



Department of History

Fall 2013



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From the Chair

A year ago, when I took over the corner office in Robinson Hall from Jim Kloppenberg, I was afraid I would find a file full of sensitive information on my desk or maybe a letter full of terrible warnings. I need not have worried. After a very busy last few months in harness, Jim had left the Department in great shape and took a very well deserved sabbatical. Our reputation as one of the hardest working, most energetic, smoothly run, and highest achieving Departments in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences was secure—and it has been my privilege to protect this legacy for the past year.

When I sounded out friends at Harvard and elsewhere for advice about becoming chair, they had all said the same thing: find great staff. That part was easy: anyone who knows Robinson Hall and its satellites knows how lucky we are to have a wonderfully dedicated and cheerful team led by the unflappable Janet Hatch. Janet, Elena Palladino (the chair's indispensable assistant) and the rest of our talented staff have kept me sane (and on a tight leash) throughout a hectic, and occasionally dramatic, time in the life of the Department and of the University.

Our faculty continued to produce world-class scholarship and garnered the honors and awards to mark it, as you can see from the profiles of Department members elsewhere in this newsletter. Our students, undergraduate and graduate, excelled in their studies. We had major changes

of personnel—with retirements and new hires—and saw some of our staff make plans for new careers. And this was the year that a host of changes that are reshaping the landscape of higher education and scholarly communication started to impinge directly on the Department. We have basked in much reflected glory and faced various challenges energetically. If anything, we are even stronger and more diverse now than we were twelve months ago, with many opportunities lying ahead of us.

As always, there were comings and goings among the faculty. We welcomed Vince Brown back from Duke University, Kirsten Weld joined us (after a post-doc at Brandeis) as an assistant professor in modern Latin American history, and Tomiko Brown-Nagin came to us from the University of Virginia via a joint appointment with Harvard Law School. Roger Owen announced that he would retire on December 31, 2012, and Steven Ozment also decided to step down from teaching in the Fall of 2013, though he will remain as a member of the Department until the end of 2015.

There were also changes in our staff. Matthew Corcoran, who had served for five years as Graduate Coordinator, decided to follow new challenges and, at the time of writing, planned to move to the New York University's Abu Dhabi campus as an administrator. Liana DeMarco, who has been the welcoming face of the Department at our front desk in recent years, was poised to take over



from him. And, in stop press news, the Department was stunned to learn that Janet Hatch had decided to retire in December 2013, sooner than we had expected and certainly far earlier than any of us had hoped. She had just earned a very well-deserved Dean's Award for extraordinary service and will leave us on a high note. Our next newsletter will include tributes to this living legend—after 18 years it will be hard to imagine the Department without her. We will also have news about Janet's successor in the next newsletter.

Robinson Hall itself saw some changes. The Upper Library, which had been languishing as fewer and fewer students used its reserve room, became a handsome new lounge for graduate students and has had a lot of use over the course of the year. Long-meditated plans to refurbish the Great Space came to fruition with a fresh paint-scheme and new furniture throughout: it, too, has become a gathering-place, especially for undergraduates, as well as a pop-up cinema for a monthly series of historical films (from *Chinatown* to *Spartacus*) introduced by faculty members and attended by increasingly large numbers of students.

The Department made its debut on social media, with its first [Facebook](#) page and [Twitter](#) feed: both have proved popular and much-followed, and have helped to publicize Departmental events and achievements within and beyond Harvard. We also convened our first Digital Working Group, chaired energetically by Dan Smail, to plan and promote various kinds of digital and multi-media teaching and research throughout the Department. This group generated a [Digital History](#)

website, sponsored a series of very well-attended and widely discussed panels on digital history, and led to our first Digital Teaching Fellows program, funded by the College and also spearheaded by Dan Smail. The University's first [History Design Studio](#), directed by Vince Brown and hosted at the Du Bois Institute, will provide a particularly fertile laboratory for new multi-media presentations of narrative, analysis, and evidence in a variety of digital environments.

As if these changes were not memorable enough, 2012-13 may also be remembered as the "year of the MOOC", "Massive Open Online Courses" delivering educational content to large audiences well beyond the walls of the academy. Early in the year, Harvard joined with MIT in the EdX program and would soon be joined by other universities around the world to experiment with turning lectures before live students into satisfying forms of learning for thousands, even tens of thousands, of remote learners. How MOOCs can provide the kinds of skills we value in the History Department remains unclear, and many colleagues signed a petition to the University administration asking for clarification about its plans for online learning and its relation to our vital classroom experiences. Members of the Department were also prominent in protesting against the University administration's decision to selectively, but without permission, access email metadata of some faculty members (in this case, House tutors). I was particularly proud of our faculty for taking a leading role in these vital discussions.

Like Jim, I've also been proud to showcase the work of our Department: most literally by putting new books on display in the chair's office. Among the remarkable range of books published by Department members over the year were my own *Foundations of Modern International Thought* (Cambridge UP, 2013), Joyce Chaplin's *Round About the Earth: Circumnavigation from Magellan to Orbit* (Simon & Schuster, 2012) and her edition of Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography* (Norton, 2012), Andrew Jewett's *Science, Democracy, and the American University: From the Civil War to the Cold War* (Cambridge UP, 2012), Walter Johnson's *River of Dark Dreams: Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom* (Harvard UP, 2013), Jill Lepore's *The Story of America: Essays on Origins* (Princeton UP, 2012), Serhii Plokhy's *The Cossack Myth: History and Nationhood in the Age of Empires* (Cambridge UP, 2012), and Hue-Tam Ho Tai's co-edited volume, *State, Society and the Market in Contemporary Vietnam: Property, Power and Values* (Routledge, 2013). All these books appeared in May on our first ever faculty pecha-kucha, a form of rapid-fire presentation (derived from Japanese fashion-shows) consisting of seven minutes of slides for each presenter. This invented tradition will continue in future years.

