

THE PRESENCE OF THE PAST



BU HISTORY
DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER
2022

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

JAMES JOHNSON, PROFESSOR AND CHAIR



Dear Friends of the Boston University History Department:

The end of the term and approach of the holidays means many things: accomplishment and exhaustion, jubilation and stress, sheer puzzlement and relief that another semester has gone by so quickly. The cold winter weather now with us in is sync with the mood of hunkering down. With any luck, there will be a warm fireplace to cozy up to and savor the work of the Fall.

The past semester has brought a lineup of four extraordinary candidates in the department's search for a senior hire in African American History. These visits, which have included conversation as well about teaching and service to the college and public organizations, have been enriching and inspiring.

This issue of *The Presence of the Past* brings news of the History department community's publications, talks, and special honors. Highlights from faculty include the publication of Deena Klepper's book *Pastoral Care and Community in Late Medieval Germany* and Erik Goldstein's edited collection *The Road to Pearl Harbor*. Photos replete with regalia accompany Bruce Schulman's account of becoming Oxford University's Harold V. Harmsworth Professor of American History.

This issue features profiles of the department's first two writing tutors, Dina Famin—a triple major in History, Biology, and Comparative Literature—and Lindsey Allebest, who describes writing a research paper on a 1744 tartan suit made in Edinburgh. The issue also salutes the large cohort of excellent History majors who were recently inducted into Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honors society.

The holidays are a time for gratitude, and our appreciation goes to those whose daily work makes our learning, teaching, writing, and hiring possible. To our Senior Program Coordinator Molly German and our Department Administrator Cady Steinberg, our team of Office Assistants, and our academic student advisors, Brendan Fraser and Julia Martorell: thank you.

James Johnson
Chair, Department of History

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Cari Babitzke traveled to Flagstaff, AZ in November to present a talk on the National Rifle Association as part of Northern Arizona University’s “History in the Headlines” lecture series.

Brooke Blower gave invited lectures at Colgate University and the School for International Service at American University on the subject of her [forthcoming book](#) with Oxford University Press, “*Americans in a World at War: Intimate Histories from the Crash of Pan Am’s ‘Yankee Clipper.’*”

Arianne Chernock led a conversation among fellow BU History faculty at the Pardee School of Global Studies’ first “Beyond the Headlines” event of the year. At the panel, Professor Chernock specifically discussed the Queen’s role in reinforcing the monarchy. Additionally, Professor Chernock wrote and was mentioned in several articles in lieu of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. These are listed in a [post on our website](#) and include the platforms NPR, “The Conversation,” WBUR radio, and the *New York Times*.

Further articles Professor Chernock contributed to include a [Washington Post](#) piece entitled, “Princess Diana confided in Andrew

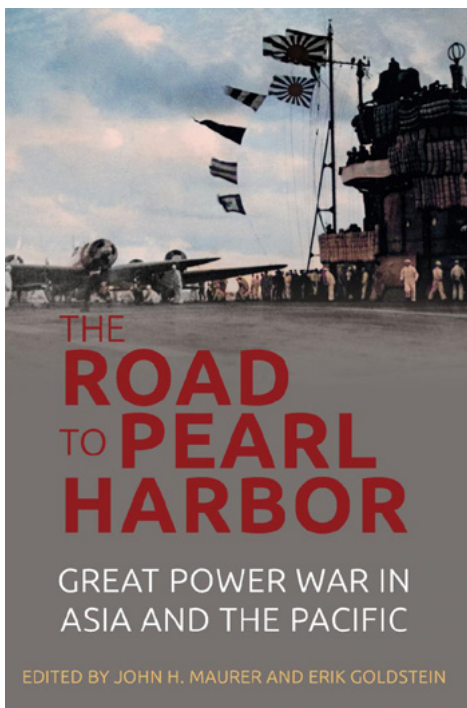
Morton. What more is there to divulge?” and two more *NYT* articles: “[Prince and Princess of Wales to Visit Boston as the Royal Family Recasts Itself](#)” and “[‘The Crown’: The Story of Mohamed Al-Fayed and His Valet.](#)”

Professor Chernock also participated in a roundtable discussion this past November at the North American Conference on British Studies in Chicago.

David Glovsky led a conversation among fellow BU faculty at the Pardee School of Global Studies’ first *Beyond the Headlines* event of the year. The conversation looked at Queen Elizabeth II and her legacy. Professor Glovsky specifically spoke about her legacy as it regards the former colonies and dependent territories of Great Britain.

