Studies Group \(CCSG\)](#), for which Prof. Menegon is representative at the RSA.

James McCann has been invited to serve on the Program Committee for the International Congress of Environmental History Organizations (ICEHO) for their meeting in Uruu, Finland in 2024. This appointment follows his role on the board of the American Society for Environmental History, service on the editorial board of the journal *Environmental History*; he was awarded the Distinguished Scholar prize for that organization in 2014.

McCann also gave a paper in honor of the late Mary Beaudry, Professor of Archaeology at a symposium on April 20: “Pots, Pans, and Stills: The Fate of Ancient Millets in the Age of Maize”

Brendan McConville published a book (pictured below) entitled *The Brethren: A Story of Faith and Conspiracy in Revolutionary America*, with Harvard University Press. The book was a finalist for the best book of the year prize given by the *Journal of the American Revolution*.



Simon Payaslian presented a paper entitled “The Origins of Armenian Nationalism in the United States and the American Armenian Press (1880s-1920s),” at the 31st Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism ([ASEN](#)), April 5-7, 2022, Antwerp, Belgium.



Andrew Robichaud was featured in [this](#) BU Today article titled, “Tracing the History of New England’s Ice Trade: BU history professor studies long-gone industry, and how climate change would have made it virtually impossible today.”

Benjamin Siegel was one of three faculty recipients of this year’s Templeton Award for Excellence in Student Advising and Mentoring, given by CAS.

Nina Silber was the featured speaker in April at Skidmore College’s bi-annual Kuroda Seminar, named in honor of former Skidmore American Studies Professor Tad Kuroda. Prof. Silber spoke about the memory of Abraham Lincoln during the New Deal era and also provided commentary on several undergraduate papers at a symposium honoring student writing. Previous Kuroda lecturers have included David Blight, Jill Lepore, and Gordon Wood.

Also in April, Silber joined a conversation with Civil War scholar Barbara Gannon at the Massachusetts Historical Society, focused on Professor Gannon’s investigation into Florida’s largest Civil War battlefield site, and the controversy surrounding its commemoration.

COURSE SPOTLIGHT

PHILLIP HABERKERN – HI 191: WHAT IS EUROPE?



A Simple Question?

This course is centered on a seemingly simple question: what is Europe? But when you start trying to answer this question, it quickly becomes complicated. Where does Europe end in the east? Are Russia and Turkey (to name just two possibilities) part of this continent, and who gets to decide who belongs? Seemingly every international agency has a different idea of what countries comprise Europe, and then there's the question of whether or not it even IS a continent – or just a projection from the Eurasian landmass.

In order to answer its titular query, this course explores three moments when Europeans entered into sustained periods of cultural contact and conflict with new peoples. The first of these examines European encounters with the Ottoman Turks in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; the second explores the ramifications of the European

“discovery” of the Americas; while the third assesses European colonialism in nineteenth- and twentieth-century sub-Saharan Africa. In each of these cases, European explorers, intellectuals, artists, and authors were forced to re-examine their collective assumptions about their cultural identities in light of their engagement with foreign cultures; they were also forced to evaluate whether or not the legacies of classical and Christian antiquity had provided them with the tools to understand a constantly expanding and increasingly complex world.

Rethinking the Introductory Course

Beyond its exploration of what it meant to be European in a succession of tumultuous eras in history, this course is also intended to introduce students to the variety of sources and media that historians use to construct their interpretations of the past. To do so, this course eschews the “coverage model” that many survey courses employ in favor of an “uncoverage” approach to pedagogy. But what does that mean? Essentially, it means that students engage throughout the course in constructing their own narratives and interpretations of sources with the guidance of their professor and TF through in-depth investigations of smaller slices of history. By critically examining how maps, diplomatic correspondence, fantastic travel literature, photographs, postcards, novels, and films (to name just a few genres) can all be used as the raw material for historical interpretation, students work collaboratively to create their own narratives. By acting as historians, students learn to look beyond the received wisdom of a textbook or a professor's lecture in order to confront the challenges of making sense of a historical record that is often incomplete, contradictory, or seemingly hopelessly biased.