We hosted a range of other lively gatherings at which our colleagues presented their work publicly. We began with "Everything is History/History is Everything", chaired by Jill Lepore, at which Niall Ferguson, Maya Jasanoff, Mark Kishlansky, Jim Kloppenberg, Ian Miller, Kelly O'Neill, and Laurel Thatcher Ulrich



presented brief, enticing lectures on their visions of history and their work as historians. The panel was so successful it will be repeated in future years, as a means of telling freshman and sophomores what we do (and why they should concentrate in History), and as a chance to hear colleagues speak about their passions. This event was part of a year-long process to review the undergraduate program. In common with departments in the Humanities at Harvard (and elsewhere), we had been gaining fewer and fewer concentrators even as we were teaching more and more students, for example through the General Education program. Arresting that decline had become imperative. Some of our best minds (Ann Blair, Maya Jasanoff, Dan Smail, and assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies, Heidi Tworek) put in an immense amount of work over the year toward re-designing our undergraduate offerings.



We will be mounting more lecture courses than ever, both within the Department and in Gen Ed, and thinking harder about the large-scale, long-range topics that will attract students, especially freshman and sophomores who are on the verge of declaring their concentration. We

will not be withdrawing the small-group courses that are our signature genre: they are too essential for imparting the skills and knowledge we most value as historians and they remain popular and appreciated among undergraduates. But we have thoroughly revised History 97, the concentration's gateway course. Our best students have always appreciated the rigor of 97, but it had become clear that 97 may have scared away as many students as it attracted. Without losing the emphasis on historical skills that has always been 97's hallmark, we plan to break it into six separate sections, each organized around a particular field or question: "What is Environmental History?", "What is the History of History?", "What is Imperial History?", "What is Intellectual History?", "What is Material History?", and "What is Medical History?" are the first six themes for Spring 2014. All the signs are that this combination of focus with flexibility should be attractive to potential concentrators while also maintaining the tradition of intensive teaching (by faculty and tutors) that has long made 97 an example of the best the History Department has to offer our students.

The overhaul of the undergraduate program coincided with a broader concern about declining enrolments in the humanities, at Harvard and elsewhere. Two of us (Maya Jasanoff and myself) joined a set of interlocking committees tasked to report to the community on the future of the humanities at Harvard. This initiative began in the Humanities division of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, but History, although formally in the Social Science

division, has enrolments that track more closely those in, say, English than in Economics or Government. It seemed important that we had a say in discussions about how to redesign gateway courses in the Humanities and that we could learn from parallel departments about patterns of enrolments and the reasons for decline. The committees met throughout the year and produced reports that were widely noticed in national and international media. Harvard's problems seemed to mirror those elsewhere in the US and our reflections and recommendations struck a nerve with teachers and administrators well beyond Harvard. There are good reasons to avoid loaded language, such as a "crisis" of the humanities, but it is clear that overall enrolments have declined since the 1980s, even if they are now at levels that had been standard for much of the post-War period.



It becomes harder to defend our small-group courses when we have fewer students, but as our numbers rise we can reassure ourselves that our approach is both productive and attractive. Student satisfaction with the History concentration has



remained consistently high—as high, indeed, as the quality of the students we continue to attract. This past year, the Department received as many Rhodes Scholarships as the whole of Stanford University (earned by two graduating seniors, Julian Gewirtz and Benjamin Wilcox), a Marshall Scholarship (for Aditya Balasubramanian), and the Captain Jonathan Fay Prize for the best senior thesis in any field at Harvard (won by Laura Savarese). Five graduating seniors—Michael Ardeljan, Aditya Balasubramanian, Julian Gewirtz, Samuel Milner, and Benjamin Wilcox—took Summa degrees. Nine of our 38 senior thesis writers gained Hoopes Prizes for Excellence in Undergraduate Research: congratulations for those go to Aditya Balasubramanian, Devin Bean, Julian Gewirtz, Brianna Rennix, Ryan Rossner, Laura Savarese, Leeann Saw, Thomas Snyder, and Benjamin Wilcox. We also had three Senior 48 Phi Beta Kappa winners (Stephanie Garlock, Samuel Milner, and Brianna Rennix) and three in the PBK Junior 24 (Benjamin Wilcox, Julian Gewirtz, and Aditya Balasubramanian). Details of other College-wide and Departmental prizes can be found elsewhere in the newsletter, but they range widely within and beyond historical study, from the Academy of American Poets Prize (to Julian Gewirtz) to the Visiting Committee Prize for Undergraduate Book Collecting (to Catherine Katz). Congratulations to all our distinguished students for their outstanding achievements this year.

Admission to the graduate program continues to be extremely competitive: as we accept barely 6% of all who apply, it is still about as hard to become a History doctoral student as it is to enter Harvard College. The bets we make on our rising historians still pay off handsomely: as you can read later in this newsletter, even in a continuously challenging job market, our students have excelled at gaining post-doctoral and tenure-track positions, while others have transferred their skills into other fields, from consultancy to haute cuisine.