Charles Dellheim’s book *Belonging and Betrayal* was listed as one of the [Books of the Year 2022](#) in the *Times Literary Supplement*. Gabriel Josipovici, writes, “Charles Dellheim’s *Belonging and Betrayal: How Jews made the art world modern* (Brandeis) brought home to me as no other book has done the profound interconnection between the history of dealership and the history of art, as well as bringing to life four generations of Jewish dealers, the artists they championed in the US, Britain and Europe, and how they both shaped and were shaped by world events. A brilliant book.”

Erik Goldstein has a new book (featured left) titled *The Road to Pearl Harbor: Great Power War in Asia and the Pacific* (U.S. Naval Institute Press, 2022). He co-edited the book with John H. Maurer, Alfred Thayer Mahan Professor of Sea Power and Grand Strategy in the Strategy and Policy Department at the Naval War College. In addition to editing the volume, Goldstein wrote the opening chapter “Constructing a Liberal International Order: David Lloyd George and Peacemaking.” For more on *The Road to Pearl Harbor*, visit [U.S. Naval Institute Press’ website](#).



Professor Goldstein also delivered the keynote lecture at a conference held in Prague, Czech Republic dealing with “The League of Nations: The First Global Peacekeeping Organization in the Changing World – Reflections and Interdependencies.” Organized by the Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Charles University, and the University of Vienna, this conference brought together academics and practitioners from over 15 countries to consider in historical depth the challenges and lessons of peacekeeping efforts in a changing world.

In September, Professor Goldstein also led a conversation among fellow BU faculty at the Pardee School of Global Studies’ first *Beyond the Headlines* event of the year. The conversation looked at Queen Elizabeth II and her legacy. Professor Goldstein specifically spoke about her role in British government and politics.

Phillip Haberkern was named Director of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) for the academic years 2022-24.

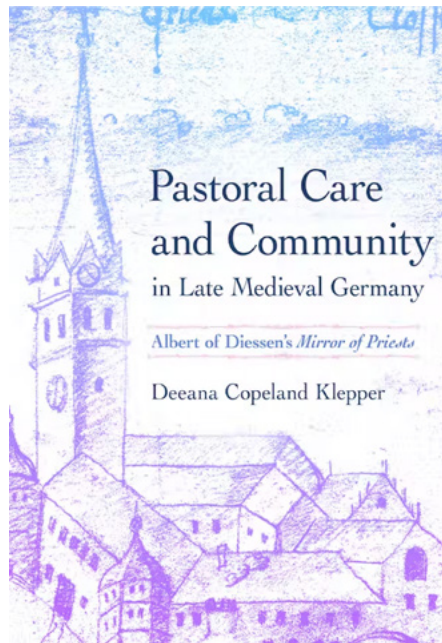
In October, Professor Haberkern was featured in the [BU Today article](#), “Game of Thrones and What It Can Teach Us about Historic European Power and Politics.” In the article, Professor Haberkern discusses his course, [CAS HI 207: Game of Thrones—Power and Politics in Pre-Modern Europe](#), which is typically offered by our department in the fall semesters.

Rui Hua was awarded the East Asia Studies Career Development Professorship. Each year, Boston University awards this professorship to a number of talented junior faculty members as leaders within their respective fields. The awards include a three-year, non-renewable research award designed to support research, scholarship, and creative work, as well as defrayal of a portion of the recipients’ salary. Nominations are submitted by the academic deans, and awardees are selected by the Office of the Provost. Professor Hua’s award is supported by a BU alumnus based in Taiwan. The award recognizes assistant

professors from several BU colleges whose research is specific to East Asia, particularly China and Taiwan.

Read University Provost Jean Morrison’s post about the award recipients on the [Office of the Provost website](#).

Deeana Klepper [published a book](#) (featured below) with Cornell University Press entitled, “Pastoral Care and Community in Late Medieval Germany.” The book addresses questions like: How did local communities structure the daily experience of religion in medieval Europe? What can locally authored and oriented guides for parish priests tell us about the values and concerns of a community? In an age before print, how did manuscripts serve as a dynamic platform for ongoing communication among authors, readers, and the communities in which they lived?



James McCann presented two iterations of his current research project on the ecologies of water, a central theme in current global concerns for which History is a critical component.