The Benefits of Backward Design

It is worth mentioning that this course underwent a major redesign in 2021 in order to have it carry new Hub credits. Beginning with the desired Hub outcomes (Teamwork/Collaboration, Digital/Multimedia Expression, and Global Citizenship and Intercultural Literacy), the assessments for this course were completely reimaged to focus on digital workshops conducted during discussion section meetings. During these workshops, student small groups work together to produce web pages analyzing early modern maps, woodcuts of Amerindian cultures, medieval travel literature, and the Valladolid debate of 1550. These pages all build towards a final project in which the small groups create a virtual exhibition based on the life of a “historical” character they create. Whether a conquistador in sixteenth-century Peru, a Venetian ambassador to Istanbul, or a missionary couple working in nineteenth-century Lesotho, these figures acquire a biography and come to be surrounded by objects and images that illuminate their cultural context. In creating these exhibits, students reflect on how their characters embody certain attributes and attitudes emblematic of their contemporary European identities; they also have a chance to explore how the lived experience of these figures might have undermined or problematized those identities as well.

In structuring the course based on the desired outcomes for student learning, rather than a set body of content to cover, HI 191 embodies the concept of “backward design” pioneered by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe. In this model, lectures, discussions, and student assessments are all determined by their contribution to the desired outcomes for students, with successive assignments scaffolded atop what has come before. For this introductory course, the ultimate goal is for students to understand

both the variety of sources that historians employ to construct their interpretations of the past and the ways in which collaboration and the integration of multiple genres can enrich those interpretations.

(Top image) Map of Tenochtitlan from 1524 ed. of Hernán Cortés, Cartas de Relacion

(Bottom image) Europa Regina Map, c. 1537



HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION

HGSO had a great Spring semester full of professional development events and social events! Writing workshops with Rachel Monsey and Meredith Barber, two of our PhD students, have provided great opportunity for peer discussion and revision of academic papers. Our “How-To-Orals” panel with panelists Kacie Harris, Elizabeth Grumer, Henry Tonks, and Courteney Smith allowed our post-orals PhD Candidates to share tips, tricks and advice on how to complete the qualifying examinations. First Friday study sessions provided a guided and focused environment for graduate students to complete work together as well as a space to socialize and get to know each other better.

We put together some great social events, including ice skating at Time Out Market and a trip to Rockport, Massachusetts where we got to enjoy the warm spring weather! We continued to strengthen our relationship with the American Studies program, and will be joining them for an end-of-year picnic on BU Beach towards the end of the semester.

We have maintained the amazing resources established by our predecessors, including the lending library and communal google drive, which have helped to provide resources for graduate students new and old. If you have any resources you would like to contribute to either of these efforts, please continue to let us know!

-- Keara Sebold



Charley Binkow won a 2022 Boston University Center for the Humanities fellowship. The BUCH award is given to outstanding students in the humanities, and doctoral candidates nearing the end of their graduate work receive competitive fellowships for the following academic year.

Jamie Grischkan successfully defended her dissertation on April 7th, 2022. Moving forward, Grischkan will begin as an Associate Professor of Law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University in the fall of 2022. She will teach Contracts, Business Associations, and Legal History.

Elizabeth Hameeteman officially graduated from the History PhD program on January 25, 2022. [Environmental History Now](#), a platform launched by Hameeteman in 2018, won the [2022 Public Outreach Project Award](#) of the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH). Environmental History Now showcases the environmental-related work and expertise of graduate students and early career scholars who identify as women, trans and/or nonbinary people from around the world, in different languages, and representing work from various fields.

Jeanna Kinnebrew won the Shotwell fellowship, an award that assists History PhD students in their final year of dissertation writing. This award has been generously funded by an alumni of the History PhD program.

Rachel Monsey won the 'Departmental Outstanding TF Award' this year. She also started a PhD internship in the Social Sciences at Partners in Health.