Finally, we still manage to expand the ranks of our Department, even at a time when the Faculty of Arts and Sciences as a whole remains steady-state, with no expansion and an ongoing deficit. 2013-14 sees the arrival of Tamar Herzog from Stanford and Alejandro de la Fuente from the University of Pittsburgh as, respectively, professors of early modern Iberian Atlantic history and

of the history of Cuba, slavery, and abolition: both will contribute greatly to the spectacular rebuilding of Latin American history in the Department. This movement will culminate with an offer to Sidney Chalhoub (University of Campinas) as a senior professor of modern Brazilian history. We have also been authorized to search for four new colleagues in the coming year, for three junior scholars in the fields of the modern Middle East, modern China, and modern gender and culture (jointly with History & Literature), and a senior scholar to hold the Frost Chair in Modern Jewish History. Even if we will not grow back to our historically highest levels, we should at least not shrink in the coming years: that is no small achievement in FAS's straitened financial environment.

Writing a newsletter like this can feel a little like composing the State of the Union address: looking back over recent achievements and forward to future initiatives. The comparison is immodest but the conclusion can be similar: even amid increasing turbulence in higher education, for the humanities, and at Harvard, the state of our Department is strong—and only likely to get stronger in the coming years. For this, I am grateful to our outstanding staff, excellent faculty, and remarkable students, undergraduate and graduate alike. I'm sure you'll join me in taking pride in all they have undertaken this past year and in having confidence that even greater things are yet to come.



Faculty News



Emmanuel Akyeampong is on leave in the fall semester of 2013, completing the revisions to his book manuscript on Disease and Towns in Anglophone West Africa. He is also working on a shorter book on the first generation of independent African leaders and the making of the African nation-state. The second installment on women and economic growth in Africa in the World Bank policy paper series is out this year: Emmanuel Akyeampong and Hippolyte Fofack, “The Contribution of African Women to Economic Growth and Development in Post-Colonial Africa: Historical Perspectives and Policy Implications,” World Bank, Policy Research Working Paper, WPS 6537, July 2013. He also wrote a contribution on “Slavery, Indentured Labor, and the Making of a Transnational World,” in Ato Quayson and Girish Daswani, ed., *A Companion to Diaspora and Transnationalism* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013).



David Armitage, Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History and Chair of the History Department, published *Foundations of Modern International Thought* (2013) with Cambridge University Press, as well as a number of articles and book-chapters on, variously, John Locke, the American Revolution, declarations of independence, and the challenges of longue-durée intellectual history. Translations of his work also appeared this year in Chinese, Japanese, and Spanish. He delivered the Maurice and Muriel Fulton Lecture at the University of Chicago Law School as well as keynote addresses at international conferences in Helsinki, Michigan and New York and many other lectures across the world from Sydney to the waters off the island of St. Eustatius in the Dutch Caribbean. He co-organized a major international conference at Harvard on “Pacific Histories: Ocean, Land, People” and continued his work on a history of ideas of civil war from Rome to the present and an edition of John Locke’s colonial writings, among other shorter projects.



Andrew Gordon gave the keynote speech at a symposium on “The Sewing Machine and Modern Japan”, held at Showa Women’s University, Tokyo, Japan, on the occasion of the publication of the Japanese translation of *Fabricating Consumers: The Sewing Machine in Modern Japan* in July of 2013. He also was a panelist at the Hiroshima Conference for Nuclear Abolition at Hiroshima Peace Symposium and gave a lecture on “Contemporary Japan” at the Triangle Center for Japanese Studies, Duke University.

Akira Iriye received the 2013 Japan Foundation Award as a pioneer in Japan-US exchange activities.



Andrew Jewett celebrated the publication of his first book, *Science, Democracy, and the American University: From the Civil War to the Cold War* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), with an author-meets-critics event at Harvard featuring Theodore Porter, Charles Rosenberg, and Sheila Jasanoff. He also published “The Politics of Knowledge in 1960s America” in *Social Science History* and “Political Thought” in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History* (Oxford University Press, 2013). Forthcoming publications include “The Social Sciences, Philosophy, and the Cultural Turn in the 1930s USDA” and “Naturalizing Liberalism in the 1950s.” During 2013-2014 he is a fellow at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina, writing a book tentatively titled *Against the Technostructure: Fearing Science in Modern America*.

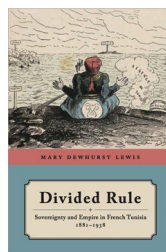


Because **Jim Kloppenberg** was on sabbatical leave in 2012-13, coincidentally the year in which he and his wife Mary celebrated their fortieth anniversary, he did a lot of traveling. To celebrate the publication of a Japanese translation of his book *Reading Obama*, he was invited to speak at the University of Tokyo, and he also participated in seminars and symposia devoted to the book in Europe and across the US. He was interviewed about Obama by journalists from Austria to Australia, appeared on radio programs from Boston to Los Angeles, and contributed articles locating contemporary politics in historical perspective to a wide range of periodicals, notably including *Le Monde*, *Democracy*, and *Commonweal*. He spent most of the year, however, revising the draft of his forthcoming book *Tragic Irony: The Rise of Democracy in European and American Thought*. In addition to visiting sites central to the history of democracy such as Athens (the photo shows him on the Acropolis), Rome, London, Paris, and Washington, he presented arguments from the book in lectures at Stanford, Vienna, and the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris, where he was a visiting professor in the spring of 2013.