He published a paper and presented a chapter/article and images to the Blue Nile Institute at BahirDar University, Ethiopia entitled “Nature and the Supernatural: Meaning(s) of Water and Humanities in Ethiopia’s Upper Nile.

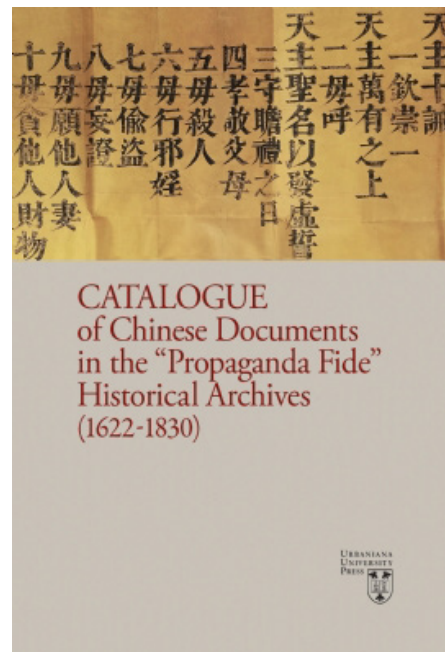
On September 24, Professor McCann presented a paper and images to the meeting “La Storia Ambientale in Italia: Method e Percorsi di Ricerca” in Catania (Sicily), Italy. The paper is entitled “Significato(i) dell’acqua? Veneto e l’Alto Nilo, Ethiopia” and included a working group of scholars on comparative studies of water that will expand the network of ICEHO (World Congress of Environmental History) in Finland, 2024 for which Professor McCann serves on the organizing committee.

Eugenio Menegon co-presented online on November 12, 2022 a newly published article at the “Third Digital Humanities Forum: Prosody, Network, Future,” sponsored by Tsinghua University and the Institute of Literary Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. His co-presenter was Dr. Alex Mayfield (his former graduate student in History of Christianity at BU STH, now Assistant Professor of East Asian History at Asbury University, Kentucky). The essay, entitled “Leaping the Digital Gorge: *The China Historical Database* as a Case Study in Digital Humanities Development” was co-authored by Prof. Menegon and Prof. Daryl Ireland (BU STH), with Prof. Mayfield as the main author. The article appeared in the latest issue of the *Journal of Digital Humanities*, jointly sponsored by Tsinghua University (Beijing) and the major publisher Zhonghua Book Company.

On November 23, Professor Menegon connected online to the baroque monumental hall of the Casanatense Library in Rome, and offered a presentation on Sino-Vatican relations in the 18th century as part of the unveiling of a new catalogue edited by Dr. Isabella Ceccopieri, “*Il fondo Cinese della Biblioteca Casanatense. Testi e documenti manoscritti dei secc. XVII-XVIII* [The “China Collection” of the Casanatense Library. Texts and Manuscript Documents of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries], 2 volumes, Rome, Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato, 2022.

The long-awaited publication “*Propaganda Fide* in China and the Historical Archives,” with a comprehensive introduction by Professor Menegon, has just been printed in Rome to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the foun-

dition of the *Propaganda Fide* Congregation (today the Holy See’s Dicastery for Evangelization; 1622–2022): Ad Dudink, *Catalogue of Chinese Documents in the “Propaganda Fide” Historical Archives (1622–1830), with an introductory essay by Eugenio Menegon*, Rome: [Urbaniana University Press](#), 2022 (514 pages and 92 color plates; featured below). Find a quote from the publisher about Professor Menegon’s introduction [on our website](#).



Simon Payaslian presented a paper entitled “The American Armenian Press in the United States and the Construction of Durable Memory (1920s–1950s),” at the [interdisciplinary conference](#) on “Faces of Postmemory 5 – Conflicts or Negotiations?” at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, Oct. 25–26, 2022.

Andrew Robichaud was featured in a [BU Today article](#) covering the course HI 190: History of Boston entitled “Community, Conflict, and Change: CAS Course Shines New Light on Boston’s Past.” On December 12, students in HI 190 presented an exhibit at the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Jeffrey Rubin published a piece in “The Conversation” about the Brazilian election. The article, entitled “Brazil’s election goes beyond a battle between left and right – democracy is also on the ballot” is available to read at “[The Conversation](#).”