Keara Sebold will hold a summer 2022 PhD Internship in the Humanities at the Boston Symphony Orchestra. There, she will be an archival assistant, cataloging the Doriot Anthony Dwyer collection and assisting with reference requests and exhibit preparation.

Tom Sojka published a review article in the Los Angeles Review of Books about Christopher Hilliard's book A Matter of Obscenity. Tom's full review can be found [here](#).

Henry Tonks was awarded this year's Gerald and Deanne Gitner Family Undergraduate Teaching Prize in History. It is awarded to one faculty member and one teaching fellow each year for excellence in instructing the department's students.

Congratulations to the following PhD Candidates who completed their orals during the 2021-2022 academic year:

- Elizabeth Grumer**
- Rachel Monsey**
- Tristan New**
- Cole Parker**
- Gregory Tirenin**

as well as the following graduate students who earned both short-term and long-term Graduate Research Abroad Fellowships (GRAF) during the upcoming academic year:

- Stan Debruyn**
- Elizabeth Grumer**
- Ethan Key**
- Courteney Smith**

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The Undergraduate History Association (UHA) welcomes any and all undergraduate students with an interest in history. A student-run organisation, we are a space to express and exercise members' passion for history. General weekly meetings and special monthly meetings give members the opportunity to conduct presentations, attend lectures by BU professors, participate in trivia nights and go on historical excursions. Most recent UHA events include presentations on Antarctic Exploration, Formula 1 races and Organised Labour in Massachusetts, as well as a field trip to Concord, MA. As tradition in April, we hosted our Annual Conference: Disruption and Destruction with four members presenting their research. More events have been planned for the upcoming year by the newly elected E-board, which includes Sinan Bruce, Saanya Kanwar, James Brine and Nico Iannacone.

-- UHA E-Board

PHI ALPHA THETA

Phi Alpha Theta is a national history honors society whose members demonstrate excellence and dedication to studying history at the college level. The History Department sponsors BU's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, Delta Mu. Members of this student-run group gather several times per semester for history-themed events. This semester the group held several events and continued to grow their ranks. They welcomed into the chapter fourteen new members, including the first graduate student to join BU's PAT chapter in recent memory. The 2021-22 e-board consist of Catherine Devlin, Priscilla Bright, Noah Kunkel-Smith, and Leah Schwartz. Elections for the 2022-23 e-board will be held before the end of the spring semester.

-- Andrew David

Lindsay Boudreau (CAS International Relations; History Minor '23) was one of two Pardee School students selected to represent BU at the 2022 U.S. Naval Academy's Foreign Affairs Conference which took place in early April. This conference had representation from 27 different nations, dozens of colleges around the U.S., and students of the U.S. service academies. They discussed how to align American interests and values with allies in our increasingly multipolar world.

Additionally, Lindsay has been an intern at the International Institute of New England (a nonprofit that resettles immigrants and refugees in Massachusetts and New Hampshire) working as the Community Services and Resettlement Intern last semester and the Business Development Intern this spring. This summer, Lindsay will be interning at the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth, a non-profit dedicated to educating the American public on international affairs and supporting international partnerships.

Peyton Coel (CAS History and International Relations '22) committed to Trinity College Dublin following her graduation this May. Peyton will continue to study International Politics in pursuit of her MSc.

Catherine Devlin (CAS History '22) won a Fulbright Scholarship to the University of

Glasgow Masters' Program in Gender History. Catherine was also selected as the recipient of this year's College Prize, awarded to undergraduates who have had a significant impact in the History Department and at Boston University.

Sebastian Porreca (CAS History '22) was selected as the recipient of this year's Ault Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement in History.

Simone Seiner (CAS History '24) was selected to hold a summer 2022 Undergraduate Internship in the Humanities at Brattle Film Foundation. Simone is excited to bring history to a wider audience, and to learn some relevant skill sets.

Alexander Smith (CAS History '23) received the Alice M. Brennan Humanities Award from the Boston University Center for the Humanities, which each year recognize a number of students in the humanities through student awards and fellowships.

Emily Yoder (CAS History and Comparative Literature '24) wrote a paper for a BU History course that will be published in *The Journal of Dress History* this spring. Her piece is titled "The Not-So-New Woman: Ancient Egyptian Influence in the Fashion and Beauty of the Flapper, 1917-1922."



Students in HI 190: History of Boston with Professor Bruce Schulman on their walking tour of the city of Chelsea

UNDERGRAD PROFILES

CATHERINE DEVLIN, CAS '22

What has been your favorite History class at BU?

Four-way tie (and this took a lot of narrowing down as it is!): I credit Race in America with Prof. Silber and Prof. Matthews (EN) for solidifying my decision to be a history major by introducing me to the magic of archival research. In Historian's Craft with Prof. Johnson I pushed myself the most intellectually out of any class I've taken at BU. We had two major projects: an oral history and an archival-based paper, and I found it incredibly exciting to be producing "real" history as an underclassman. The Twentieth Century American Presidency with Prof. David deserves a mention because it completely reframed how I think about the presidency, and (beyond that) it was so much fun. I frequently reference interesting trivia that I learned from that class. Finally, Post-War America with Prof. Schulman was not only fascinating in content, but introduced me to new kinds of historical writing, with projects including an op-ed, a podcast episode pitch, and a digital museum. Working with different kinds of outputs greatly improved my love of (and capacity for) history. I honestly could keep going! I have had almost entirely positive experiences in the BU history department.



What advice do you have for students considering a major or minor in History?

Take a wide variety of history classes! When you are looking at syllabi, keep an eye out for not only content but projects. There are so many ways to do history beyond traditional research papers. Also, meet as many professors as you can. I am so amazed by the kindness and brilliance of BU's history faculty, and I always wish I had gotten to know everyone in the department!

If you could have dinner with any historical figure who would it be?

Phyllis Wheatley! I have enjoyed her poetry for years, and I recently read Alice Walker's "In Search of our Mothers' Gardens" which ignited in me a desire to give her more space to share her story. What better place than over dinner?

What topic are you researching in your Honors Seminar?

I am writing the first biography on twentieth century peace activist Rose Dabney Forbes. In doing so, I examine how biographical norms favor male stories.

Tell us about your Fulbright Scholarship!

I received funding to pursue a Master's Degree in Gender History at the University of Glasgow. The title of my Fulbright application was "The Future is Female, but so is the Past." I hope to continue my investigation into the women's peace movement and how we remember women, both within and outside of the academy.

UNDERGRAD PROFILES

SEBASTIAN PORRECA, CAS '22

Where are you from?

I am from the beautiful city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania!

What inspired you to become a History major?

Ever since I was a small child, I was always really interested in history, and loved learning about it. So much so that when I was 6 or 7 years old I would make my Dad take me to the University of Pennsylvania Museum in Philadelphia every weekend to look at all the artifacts from ancient Egypt. We would go there to the extent that the security guards knew our names. Years later, when I was starting to think about college in late high school, I knew I wanted to study history in some regard, and it just felt like a natural fit for me to take on a history major. I mean so many amazing, fascinating, and mind boggling things have occurred over the course of human history, how could you not be drawn to study those stories and learn more about them?

If you could have dinner with any historical figure who would it be?

I would probably say Ukrainian revolutionary Nestor Makhno, who fought to create a stateless anti-authoritarian society in Southern Ukraine during the Russian Revolution. A lot of my research focuses on Ukraine, and given the current neo-imperialist invasion of Ukraine by Russia, it would be really interesting to hear how an impoverished peasant from rural Ukraine led and formed a massive social movement against authoritarianism and oppression.



Do you have any current research projects you're focusing on, or specific focuses within the field of history?

Yes! So generally I am focused on studying both contemporary and historic forms of extremism, more specifically, the far right. I've been researching the far right for about three years now and am currently working on finishing up a senior Keystone thesis on the extreme right in Ukraine and its influences on international groups! I've always found extremist movements really fascinating from the perspective of history, but since extremism is such a pressing contemporary issue, I've come to focus on many modern extremist movements as well. It's not a particularly feel-good field of research but it's extremely interesting, and by learning more about these movements we can hopefully develop more effective ways to combat violent extremism!

Anne Blaschke published an OpEd in the Washington Post (Made by History) on the legacy of the tv show Sex and the City. The article looks at the show's troubling neglect of sexual assault in the 1990s in light of current sexual misconduct allegations against Chris Noth, who played the iconic character "Mr. Big." The full article can be found [here](#). Blaschke also co-wrote an article in the Washington Post (Made by History) on the historical context behind a new JAMA Surgery study showing that women surgeons have more successful patient outcomes, in terms of survival rate and complications, than men surgeons. Despite their safer outcomes, though, sexism persists in medicine, and is built on a long history of discrimination against women doctors. Read the full article [here](#).

Emma Schlauder completed a MSc in Human Osteology & Funerary Archaeology with Distinction at the University of Sheffield as a Fulbright Scholar and held a one year post-graduate position as a cultural resource specialist at Army Base Fort Huachuca in Arizona. She is now about to start working for the George Washington Foundation in Fredericksburg, VA as their permanent Staff Archaeologist. She will be based at Washington's childhood home, Ferry Farm, and will be conducting archaeological and historical research as well as participating in the summer field season.

David Shorten has started a new position as Manager of the Business History Initiative at Harvard Business School. The Business History Initiative facilitates historical research and teaching in the field of business history. The manager supports the BHI's mission by developing and managing research projects; serving as production editor for the academic journal Business History Review; managing and developing new titles for the Harvard Series in Business History; maintaining BHI's website and online research initiatives; and coordinating all other BHI workshops, seminars, and projects.

Anna Stroinski won a Fulbright to Durham University in the United Kingdom and will use the award to complete a Masters in U.S. History. Stroinski will work with Professor Jennifer Luff on a project that grew out of her undergraduate thesis in history at BU. With a focus on coal fields and miners in the U.S. and U.K., her project will examine the transnational, intellectual history of the strike and labor protest tactics in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

A recent publication from UMASS Press, *Sailing to Freedom: Maritime Dimensions of the Underground Railroad* (April 2021), was organized and edited by a BU History Department PhD, and contains chapters written by two additional scholars who earned their doctorates at Boston University:

Timothy Walker, who is the editor of the book and wrote the introduction and chapter 1, earned his doctorate from the BU History Department.

Len Travers, who wrote chapter 9, also earned his PhD at the BU History Department.

Elysa Engelman, who wrote chapter 7, earned her doctorate from the BU program in New England and American Studies.

The *Sailing to Freedom* volume was chosen by the Library of Congress as the featured work for one of their Black History Month events this year and was also featured on the U.S. Government Black History Month [interagency page](#).

More information about the book and how to order it can be found [here](#).

ALUMNI PROFILE

ANNA STROINSKI, HISTORY BA

Where are you from?

Clifton, New Jersey - it's a large suburb about thirty minutes outside of New York City. Protip: if you are looking for the best hotdog in America, go to Clifton. We've got not one but two knock-it-out-of-the-park hotdog joints: Rutt's Hut and Hotgrill.

What are your principal research interests and what drew you to them?

I like to think that I work at the intersection of labor, intellectual, and political history. More specific interests include the history of ideas about work, the workplace, class, and economic inequality in the United States. I became interested in this stuff because I grew up working class. My mom and aunts cleaned houses. My uncles worked construction. They always talked about work - at the kitchen table, during birthday parties, before church, every chance they got. In a way, I'm just continuing that conversation.



What is one interesting or fun fact about you?

I am a trained singer. Just don't ask me to sing anything too high - I'm an alto!

What have you been doing since leaving the History Department?

I've been the Department Coordinator at Princeton University's Department of Politics since August 2020. I also freelance as a copywriter and editor for Wondrium, an educational technology company. I've worked on all sorts of courses at Wondrium ranging from "Europe After the Plague" to "Modern Warfare" to "Raising Lifelong Learners." I've become quite the renaissance woman thanks to my many side gigs! I did some volunteering too. For most of the pandemic, I fostered an assortment of unruly cats and worked with the Tripp Stroud for Wisconsin State Senate campaign as its lead copywriter and digital strategist. Recently, though, I've been fundraising for friends and family in Poland who have taken in refugees from Ukraine. We've raised over \$8,000 so far through Venmo and GoFundMe contributions! That one has been the most rewarding, I think. And the most emotional.

What will you be researching with your Fulbright Scholarship?

The cool thing about the Fulbright is that it's research and study rolled into one (at least my award is, anyway!). I'll finish my Fulbright year with a masters in history from Durham University, but I'll also get to work with Professor Jennifer Luff on a dissertation that examines the labor strike as an idea that traveled and changed shape between the US and the UK in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. My plan is to focus on coal strikes in Northeast England and the American West in particular. The project grew out of my undergraduate thesis at BU, actually. I wrote about the 1913 Paterson Silk Strike, and as I was sifting through microfilm machines in the Paterson and New York Public Libraries, I realized that these really interesting debates were going on about the strike - among international radical presses, absolutely, but also within local papers! People were asking themselves and each other: how effective is the strike in its current form really, and if there's a better labor protest weapon out there, what does it look like? I think we can learn something really interesting and new about the strike from debates and musings like these.

SPRING CONFERENCES

AMERICAN POLITICAL HISTORY INSTITUTE



On April 8th and 9th, graduate historians from across the country gathered at Boston University for the long-awaited **12th APHI Graduate Student Conference: Making the American City**. Participants were treated to good food, lively discussion, and the latest from our presenters, including BU's own Madeline Webster and Charley Binkow. Day one was masterfully concluded with a keynote speech by Robert O. Self on the Hydrocarbon Middle Class and a reception hosted by the BU Initiative on Cities

The organizers wish to thank all the presenters, commentators, moderators, the student organizing committee, and the staff members who made this possible. Special thanks to Cady Steinberg and Molly German in the BU History Department for their invaluable assistance.

On Saturday April 2nd, the Undergraduate History Association hosted their **Annual Conference: Disruption and Destruction**. Four members of the organisation were selected to conduct research and present their findings to an audience of history students and professors. Inspired by the theme "Disruption and Destruction," participants proposed, researched and wrote their own papers with the help of mentors from UHA. This year's papers were titled "A Study on America's History of Immigrant Intolerance" by Camryn Millet, "More Than Collateral Damage: A Crossnational Comparison of Cultural Genocide in Nazi Germany, Mao's China, and the Islamic State" by Emanne Khan, "The Grim Fantasies of Ethnic Conquest: Generalplan Ost" by Baron Schafer, and "Magic and Witchcraft in Medieval and Early Modern Europe: An Eccentric Disturbance and A Modern Misunderstanding" by Demian Choi.

UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY ASSOCIATION



BOCA LONGA 2022



In March, the BU History Department hosted the third annual BoCa LonGa US history workshop. A collaboration among six universities around the United States and across the Atlantic, BoCa LonGa assembles scholars of US history from Boston (BO), California (CA), London (LON), and Georgia (GA) to share new scholarship in progress and develop intellectual collaboration across field and geographic boundaries.

Gathering in person for the first time in several years, the conference featured in depth workshops focused on a pre-circulated chapter or article draft (for example, BU Professor **Paula Austin** presented a chapter from her current book project on policing, civil rights, and police reform) and traditional conference panels (Professor **Andy Robichaud** and grad student **Charley Binkow** joined those). The meeting also introduced a new kind of session: “Meet the Projects,” each of which gave five doctoral students from five different universities the chance to introduce—and receive feedback—on their doctoral dissertations. Doctoral candidates **Jeanna Kinnebrew**—“Sexuality, Philanthropy, and Social Control in Boston, 1928-1972”- and **Henry Tonks**—“Don’t Stop Thinking About Tomorrow: Remaking American Liberalism in an Age of Crisis, 1972-1992”-- represented BU in those sessions.

The fourth conference is scheduled for Spring 2023 at Stanford University in California.

CRITICAL UNIVERSITY STUDIES

SYMPOSIUM ON THE LEGACIES

OF SLAVERY AND SETTLER COLONIALISM

On March 17-18, 2022, the History Department, in conjunction with the African American Studies Program, hosted a symposium discussing the legacies of slavery and colonialism that persist within American universities. Keynote speaker Craig Wilder (MIT) started the conference by discussing the lasting violence instigated by groups and individuals in antebellum New England which continue to impact education systems today. Over the following two days, a total of 12 junior scholars held panel discussions on topics such as land appropriation, racial capitalism, and dispossession that has persisted at universities. 7 senior scholars wrapped each day in roundtable discussions reflecting on all the ideas presented. In respect to the success of the conference and the pursuit of equity in educational institutions, the conference committee is now collecting materials for a clearinghouse moving forward. Several BU groups and individuals made this conference possible, especially through the generous funding of the “Emerging Scholars” program and the “Great Topics” program, two initiatives of BU’s Diversity and Inclusion office.



SPECIAL THANK YOUS

The Department of History is immeasurably grateful for the hard work and dedication of Peyton Coel and Quinn Chappelle, who have both supported the department as Office Assistants over the past three years!

QUINN CHAPPELLE (CAS '22)

Quinn Chappelle is a Political Science major and History minor who will be graduating this May with her Bachelor of Arts from CAS. Since 2019, Quinn has been proactively improving the department with various ideas and projects. Her organizational skills are on point and everyone at the office is always excited to discuss and debate relevant topics with this future lawyer. Following graduation, Quinn will be moving to the San Francisco Bay Area where she will take a gap year to study for the LSAT and apply to law school in the near future. The History Department is so happy to have had Quinn as an exceptional employee.



PEYTON COEL (CAS '22)



Peyton Coel is a History and International Relations major who will be graduating this May with her Bachelor of Arts from CAS. Since her freshman year, Peyton has immersed herself in both the student and staff sides of the History Department. Her experience, not to mention her comaraderie and chiq aesthetic has played a key role at improving the Department. Following graduation, Peyton will be attending Trinity College Dublin where she will continue to study International Politics in pursuit of her MSc. Always an astute employee, the Department of History is so grateful for all of her effort.

UPCOMING COURSE SPOTLIGHT

SARAH PHILLIPS – HI 400: TOPICS IN HISTORY



Being completely risk averse myself, I have always been fascinated by groups of organized and devoted people who leave familiar surroundings to strike out on their own. I have long wanted to offer a course that explores this revealing slice of American history, because the country has been such a hothouse nation of experimentation. It has also offered, from its beginnings to the present day, a unique environment and set of promises—often unkept and unfulfilled—about freedom and geographical mobility.

New for Fall 2022, “Alternative America” will examine determined and passionate groups who not only dissented from mainstream American society, but who also attempted to construct entire alternative communities. Moving briskly through time and space, and using one week for each community, we will examine the ideas—about freedom, religion, sex, family, justice, politics, ecology, self-actualization, race, and survival—that inspired them. We will consider their own metrics of success and ask if they indeed succeeded, or, if they failed, we will ask if they left any enduring legacies behind.

Each class meeting will combine lecture, discussion of assigned readings, and on-the-spot analysis of rich primary sources (texts, images, and films). The groups will include maroon communities of escaped slaves; the Shakers and Oneida; the Mormons; Exodusters; the settlement house women of the Progressive Era; circus culture; the Castro in San Francisco; back-to-the-landers of the 1970s; white power and militia groups; the Branch Davidians; and contemporary survivalists. Students will also develop their own original research project over the semester, and present it in a creative combination of written and digital formats at the end.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! EMAIL HISTORY@BU.EDU TO SHARE RESEARCH, EVENTS, PUBLICATIONS, OR OTHER MILESTONES. CONSIDER FILLING OUT A [GRADUATE STUDENT](#), [UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT](#), OR [ALUMNI](#) PROFILE FORM TO GET FEATURED ON OUR WEBSITE OR IN THE NEWSLETTER!