Jill Lepore's most recent book, *The Mansion of Happiness: A History of Life and Death*, has been shortlisted for the [Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction](#). In 2012, Lepore received the [Sarah Josepha Hale Medal for Distinction in Literature](#). This year, "[Benched](#)," her *New Yorker* article on the history of the

Supreme Court, was named by [Greenbag](#) as an exemplary piece of legal writing, and "[Battleground America](#)," an investigation into the history of the gun debate, was named by [Longform](#) as one of the year's best political essays. In May, Lepore received an honorary degree from Colgate University.



Mary Lewis just completed a year as co-president of the Society for French Historical Studies during which she and Jeff Ravel of MIT hosted the largest U.S.-based conference of the Society in its 60-year history, with 575 participants. She also completed *Divided Rule: Sovereignty and Empire in French Tunisia, 1881-1938*, which will be published by the University of California Press in November 2013.



Ian Miller wrote *The Nature of the Beasts: Empire and Exhibition at the Tokyo Imperial Zoo*, which was published by University of California Press. The book shows how the hybrid institution of the zoological garden—at once laboratory, museum, schoolhouse, and penitentiary—served a host of diplomatic, social,

political, and scientific agendas as Japan modernized. Over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries human beings bought, built, planted, and bred their way into a shared global modernity. In the process, the world was transformed from a place where zoological gardens such as the one in Tokyo celebrated the human subjugation of ferocious animals into one where the animals themselves—most especially large carnivores—appear as fragile figures on the cusp of eradication. In Japan, this grim achievement was given dramatic form at the Ueno Zoo, opened in 1882, the first modern zoo in East Asia and the first zoological garden in the world not built under the sway of a Western imperial regime.

He also published the co-edited book *Japan at Nature's Edge: The Environmental Context of a Global Power* (University of Hawaii Press) with Julia Adeney Thomas and Brett L. Walker. This collection of sixteen essays is designed to help bring Asia more fully into the broader discussion of environmental history.

While on leave this year, Miller completed research for his current book project, *Tokyo Electric: Japan in the Age of Global Energy*, thanks to a Social Science Research Council/Center for Global Partnership Abe Fellowship. Research for the book, a cultural history of energy and electricity in modern Tokyo, took him from London and Berlin to the archives of the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), owner of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.



Afsaneh Najmabadi received a \$50,000 grant from Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute to build a collaborative research platform linked with Women's Worlds in Qajar Iran digital archive (www.qajarwomen.org), and published: "Reading Transsexuality in 'Gay' Tehran (Around 1979)," pp. 380-399, in Susan

Stryker and Aren Z. Aizura, eds. *The Transgender Studies Reader 2*, New York: Routledge, 2013; "Genus of Sex or the Sexing of Jins," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 45 (2013), 211-231; and "Ma'ayeb al-rejal," *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, an on-line edition, February 2013. <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/maayeb-al-rejal>.



In the past year (and a bit), **Dan Smail** published several articles related to his current research project on material culture and debt recovery, including "Violence and Predation in Late Medieval Mediterranean Europe," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (2012). He recently submitted an application for an NEH grant

for "The Textual Archaeology of Things in Medieval Europe," a research project exploring the objects found in late medieval European household inventories. If successful, the grant will allow him to walk into the textual avatars of medieval households and rummage about in wonder. Where his research on historiography and deep history is concerned, he recently co-authored, with Andrew Shryock, "History and the 'Pre'," the cover article of the June 2013 issue of the *American Historical Review*. An intellectual highlight of the past year, apart from a month-long stay at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, was a week spent in Canberra in May and June, where he participated in a conference on Aborigine history and culture, and also gave a paper on the history and neuroscience of compulsive hoarding. One of his great joys came from a Gen Ed course, "Making the Middle Ages," which he designed and taught with his graduate students in the fall of 2012.



Hue-Tam Ho Tai began the calendar year in northern Vietnam, interviewing spirit mediums and assisting at séances where ghost armies from centuries past were expelled, unquiet spirits were appeased, and storms driven out to sea as part of her new research on the cult of Ho Chi Minh. In May 2013, she held a two-day conference on Nguyen Vietnam that drew English, Vietnamese, and French-speaking presenters. Her summer was spent reading the voluminous materials produced by the various Ho Chi Minh cult groups, editing papers presented at a conference in May 2012 for publication in an electronic journal, and preparing a paper for a conference on community festivals to be held in Hong Kong in December. She also helped revise two dissertations for publication and is organizing another conference on the geo-body of Vietnam to be held in Gottingen, Germany, in 2015.



Laurel Ulrich was presented with the 2013 Arthur Schlesinger award for "distinguished writing in American history of enduring public significance." She also received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Utah, her undergraduate alma mater.



Kirsten Weld submitted the completed manuscript for her first book, *Paper Cadavers: The Archives of Dictatorship in Guatemala*, which will be published by Duke University Press in early 2014. Her February 2013 op-ed in *The New York Times*, titled "A Chance at Justice in Guatemala?", led to a number of radio appearances across the Americas. In addition to various conference presentations in the United States and Mexico, Weld gave invited lectures at George Mason University and the University of Oregon School of Law, and she contributed a chapter to the edited volume *Guerra fría y anticomunismo en Centroamérica*. She also provided expert testimony in the legal cases of several undocumented Guatemalan immigrants seeking to avoid deportation.



Undergraduate News



*From Ann Blair, Director of
Undergraduate Studies in Fall 2012-13
and continuing 2013-14*

In Fall 2012 I returned as DUS for two years and was delighted to be joined by Dr. Heidi Tworek as Assistant DUS. Heidi finished her PhD in our Department in June 2012 with a thesis on the development of news agencies in the early 20th century (with a special focus on Germany); she teaches a very successful course in the history of news in addition to running the senior thesis program (History 99) with Ryan Wilkinson. Heidi and I ran all the usual programs for reaching out to potential new concentrators, advising current concentrators, welcoming new instructors and visitors (including a retreat organized by Departmental TF Stephen Walsh), and planning for the next year's teaching. But this past year was especially significant for the new initiatives we developed in outreach and curricular reform.

We are grateful to colleagues who participated in events held in the Houses to introduce the Department to sophomores: David Armitage, Ann Blair, Emma Dench, Brett Flehinger, Kelly O'Neill, Mary Lewis, Maya Jasanoff, Serhii Plokhii, and Dan Smail. And special thanks to those who moderated one of the ten panels of the senior thesis conference on November 8-9: Kelly O'Neill, Walter Johnson, Andrew Jewett, Hue-Tam Ho Tai, Francine McKenzie, Emma Rothschild, Mary Lewis, Emma Dench, Erez Manela, and Joyce Chaplin. Four months later each of the 36 students in History 99 successfully handed in a senior thesis!

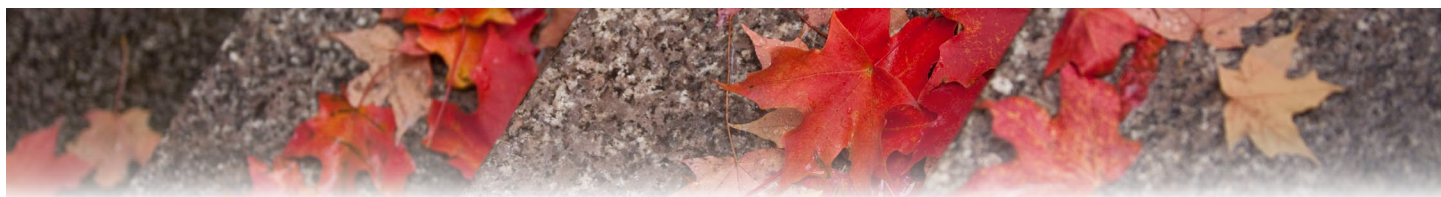
On November 7, 2012, we inaugurated what we hope will become an annual event showcasing examples of the range of historical work carried out by members of our Department. "History is Everything/Everything is History" featured short, illustrated talks by eight colleagues and drew a large attendance of students, faculty, and friends of the History Department. We are most grateful to Maya Jasanoff for organizing the event, to Jill Lepore for moderating, and to Niall Ferguson, Maya Jasanoff, Mark Kishlansky, James Kloppenberg, Ian Miller, Kelly O'Neill, Emma Rothschild, and Laurel Ulrich for speaking. "Everything is History" returned on October 9, 2013, organized by Dan Smail, with

presentations by Robert Darnton, Andrew Gordon, Annette Gordon-Reed (who holds a joint appointment with the Harvard Law School), and Tamar Herzog, the new Monroe Gutman Professor in Latin American Affairs. This event was open to the public. Please see the Department Calendar on our website for details on upcoming events.

In response to declining numbers of concentrators in History, which is part of a broader national trend and parallel to recent declines in student numbers in the Humanities more generally (see the [Harvard Humanities Project](#)), our Department launched a curricular review committee chaired by Maya Jasanoff, with Ann Blair and Dan Smail, which recommended a few changes that go into effect this year. We have dissolved the distinction between reading and research seminars and now simply require that concentrators take two undergraduate seminars and complete a major research paper; students wishing to write a senior thesis must complete that research paper before the end of junior year. Secondly, starting this Spring, our sophomore tutorial has been redesigned. History 97 introduces students to forms of historical argument and ways of formulating historical questions through the study of a broad theme, emphasizing the development of skills in historical analysis and writing. Students will be sectioned into one of six thematic seminars, each led by a faculty member and supported by a graduate student tutor. The readings and discussions will vary according to the theme of each seminar, but the schedule of assignments will be common across the seminars and will expose students to historiography, library research skills, and approaches to primary sources. For more details, see [here](#). Finally, the department has changed the requirements of its secondary field. Students who wish to complete a secondary field in History need to take two seminars and three electives. For more details, see [here](#).

Following on the success of the joint concentration devised with NELC in Spring 2012, we created a [Joint Concentration in Ancient History](#) (Greek and Roman), in which students take courses in the Classics and in History and write a thesis which integrates their learning in both departments.

"What can you do with a history degree?" must be the question we hear most often from prospective students. During the College's Advising Fortnight this year in early April, we again sponsored a panel of alumni to discuss the impact on their lives of having concentrated in history. Special thanks to recent alums who participated: Molly Boyle, Claire Bulger, Rowan Dorin, and Ari Ruben. We



would be delighted to hear from alumni who could volunteer to participate in such a panel in Spring '14! Since students often ponder the large questions at other times, we have just launched an [alumni voices page](#) and a [video](#) featuring recent concentrators talking about their experience in the History Department. Students have manifested a lot of interest in hearing about all the many careers alumni of our concentration have pursued. If you'd like to contribute a write-up, please let us know!

This year we welcomed Mary McConnell into Robinson 101 where she keeps track of all the many moving parts of our course offerings. As she has for the past 29 years, Laura Johnson ensures that the undergraduate office runs smoothly through all the transitions to new students, faculty, and curricular requirements. Thanks, finally and as always, to the terrific faculty, visitors, teaching fellows, and students who make History on our campus every day.



AB Recipients 2013

Michael Ardeljan	Alexandra Margaret Harsacky	Joshua Robbie McTaggart	Samantha Nicole Silva
Rekha Auguste-Nelson		James Ilan Merkin	Mark Anthony Singh
Aditya Balasubramanian	Alexander Benjamin Heffner	Samuel Evan Milner	Thomas James Snyder
Stephanie Ann Barnett	Catherine Grace Katz	Melanie Naranjo	Kevin Patrick Sprague
Devin Ralph Bean	James Samuel Klein	Andrew Sonny Navarro	Anthony Joseph Staccone
Tanit Chearavanont	Jeffrey Charles Lerman	Jessica Nicole Nieto	Robert Godfrey Stone
Lillian Brevik Corning	Alexander McBride Macintosh	Matthew Philip O'Leary	Lauren Elizabeth Tiedemann
Tommaso di Robilant		Anna Shirin Patel	Valentina Tkachenko
Milorad Dragicevic	Brendan Anthony Maione-Downing	Luke Hopkins Phillips	Paul Toribio
Beau Maguire Feeny	Gabriella Rose Malatesta	Brianna Elaine Rennix	Fabiola Vega
Lauren Brooke Feldman	Eli Bartlow Martin	Eva Nicole Belasco Roben	Benjamin Byers Hermansen Wilcox
David Alan Fuller	Luis Alonso Martinez	Ryan McGivern Rossner	
Andrew Michael Garbarino	Maximilian William Mason	Alexander William Saal	Thomas Churchill Wilhoit
Omar Fernando Garcia	Emily Christine Mayer	Laura Ford Savarese	Christina Shu Wong
Stephanie Bessie Garlock	Amanda Elizabeth McGowan	Leeann Saw	Helen Hoi-Ling Yung
Julian Baird Gewirtz		Scott Aaron Sherman	Lila E Nieves-Lee
	Shaw Forbes McKean		



Undergraduate Awards and Prizes

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY PRIZE

*for best total record as history concentrator by the end of
the senior year*

awarded to **Benjamin Wilcox**.

*Benjamin was also awarded the 2013 Kenneth Maxwell Senior
Thesis Prize on Brazilian Studies*

PHILIP WASHBURN PRIZE

for best thesis on historical subject

awarded to **Ryan Rossner** for his thesis:

“Medicine On Trial: Professional Expertise and Medical
Malpractice in Republican China, 1912-1937”

and to **Julian Gewirtz** for his thesis:

“River Crossings: The Influence of Western Economists on
Chinese Reform, 1978-1988.”

DAVID HERBERT DONALD PRIZE

for excellence in American history

awarded to **Laura Savarese**.

*Laura was also awarded the Captain Jonathan Fay Prize for
outstanding scholarly work or research by the Radcliffe Institute*

COLTON AWARD

*for excellence in the preparation of a senior thesis in the
Department of History*

awarded to **Samuel Milner** for his thesis:

“Tailored Regulations: Apparel Price Control during World
War II”

and to **Aditya Balasubramanian** for his thesis:

“From Socialism To Swatantra: Market Liberalism in
India, 1943-70.”

FERGUSON PRIZE

for best History 97 essay, 2011-12

awarded to **Nathaniel Hay** for his paper:

“Trampling One Another Down: the Fall of
Constantinople.”

LILLIAN BELL PRIZE

*for student with the best paper on the Holocaust or other
major 20th-century event involving human tragedy*

awarded to **Thomas Snyder** for his thesis:

“Against the Peace of the World: Soviet Influence in
the Creation of the Nuremberg Trial and the German
Response.”

UNDERGRADUATE ESSAY PRIZE

*for best work of original historical scholarship produced
before the senior year in a history department course,
2010-11*

awarded to **Michael Cotter** for his paper:

“Restoring the Orderly Exchange: The Agricultural
Adjustment Administration and Central Economic
Planning.”





Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize

This year nine of our 38 senior thesis writers in History won the Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize for the Social Sciences, awarded every year by the College to the top social science theses. We commend the writers for their achievement and for bringing this disproportionate share of Hoopes Prizes to the Department. It is evidence of the strength of our faculty and graduate-student thesis advising as well as the soundness of the Department's unique senior thesis workshop program, which has been helping History students garner these awards in surprising numbers for several years now. This year's Hoopes Prize winners were:

Aditya Balasubramanian for his submission entitled "From Socialism to Swatantra: Market Liberalism in India, 1943-70," nominated by Professor Emma Rothschild

Devin Bean for his submission entitled "From Lineage Organization to Lineage Net: The Post-Cultural Revolution Re-Imagining of Chinese Lineage Community," nominated by Professor Peter Bol

Julian Gewirtz for his submission entitled "River Crossings: The Influence of Western Economists on Chinese Reform, 1978-1988," nominated by Professor Erez Manela

Brianna Rennix for her submission entitled "Chamber of Compromise: The Creation and Demise of the First Irish Senate, 1912-1936," nominated by Mr. Alexander More

Ryan Rossner for his submission entitled "Medicine on Trial: Professional Expertise and Medical Malpractice in Republican China, 1912-1937," nominated by Professor Elisabeth Koll

Laura Savarese for her submission entitled "Slavery's Battleground: Contesting the Status of Enslaved and Free Blacks in St. Louis, from Statehood to the Civil War," nominated by Professor Walter Johnson

Leeann Saw for her submission entitled "'No Nook of English Ground Secure': British Railways and Land Expropriation, 1825-1850," nominated by Professor Niall Ferguson

Thomas Snyder for his submission entitled "'Against the Peace of the World': Soviet Influence in the Creation of the Nuremberg Trial and the German Response," nominated by Professor Serhii Plokhi

Benjamin Wilcox for his submission entitled "'Is This Science?': Louis Agassiz and the Thayer Expedition in Brazilian Thought, 1865-1876," nominated by Professor David Armitage

Phi Beta Kappa:

Class of 2013

Aditya Balasubramanian
Michael Ardeljan
Lauren Feldman
Stephanie Garlock
Julian Gewirtz
Samuel Milner
Brianna Rennix
Ryan Rossner
Laura Savarese
Scott Sherman
Thomas Snyder
Benjamin Wilcox



College-Wide Prizes

Academy of American Poets Prize
Julian Baird Gewirtz

Bernhard Blume Award
Michael Ardeljan

Detur Book Prize
Alicia M. Alvero-Koski

Edward Eager Memorial Fund
Julian Baird Gewirtz

Captain Jonathan Fay Prize
Laura Savarese

Rhodes Scholarship
Julian Gewirtz and Benjamin Wilcox

**Seymour E. and Ruth B. Harris Prize for Honors
Theses in the Social Sciences**
Benjamin Wilcox for his thesis

Kathryn Ann Huggins Prize
Laura Savarese for her thesis

Marshall Scholarship
Aditya Balasubramanian

Lee Patrick Award in Drama
Joshua McTaggart

Philip Hofer Prize in Collecting
Samuel Evan Milner, second prize,
for his project entitled
“The Cleveland School: Then and Now”

**Visiting Committee Prize for Undergraduate Book
Collecting:**
Catherine Grace Katz, first prize,
for her project entitled:

“My Grandmother’s Childhood Library: Collecting Early
20th Century Stratemeyer Syndicate Children’s Series”





Graduate News

Ph.D. Recipients 2013

Tariq Ali

“The Envelope of Global Trade: The Political Economy and Intellectual History of Jute in Bengal, 1853-1950”

Jane Hong

“Reorienting America: Race, Geopolitics, and the Repeal of Asian Exclusion, 1940-1952”

Konrad Lawson

“Wartime Atrocities and the Politics of Treason in the Ruins of the Japanese Empire, 1937-1953”

Erik Linstrum

“The Human Factor: Experiments with Psychology in the British Empire, 1898-1960”

Johan Mathew

“Margins of the Market: Trafficking and the Framing of Free Trade in the Arabian Sea, 1870s to 1960s”

Elisa Minoff

“Free to Move? The Law and the Politics of Internal Migration in Twentieth-Century America”

Elizabeth More

“Best Interests: Feminists, Social Science, and the Revaluing of Working Mothers After 1940”

Ward Penfold

“Beyond the Civil Code: Comparative Law in France and the United States, 1900-1940”

Josie Rodberg

“Planning the American Family: The Politics of Government Family Planning Programs from the Great Society to the New Right”

Andrew Spadafora

“Freedom from Value Judgments: Value-Free Social Science and Objectivity in Germany, 1880-1914”

Julia Stephens

“Secularizing Sharia: Law and Islam in Colonial India”

Ece Turnator

“Turning the Economic Tables in the Medieval Mediterranean: The Latin Crusader Empire and the Transformation of the Byzantine Economy, ca. 1100-1400”

Jeremy Yellen

“The Two Pacific Wars: Visions of Order and Independence in Japan and Southeast Asia, 1940-1945”





Graduate Placement 2013

Tenure-track Positions:

Sana Aiyar	MIT
Arbella Bet-Shlimon (HMES)	University of Washington
Emily Conroy-Krutz	Michigan State
Jane Hong	Seton Hall University
Konrad Lawson	University of St. Andrews
Elisa Minoff	University of South Florida
Miles Rodriguez	Bard College
Ricardo Salazar Rey	Stetson University
Benjamin Siegel	Boston University
Julia Stephens	Yale
Gitanjali Surendran	Jindal Global Law School, Delhi
Shirley Ye	University of Birmingham
Jeremy Yellen	Naval Postgraduate School (pending)

Non-tenure Track:

John Huffman	NEH, Library Company of Philadelphia
Hassan Malik	European University Institute
Sreemati Mitter	College Fellow, History Department
Oksana Mykhed	Visiting Assistant Professor, Columbia University
Steffen Rimner	Henry Chauncey, Jr. '57 Fellowship, Yale
Mira Siegelberg	Lecturer on Social Studies and on History and Literature
Andrew Spadafora	Research Associate, Harvard Business School
Tristan Stein	Research Associate, University of Kent
John Wong	University of Hong Kong

Henry Adams Society

In the last year, graduate students made dramatic changes to the Henry Adams Society. Beginning with a number of discussions on the common issues graduate students encounter, the students drafted and then approved a constitution. The governing document established the Society as the representative body of graduate students in the History Department.

In addition to bringing together historians from across Harvard University for drinks every Friday night, Henry Adams now hosts regular information sessions for students. Popular ones from the last year included graduate student panels about preparing for general examinations, tips for grant applications, and an information session for first year students, among many others. In addition, the Society organized regular meetings each month to gather information about student problems and to organize solutions that benefit all members.

All of these events occurred inside Henry Adams's new home in the Upper Library of Robinson Hall. The beautiful space has been outfitted with free coffee for graduate students and a foosball table. This year, the Society will add a printer so that graduate students in the Department will again have access to convenient printing on campus. The new graduate student lounge is quickly becoming a space where students congregate to study, socialize, and collaborate. Society presidents Tina Groeger and Andrew Pope appreciate the support the Department has provided during this transitional period. Department chair David Armitage and the Director of Graduate Studies Erez Manela have offered financial support and counsel. In addition to departmental funding, the Henry Adams book sale again was a success. We wish to thank the many professors who donated books and the graduate students who volunteered to staff the event. The Graduate Student Council also provided additional money for programming hosted by the Henry Adams Society.

Elections were held in the fall for each cohort. We are looking forward to another year of growth for the Henry Adams Society.



Dissertation Prospectus Conference

In February 2013, graduate students from the History Department and affiliated programs took an important step toward completing their dissertations by introducing their research topics at the Dissertation Prospectus Conference. The yearly conference is an opportunity for students who have recently completed their General Examination to formally present their research plans to members of the faculty and to their peers. 2013's program included:

*Session moderated by Professor Evelyn Brooks
Higginbotham*

Andrew Baker, *The Confidence Kingdom: Hazarding Antebellum New Orleans*

Shaun Nichols, *Crisis Capital: The Making and Un-Making of Industrial Massachusetts, 1873-1973*

Liang Xu, *Chinese in Newcastle, South Africa: Apartheid Policy, Asian Investment and the (Un)making of a South African Town*

Claire Dunning, *The Privatization of Progress: How the Nonprofit Sector Did (and Did Not) Reshape American Cities*

Session moderated by Professor Mary Lewis

Stuart McManus, *Globalizing Cicero: Humanist Oratory in Early Modern European Empires 1400-1800*

Elizabeth Cross, *The Compagnie des Indes and the Fate of Commercial Empire in the French Revolution*

Lars Neufeld, *A Cordial Imperialism?: News Networks & the Expansion of Anglo-French Informal Empire, c. 1860-1914*

Guillaume Wadia, *Covert Imperial Statecraft: French Military Intelligence and the Growth of the Secret State in Interwar Morocco*

Session moderated by Professor Charles Maier

James Martin, *From the Grundnorm to the Global Economy: The Idea of International Order in European Liberal Thought, 1920-1950*

Aline-Florence Manent, *From Stunde Null to Keine Experimente: An Intellectual History of the Founding of the Federal Republic of Germany*

Casey Bohlen, *The Politics of Soul: Religious Activism and the Movements of the Radical Sixties*

Elisabeth Burton, *Genetic Nationalism: Ethnic Mythmaking and Biological Research in Iran, Turkey, and Israel*

Session moderated by Professor Andrew Gordon

Ian Miller, *Mountain Land Management and Environmental Ethics in Ming and Qing China*

Shi Lin Loh, *Radioactive Histories: Japan's Nuclear Age Before and Beyond Hiroshima*

Kathryn Dooley, *Consumption as a Tool of Self-Fashioning and Sociability in Post-War Soviet Central Asia, 1945-1985*

Elizabeth Kerley, *Word and Deed: (Post)-Soviet Elite Conceptions of Democracy and Human Rights in International Perspective, 1985-1994*



Please let us hear from you

Thank you to all the alumni who have contributed to our newsletter and supported the History Department with gifts.

Please use this form to keep in touch with us. We welcome your recent news for inclusion in our next newsletter, as well as contributions to the History Department for graduate student support and other uses. You may give to the Department directly, or you may also designate the History Department when giving to the Harvard Campaign or the Graduate School's Annual Fund.

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Harvard University
Robinson Hall 201
35 Quincy Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Degree and year _____

News for future newsletter

You may also email your updates to history@fas.harvard.edu.

Alumni News 2012-13

Kyle Harper (PhD '07) won the 2012 AHA Breasted Book Prize for Best Book in English in a field of Pre-Modern History for his book, *Slavery in the Late Roman World, AD 275-425*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2011.

Miles Rodríguez (PhD '10) accepted a tenure-track position as an assistant professor with a dual appointment in History and Latin American and Iberian Studies at Bard College beginning fall 2012. This is his first tenure-track

appointment. He has been serving on a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of California, San Diego, since fall 2010.

Benjamin Tromly's (Ph.D. '07) first book, *Making the Soviet Intelligentsia: Universities and Intellectual Life under Stalin and Khrushchev*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2013 in the New Studies in European History series.