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

PROFESSOR BRUCE SCHULMAN ON THE FIRST SEMESTER OF HIS PROFESSORSHIP AT OXFORD



After 29 years at BU (and 36 professing history at US universities), a journey that began in Queens (Borough, New York city) this past term unexpectedly led me to Queen's (College, Oxford University) to take up a position as Harold V. Harmsworth Professor of American History. Established in 1922 to promote the teaching of US history in the United Kingdom and to foster goodwill between the two nations so recently allied in the Great War, the Harmsworth's duties include teaching, research, organizing symposia at the Rothermere American Institute (the Oxford center for all things American), and speaking across the UK. This year, the centennial of the institution, I fittingly follow in the footsteps of another Bostonian, Samuel Eliot Morison, though I share little but our hometown in

common with that famous scion of New England nobility. Morison famously commuted to Harvard on his horse, into the 1960s, and researched his biography of Christopher Columbus by retracing the mariner's voyages on his private yacht.

I'm attached to Queen's, one of the more than three dozen largely autonomous colleges that make up Oxford University. Founded in 1341 by Robert de Eglesfield, a chaplain in the household of Queen Philippa, who named it in her honor, the college's two imposing classical quads date to the early 18th century. College life retains aspects of its medieval origins, when teachers and students lived together. Fellows (what at BU we would call the faculty) can take all of their meals in college and to reach my office, I enter a stairway where I share space with other fellows, student dorm rooms, and showers. In November, I delivered my inaugural lecture (featured above) in the grand Examination Schools building with full pomp and circumstance. I processed into the room in full regalia behind the bedel carrying the 500-year old university mace (featured right, alongside my sons). At the conclusion of the lecture, I formally doffed my hat to the Bedel and Pro Vice Chancellor (they doffed in return). For me that lecture (and the reception, dinner, and response seminar that followed) marked the highlight of a consistently surprising and educational first term at Oxford.



HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION

HGSO had an eventful fall semester that was full of professional development and social events. We hosted two coffee chats, one with our very own new faculty member Dr. David Glovsky, and another with BU alumnus Dr. Sara Georgini, the Series Editor of the Papers of John Adams at the Massachusetts Historical Society. We also had a fantastic event learning about the publication and pitching of book reviews with Tom Sojka and a Dissertation Project Management Workshop with Dr. Alexis Peri and Dr. Cari Babitzke.

We also had some great social events, including an excursion to Salem in September to visit the Peabody Essex Museum and to attend a food truck festival! It was a perfect opportunity to explore our wider area. In October, we had a quintessentially New England fall activity of apple-picking at Honey Pot Hill Farms!

We have continued other events from our predecessors including First Friday study sessions which give graduate students the space to socialize and get focused work done. We hope to continue with events both professional and social in the spring semester!

-- Margot Rashba



Kathryn Lamontagne (GRS '20) recently published an article “Our Three Selves: Radclyffe Hall and Mabel Batten’s Lived Catholicism” in *The Journal of Ecclesial Practices* (Summer, 2022).

Also in 2022, she contributed a book review to *The Journal of Social Encounters* on Cardinal Cahal Daly, chaired a panel at NEHA, and gave a talk at the Catholic Record Society Conference in York, England. She concluded a two-year fellowship with CURA/Pardee in the Spring.

Over the Platinum Jubilee and Royal Mourning for Queen Elizabeth II, Kathryn (a former member of the Royal Household) [wrote for BU Today](#), and was [interviewed or gave commentary](#) for over 20 hours of live TV coverage, podcasts, and national and international radio. This fall she was elected an associate Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Rachel Monsey and **Courtney Smith** both presented papers in November at the North American Conference on British Studies in Chicago. They are featured in the image below, along with fellow graduate student Tom Sojka and History Professor Arianne Chernock.

Chance Saltzman (CAS '91) was confirmed by the Senate to be the U.S. Space Force’s next Chief of Space Operations. In an article published on the [United States Space Force website](#), Lieutenant General Saltzman’s predecessor, General John Raymond, states that he “couldn’t be more excited for the Saltzmans and for our Space Force.” He adds: “The team is in great hands.”

Henry Tonks published a piece with the “Made by History” section at the [Washington Post](#) entitled “Biden is reviving a lost Democratic industrial policy playbook.”



