

History Department News

Archive for May, 2012

[Emma Rothschild wins Phi Beta Kappa teaching award](#)

Jeremy and Jane Knowles Professor of History and Director of the Center for History and Economics, Emma Rothschild, was awarded a Phi Beta Kappa teaching award at the 222nd Phi Beta Kappa Literary Exercises last week. In addition to celebrating top-ranked seniors in Harvard College's class of 2012, the Literary Exercises honor Harvard professors for their excellence in teaching.

A list of PBK [honorees](#) and more [commencement](#) coverage can be found in the Harvard Gazette online.

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Posted on May 30th, 2012

[Afsaneh Najmabadi to present at the White House](#)

Francis Lee Higginson Professor of History and of Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Afsaneh Najmabadi will present her digital archive project, [Women's World in Qajar Iran](#), at the White House on Wednesday May 30 as part of the presentation and discussion panel "Exploring Communities of Muslim Women Throughout History." The event has been organized by the White House Office of Public Engagement and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In addition to Professor Najmabadi, there will be presentations from Mounira M. Charrad of the University of Texas at Austin and Azizah al-Hibri of the University of Richmond and KARAMAH Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights.

Tags: [Afsaneh Najmabadi](#), [Muslim women](#), [National Endowment for the Humanities](#), [Women's World in Qajar Iran](#)

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Posted on May 21st, 2012

[Peter Gordon awarded Jacques Barzun Prize from the American Philosophical Society](#)

The American Philosophical Society awarded the Jacques Barzun Prize for the best book in cultural history published in 2010 to Professor Peter E. Gordon in recognition of his book *Continental Divide: Heidegger, Cassirer, Davos*. The award was presented by Mary Patterson McPherson, Executive Officer of the Society.

[Continental Divide](#) is a study of the 1929 public debate between two major philosophers of the past century – Ernst Cassirer and Martin Heidegger – that took place in Davos, Switzerland. Their confrontation over the mission of philosophy in the wake of Kant, neo-Kantianism,

Husserl, and the crisis of European thought after World War I acquired an allegorical significance over the years, as if it marked an ultimate and irreparable rupture in 20th century Continental thought. Cassirer represented an anthropological turn to culture and “symbolic forms,” while Heidegger argued for a post-metaphysical existential phenomenology – and this debate about what it means to be human has proceeded along these lines down to the present day.

For more on the Jacques Barzun prize, visit the American Philosophical Society’s [website](#).

**Photo credit: American Philosophical Society.*

Tags: [American Philosophical Society](#), [Continental Divide](#), [Jacques Barzun Prize](#), [Peter Gordon](#)

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Posted on May 10th, 2012

[Michael McCormick and Lizabeth Cohen elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences](#)

Francis Goelet Professor of Medieval History, Michael McCormick as well as Dean of Radcliffe Institute and Howard Mumford Jones Professor American Studies, Lizabeth Cohen, have been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

One of the nation’s most prestigious honorary societies, the American Academy is a leading center for independent policy research. Members contribute to academy publications and studies of science and technology policy, energy and global security, social policy and American institutions, the humanities and culture, and education.

Recently, [Professor McCormick](#) has been continuing his quest to bring climate science into the realm of historical research by studying climate data and historical accounts after the fall of the Roman Empire for a forthcoming article.

[Professor Cohen](#) has been appointed Dean of Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study after serving as Interim Dean for the academic year 2011-2012.

For more on the Academy and a list of the 14 Harvard scholars elected this year, visit the [Harvard Gazette](#).

Tags: [American Academy of Arts and Sciences](#), [Lizabeth Cohen](#), [Michael McCormick](#), [Radcliffe](#)

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