COURSE SPOTLIGHT

PROFESSOR RUI HUA

HI 370: SAMURAI, SHIPS, AND SOIL

JAPAN AMONG THE EMPIRES OF ASIA, 1600-1950

Legend has it that the Japanese isles were a string of pearls: ancient deities left them behind on the edge of Asia. Isolated from the continent, ruled by samurai warriors, and dotted with shrines, Japan seems a unique cultural world of its own. Yet the pearls were not adrift at sea. Throughout history, the isles and their samurai rulers were connected to larger worlds by the many waters reaching Japanese shores. From traders and settlers in 16th century Southeast Asia to colonists and continental adventurers in 20th century Manchuria, Japanese actors engaged and shaped the Asian world at every turn.

How would the story of samurai Japan be different if we were to tell it not as a tale of isolation but rather as part of a larger history of Asian empires? Together, we will explore the potential of this proposition. How were the samurai warriors, exotic as they may seem, part of a service elite supporting every early modern imperial polity from the Ottoman empire to the Manchu Qing? How did the great commodity boom of the 1860s in East and South Asia precipitate the Meiji Restoration – a samurai revolt against their very own samurai state – on the Japanese islands? How was the Japanese empire, a modern colonial imperium stretching at its heyday from Sakhalin and Shinkyō to Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, built on ideas of a fabricated “ancient” Asian identity? Through the trades and travels of samurai characters in the past four centuries, we will explore the many trans-Asian trends that went into the making of modern Japan: its politics, its environment, and its gendered imaginations of the world.

The course will offer a platform for creative brainstorming and collective experiential learning. We will be “forging” ancient documents, writing (or imagining to write) historical novellas, and mapping a world on the move through words and crayons. We will be aspiring historians, but more importantly, we will be storytellers and explorers sailing through the high seas, looking for traces of the distant past in the waves of Asia.



Postcard by the Japanese South Manchuria Railway Company; featuring a map of the colonial puppet state Manchukuo (1932-1945)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The Undergraduate History Association (UHA) welcomes all undergraduate students with an interest in history. A student-run organization, 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, and go on historical excursions. Most recent UHA events include presentations on Antarctic Exploration, Formula 1 races and Organized Labor in Massachusetts, as well as a field trip to the JFK Presidential Library and Museum. Every April, we host our Annual Conference, where students can present their research to an audience of history professors and students. More events have been planned for the current year by the E-board, which includes Sinan Bruce, Saanya Kanwar, James Brine and Nico Iannacone.

-- UHA E-Board

AEVUM: BU JOURNAL OF HISTORY

Founded in Fall, 2022, *Aevum: Boston University's Journal of History* is a new student-run, peer-reviewed research publication that aims to feature excellent student work and to raise the visibility of the History Department. To read our most recent issue, please visit [here](#). Currently, *Aevum* seeks [undergraduate written or visual submissions](#) from BU students for its Spring, 2023 publication. You may consider submitting a successful essay, research paper, photograph, or artwork that you would like to see in print. *Aevum* also seeks Associate Editors, Content Editors, Layout Editors, Web Designers, and Photographers for its Spring, 2023 Editorial Board. If you are interested in contributing to the publication process, please learn more and apply [here](#). All inquiries may be directed to our email (bujh@bu.edu).

-- Journal of History 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. Membership in Phi Alpha Theta requires a minimum 3.1 GPA in at least twelve credit hours of History and an overall minimum GPA of 3.0. A History major is not required. Members of Phi Alpha Theta meet regularly for discussion, guest presentations, and excursions to museums and historical sites. This academic year, BU's chapter will welcome thirty-eight new members.

-- Professor James Johnson

PHI ALPHA THETA FALL 2022 INDUCTION

On Tuesday evening Dec. 6th, twenty-one History majors were inducted into Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honors society. Formed at the University of Arkansas in 1921, Phi Alpha Theta now has 970 local and more than 400,000 members. This year, Delta Mu, Boston University's chapter, celebrates its seventieth anniversary.

Professor James Johnson welcomed the group and spoke about the guiding principles of Phi Alpha Theta, which champions excellent teaching and superior research, writing, and publication. "You know why studying History matters," Johnson said. "You understand that to know who we are—and why the world is the way it is—we must know our own history and the history of the world around us. A nation ignorant of its history is like a person with no memory."

Five "spokespeople" channeled the spirit of historical ages to sketch historical epochs from antiquity to generations yet unborn. Johnson described the Ancient Age, Professor Deena Klepper spoke of the Medieval Age, Professor Eugenio Menegon described the Early Modern Age, and Professor David Mayers spoke about the Contemporary Age. Priscilla Bright, the current Phi Alpha Theta president and senior History major, was spokesperson for the Future Age.

Featured Below: Hongyang Zhao, Professor Eugenio Menegon, Zupei Li, Hongyu Chen, and Zijian Cheng



UNDERGRAD PROFILES

HISTORY WRITING TUTOR DINA FAMIN (CAS '23)



Where are you from?

I'm from North Kingstown, Rhode Island.

What inspired you to become a History major?

I've always been interested in cultural, social, and intellectual history, so I applied to BU as a History major, and I haven't looked back since! ...I have looked sideways, however, and have picked up two other majors (Biology and Comparative Literature) and a minor (Global Medieval Studies) along the way. I enjoy being a History major because of the way it shapes my thinking and approach to research and interests, especially in contrast with an approach more anchored in literary analysis. Although I hope to continue into the literature field, having a blend of both has been invaluable.

What has been your favorite History class you've taken at BU?

I really enjoyed HI 349: History of Religion in Precolonial Africa. I've enjoyed most of my History classes! Also, a special mention about a Topics in US History course, HI 450: The History of Horror in American Culture. I'm not interested in horror and I'm not really interested in U.S. History, but the blend of multidisciplinary scholarly articles, theory, and literature that we read was so enriching, and created an interesting approach to genre and society. For my final paper I compared five pieces of horror media from Jewish and Christian traditions and discussed the benefits and pitfalls of formal and cultural analysis—it was one of my most rewarding research projects, and was one of the two projects which cemented my interest in working with Yiddish literature (among others) in the future. So that class was really awesome!

Do you have any current research projects you're focusing on?

I'm currently writing two theses! The first, for my History major, focuses on the cultural niche filled by the Moscow State Yiddish Theater (GOSET) in the 1920s-1940s. I'm examining productions, comparing GOSET to other Russian theaters, and looking at responses to its work. The second thesis, for my comparative literature major, analyses the role of narrators and framed narratives within Franz Kafka's 1919 short story collection, *A Country Doctor*. And endless, endless papers! Generally, my interests lie along the lines of animal studies, Jewish studies, epic and folklore, and orality, with an interest in the premodern.

UNDERGRAD PROFILES



HISTORY WRITING TUTOR

LINDSAY
ALLEBEST
(CAS '23)

Where are you from?

I am from Los Altos, California!

What inspired you to become a History major?

I have known I wanted to study History since middle school, but really, I have been studying History since I learned to read. There is nothing more exciting to me

than learning about people, events, and places from the past. I think that studying History is the greatest tool to understand the present, not just so we can avoid the mistakes of the past, but also so that we can appreciate the past as well as our world today!

What has been your favorite History class you've taken at BU?

One of my favorite History courses that I've taken at BU was HI 315: History of the American West with Professor Phillips! I think one of the most important things we can do with History is to learn about where we come from. This class gave me a much better understanding of the complicated, fascinating, important history of the Western US—where I'm from—and I highly recommend it.

Do you have any current research projects you're focusing on?

I am currently writing a research project for HI 451: Fashion as History that is focused on a specific tartan suit made in Edinburgh in 1744. I have always been fascinated by Scottish history, and am thrilled to finally do a project about Scottish politics and clothing of the 18th century!

What is one interesting or fun fact about you?

One fun fact about me is that I have recently started doing cross-stitch as a hobby! I know it sounds old-fashioned and might be looked down upon by some, but I find it really relaxing and fun.

COURSE PAGES & EVENTS

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT IS TAUGHT IN OUR HISTORY COURSES?

Click on our Fall and Spring listings, visible in a new format that provides more informative content. Open the page for any class to see expanded course descriptions, related images, video trailers (such as the one at right), past syllabi, and more!

FALL 2022 COURSES

SPRING 2023 COURSES



UPCOMING DEPARTMENT EVENTS

Faculty Retirement Celebration - April 4, 2023

A happy farewell celebration to retiring faculty: Louis Ferleger, Erik Goldstein, James McCann, Jon Roberts, James Schmidt, and Diana Wylie.

Gaspar G. Bacon Lecture - April 27th, 2023

Melissa Murray, Frederick I. and Grace Stokes Professor Law Faculty Director at New York University will be this year's featured speaker. Reception to follow.

Senior Night at the Castle - May 2, 2023

The History Department is hosting a dinner to celebrate our graduating majors with a dinner in the Dahod Family Alumni Center at the Castle.

READ MORE ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY ON OUR SOCIALS:

