



WELLESLEY COLLEGE

History Department Annual Newsletter

Spring 2017

Dear Friends of the History Department,

It is mid-May and, as I write, we are anticipating commencement and a chance to celebrate the class of 2017. Like the rest of the country, Wellesley College and the History Department have had quite a year, and our senior majors and minors, along with many of their underclass colleagues, have done much to help us adjust to changing times.

Last year, under the leadership of Tak Matsusaka, students of history elected their first Student Advisory Council (SAC), a group designed to advise the chair and faculty on matters of importance for majors and minors. With the help and input of this year's SAC leadership, we've continued to strengthen our intellectual community by improving communications with all members. With SAC input, we've plunged into the world of social media. This, in turn, has driven increased interest in departmental events, essay contests, and social gatherings. On May 4, for instance, students and faculty celebrated the end of the semester, outdoors under sunny skies, at one of the largest parties in recent memory. Our on-going quest is to make the History Department a welcoming, intellectually exciting, and inclusive place where vigorous intellectual debate and community are shared by all.

In addition to focusing on community building, the department is also exploring ways to support experiential learning, particularly summer internships, which are extraordinarily important to our majors and minors. Our Academic Administrator, Susan Wood, has been working with Wellesley's revamped Career Education division to introduce our majors and minors to the logistics of finding and funding internship opportunities. In April, Susan organized a successful first internship roundtable, where majors shared wonderful internship experiences as well as plans for this coming summer. We will follow up in the fall with another event that features reports on the summer and guidance for finding 2018 opportunities.

Meanwhile, intellectual work continues to reside at the core of our mission.

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Ryan Quintana's book, 'For Only They Can Effect It': Slavery and the Production of the Modern State, is currently in press with the University of North Carolina. The list of faculty articles, chapters, and other shorter pieces are too numerous to itemize here, and department faculty members have again been successful in earning prestigious grants to support their research. In the fall and spring, moreover, we continued our tradition of faculty workshops, which allow colleagues to share work with one another. In November, Nikhil Rao presented "Bombay's Urban Edge," and, in April, Brenna Greer workshopped her article-in-progress, "The Birth of Mother Rosa: The Photographic Roots of Rosa Parks as Icon of Polite Protest." Department members have also made important contributions to the public intellectual culture at Wellesley, and, in the wake of the tumultuous national election last November, the campus called on American historians Brenna Greer and Ryan Quintana to provide critical historical frameworks for thinking about the current state of American politics. Professors Greer and Quintana responded by organizing a college-sponsored December teach-in entitled "Race and Resistance in the Age of Trump."

For me as chair, the strength of the History Department at Wellesley resides in its people. From the energy and insights of the Student Advisory Council to the inspiring research and teaching of my colleagues, I am proud to be surrounded by such accomplished people. Thus, it is with particular pleasure that I note that Kate Grandjean and Ryan Quintana earned tenure this year. Both Professors Grandjean and Quintana are inspiring teachers as well as researchers who are influencing the ways we all think about issues of major importance, including race, state power, violence, and the environment.

The accomplished people who contribute daily to the many activities of the History Department include our tireless administrator, Susan Wood, and her student workers, Clara Cotty '17, who graduated in December, Sophie Olson '18, Renee Purtscher '18, Maddie Taylor '18, and Izzy Labbe '20. Together, this team provides indispensable service to us all.

As always, we welcome alumnae to be in touch. My colleagues and I enjoy catching up with our graduates, and I encourage you to follow us on Facebook or send a brief email update to Susan Wood (susan.wood@wellesley.edu) or me (cgiersch@wellesley.edu). We are always looking for volunteers to be profiled for the annual newsletter or website. If you are willing to be featured in our alumnae profiles, please let us know. My best to you over the summer, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Pat Giersch, Chair



History Department Faculty



Front: Tumarkin, Kapteijns, Back: Giersch, Matsusaka, Greer, Quintana, Grandjean, Rogers. Not Pictured: Grote, Malino, Osorio, Ramseyer, Rao, Slobodian

FACULTY AND AREAS OF SPECIALITY

C. Pat Giersch (History of China)

Brenna W. Greer (History of the U.S. in the Twentieth-Century)

Katherine A. Grandjean (History of Early America)

Simon Grote (History of Early Modern Europe)

Lidwien Kapteijns (History of Africa and the Middle East)

Frances Malino (Jewish History)

Y. Tak Matsusaka (History of Japan)

Alejandra B. Osorio (History of Latin America)

Ryan Quintana (History of the U.S. in the Nineteenth-Century)

Valerie Ramseyer (Medieval History)

Nikhil Rao (History of South Asia)

Guy M. Rogers (Ancient History)

Andrew Shennan (History of Modern Europe, Currently Provost)

Quinn Slobodian (History of Modern Europe)

Nina Tumarkin (History of Russia)

Faculty News

C. Pat Giersch

I have been chairing the History department this year, and, together with our able Administrator, Susan Wood, I've worked to build on former chair Tak Matsusaka's achievements. This means that we've continued to develop our outreach to all majors, minors, and elective students in order to make the department a more visible, vibrant, and inclusive place. (To see some of our events, please like and follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WellesleyCollegeHistory>.) With the help of all faculty, we also have guided the department through a period of introspection, as we seek to articulate the importance of evidence-based historical thinking and learning both on the Wellesley Campus and in a larger world, where accurate evidence-based discourse seems to be in shorter and shorter supply. In addition to my chairing duties, I've continued to work on various projects, and last fall I published a short piece on Eastern Tibet (Kham) in the journal *Cross-Currents*.



Kate Grandjean

It has been a busy year for me. This fall, I debuted a new First Year Seminar, "American Hauntings." My students spent most of the semester discussing ghost stories and hauntings as historical memory: how do they inform the way we think about the past? When not teaching, I've been working on my next book, *In the Kingdom of Devils*, which looks at the aftermath of the American Revolution by following a series of murders in Appalachia in the 1790s. Next spring, I'll be on leave continuing that research, supported by the American Antiquarian Society and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Recently, I've traveled to Nashville, Los Angeles, Maine, New York, and various other places, to speak about my work. And here's the big news: This winter, I was delighted to receive tenure at the College. I look forward to many more years of teaching and working here at the College.



Brenna Greer

This fall, I returned to campus after almost two years of sabbatical and parental leave. While on leave during the 2014-2015 academic year, I continued research on my book manuscript, "Represented: Black Image Professionals and Civil Rights Work from the New Deal to the Cold War," with support from the Woodrow Wilson National Foundation Career Enhancement Fellowship and the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship. During that same period, I was also fortunate to workshop the manuscript while in residence as a fellow at the Newhouse Center for the Humanities. In November 2015, I presented new research that explored the Emmett Till lynching at the annual meeting of the Social Science History Association (SSHA). Spring



Faculty News

Brenna Greer (continued)

2016 was spent adjusting to life as a new mother. During this past academic year, I submitted my book manuscript and completed an article that traces the historical circumstances that produced iconic media representations of Rosa Parks as an accidental, non-violent activist. In addition, I joined the inaugural cohort of the Albright Institute Faculty Scholars Initiative, which includes membership on the editorial board for *The Spoke*, a weblog that facilitates the College's public engagement with current events.

Simon Grote

I spent the 2016-17 academic year at the Interdisciplinary Center for Pietism Research in Halle (Germany), an exhilarating place to continue working on a new book about the Pietist theologian Joachim Lange (1670-1744) in the context of the German Enlightenment. In addition to mining Halle's archives and libraries for materials on Lange and laying the groundwork for several of the book's chapters, I presented an early version of one chapter at a conference at the Gotha Research Center. Other highlights of my year included returning to Wellesley in September to organize, with Prof. Sarah Wall-Randell, a daylong book studies symposium, "Graphic Design in the Digital Future: Lessons from the Renaissance Book"; reviewing a pair of new books about the Enlightenment; ushering the manuscript of my own book, *The Emergence of Modern Aesthetic Theory*, through the production process; and, in collaboration with the Davis Museum and the Religion Department at Wellesley, preparing on-campus public programming for Fall 2017 to coincide with the 500th anniversary of the publication of Martin Luther's *Ninety-five Theses* — an event that will also feature significantly in my Fall 2017 survey course on the Holy Roman Empire (HIST234).



Lidwien Kapteijns

This year I have taught two classes on the history of the modern Middle East, one on the history of Modern Africa, and, for the last time, the IR-History capstone seminar about the histories of 'religious' and 'ethnic' violence, which has attracted such impressive groups of students over the years. Last summer, I presented my work on Somalia at Makerere University in Kampala (Uganda), to the Northeast Africa course organized by the Rift Valley Institute in Entebbe (Uganda), and at the Garowe Book Fair (Somalia). The long essay I coauthored with Alessandra Vianello about women's legal personhood and economic roles in the late nineteenth-century port city of Brava (Somalia) has just come out in *History in Africa*. It was based on the Arabic Qadi's court records of the town for 1893-1900. I also presented "Ilm and the Common People: Sufi Vernacular Poetry and Islamic Education in Brava, c. 1890-1922" (also co-authored with Vianello) at the Harvard University conference on "The Meaning of Scholarship in Muslim Africa." I have been invited to write an essay for the UN's project on Peace and Reconciliation in Somalia. Power yoga helps to keep me (mostly) sane.



Faculty News

Fran Malino

My chapter titled “Oriental, Feminist, Orientalist: The New Jewish Woman” has just appeared in *Colonialism and the Jews*, published by Indiana University Press and coedited by Ethan Katz, Lisa Leff and Maud Mandel. In mid May I leave for the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies where I will present two papers and participate in an international conference titled Jewish Women’s Cultural Capital under Islam. I have been President of Digital Heritage Mapping, a non-profit, since its inception. Our flagship project Diarna (“our homes” in Judeo Arabic), an on-line geo-museum for which Wellesley students have interned for many summers, was recently featured in a long article in Newsweek (March 3).



Y. Tak Matsusaka

I returned to full-time teaching this year after three semesters of service as department chair. It was good to be back to “normal.” I had a chance to teach two semesters of HIST 205 (Making of the Modern World Order) back to back with the inauguration of a new U.S. president in between. The difference in the intellectual climate across the two semesters was notable. I also taught HIST 269 (Japan and the Great Powers in East Asia) for the first time in several years, and I was happy to return to teaching more Japanese history. I will be taking a full-year leave in 2017-18. During my sabattical, in addition to submitting my manuscript on nationalism in Meiji Japan for publication, I plan to finish some projects in progress on the Imperial Japanese Army. When I return, I’m considering introducing a new course of the history of “managed capitalism” in Japan.



Alejandra B. Osorio

I am completing a two-year appointment as resident director of the Programa de Estudios Hispánicos in Cordoba (PRESHCO), Spain. While this has been an interesting experience, I am looking forward to returning to the classroom and my scholarly work. This year, I participated in a roundtable at the annual meeting of the American Historical Organization organized by The Radical Historian’s Organization on the topic of radical pre/modernisms and conceptual alternatives to what came before modernity. My presentation about how to write a radical history of the Habsburg Spanish Empire will be published in the *Radical History Review* (RHR). I also presented a paper on the Italian roots of the political culture developed by the Spanish Habsburgs in their worldwide empire at a conference organized by the Universitat



Alejandra Osorio (continued)

de Barcelona and the Autónoma of Madrid. I published two articles: “Courtly ceremonies and a cultural urban geography of power in the Habsburg Spanish Empire” in *The Circulation of Culture in Atlantic Cities: From Early Modern to Modernism*, edited by Leonard von Morzé, and “El imperio de los Austrias españoles y el Atlántico: propuestas para una nueva historia” in *Fronteras: procesos y prácticas de integración y conflictos entre Europa y América (siglos XVI-XX)*, edited by V. Favaro, M. Merluzzi, and G. Sabatini.

Ryan Quintana

In the Summer of 2016, I completed my manuscript, “For They Only Can Effect It: Slavery and the Production of the Modern State,” which is now under contract with the University of North Carolina Press. The book examines the varied ways that enslaved South Carolinians produced the early state in eighteenth and early nineteenth century South Carolina. More specifically, it looks at the specific ways that slaves built South Carolina’s early infrastructure through their labor, gave meaning to state space through their laboring movement, and challenged and reshaped the idea and practice of early governance through their everyday mobility. During the winter, I completed an essay on slavery and the state soon to be published in a special issue of the *Journal of the Early Republic* focused on early American political development, as well as a review of Trevor Burnard’s *Planters, Merchants, and Slaves* for *The Journal of American History*. I’ve also begun work on my new project, as of yet untitled, which will look at the early history of slave executions, state compensatory practices, and the development of eminent domain. This project, though still in its earliest stages, aims to illuminate how black lives and deaths were central to the production of the early state and notions of the common good.



Valerie Ramseyer

I currently have one article in press: “Questions of Monastic Identity in Medieval Southern Italy and Sicily (c. 500-1200),” to be published in the *New Cambridge History of Medieval Western Monasticism* next year. I have completed and submitted another article, “Rethinking Boundaries between Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Communities in Pre-Lateran Southern Italy,” to be published in a collection of essays titled *Jews and Muslims under the Fourth Lateran Council*. I am currently working on a book project that will survey the history of early medieval Italy, c. 475-1000 C. E. I presented papers at two academic conferences this year: “The Localization of Society in Late Antique Southern Italy,” at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, and “Fifteen Years of Teaching the Early Medieval Mediterranean,” at the Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Toronto, Canada.



Faculty News

Nikhil Rao

Last fall I taught two courses: my lecture-course on the City in South Asia, as well my seminar on Partition in South Asia. On the research and writing front, I completed revisions on two articles that will be appearing this year: “Bombay’s Urban Edge: Villages, Suburbs, Slums, and the Expanding City” will appear in *What’s in a Name? Talking about ‘Suburbs’*, edited by Richard Harris and Charlotte Vorms, and “Suburbanization and urban practice in India” will appear in *Making Cities Global: The Transnational Turn in Urban History*, edited by Nancy Kwak and Andrew Sandoval-Strausz. I also presented my work at two different venues in Germany: at the Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin and at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen. In addition, I presented work in progress at the Wellesley College History department’s fall faculty workshop. This semester I am on leave, and, after spending three months in India, am now working on developing my second book project on urban property.



Guy Rogers

This past year I published a review of Steve Mason’s *A History of the Jewish War* in *Michigan War Studies Review* (February) and also wrote an op-ed piece “Donald the Great? Alexander, the Middle East, and President Trump” for *Middle East Eye*. Last fall I was invited to join the Scientific Committee for the development of programming the 2019 celebration of Matera (Italy) as a Cultural Capital of Europe. I also adopted a special needs cat named Baxter – publicity photo enclosed.



Quinn Slobodian

In 2016-17, I spent the first semester on parental leave and the second on a scheduled sabbatical. I was fortunate to receive a nine-month National Endowment for the Humanities research fellowship in pursuit of my new book project on the rise of international economic law. This book explores how and why the idea of the Rule of Law became elevated to the position of ultimate social good by the end of the 20th century. My focus is on a group of legal scholars and economists working in the fields of New Institutionalism, Public Choice, and International Economic Law, whose academic contributions became the foundation for a rethinking of basic categories within the World Bank, IMF and the United Nations after the end of the Cold War. Part of my research took me to Hong Kong, where I researched and presented on the origin



Faculty News

Quinn Slobodian (continued)

of the Economic Freedom of the World Index. Another part of my research took me to Berlin and London, where I investigated the histories of Clive Schmitthoff and the UN efforts at creating transnational courts of arbitration parallel to nation-states. I look forward to continuing this research as ACLS Burkhardt Residential Fellow at Harvard University's Weatherhead Initiative on Global History in 2017-18.

Nina Tumarkin

The year 2016-2017 has been a busy one for those of us who are "Russia experts" on account of Russia's unusually extensive penetration into the American political process in the 2016 electoral campaign and the subsequent 2017 centennial of the Russian Revolution. I have been lecturing on both topics at conferences and public venues, including the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., the Yale Alumni Association, and Williams College. My work on my book project "Politics of the Past in Putin's Russia" has continued, with a special research focus on the current centennial of the 1917 Revolution.

At Wellesley I introduced a new first year seminar, "Vladimir Putin: Personage, President, Potentate," a topic that was all the more timely after the 2016 Russian hacking and the articulated positive views of Putin by Donald Trump and Republican voters, who in December 2016 gave the Russian president a 37% approval rating. This past academic year I also had a few media appearances: "Putting into historical context White House's sanctions on Russia over cyberhacking" on "AirTalk with Larry Mantle," KPCC, Los Angeles, Dec. 30, 2016; I did a radio interview on the history of US-Russian relations with BYU radio, March 13, 2017; and I was interviewed by, and quoted in TIME Magazine article, "American Suspicion of Russia is Older Than You May Think," March 2, 2017.



New Courses Introduced 2016-2017



HISTORY 114

FIRST YEAR SEMINAR AMERICAN HAUNTINGS

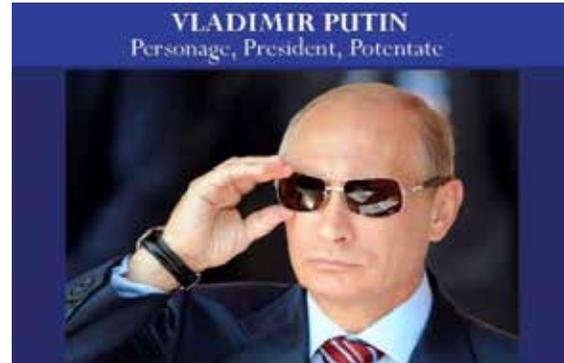
Prof. Katherine Grandjean

The American past is crowded with ghosts. In this seminar, we will trace the evolution of supernatural belief in America and analyze some of its most famous ghost stories. What about the nation's history makes it such fertile terrain for ghosts? What

happens when the dead refuse to stay in the past, relegated to history? Why, in short, is the American historical imagination so haunted? We'll dig deeply into selected hauntings, drawn from across historical North America, and encounter the spirits of French Detroit, the Gettysburg battlefield, and colonial Jamaica, among others.

New Courses Introduced 2016-2017

HISTORY 116
FIRST YEAR SEMINAR
VLADIMIR PUTIN: PERSONAGE,
PRESIDENT, POTENTATE
Prof. Nina Tumarkin



Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, is by many accounts the world's most powerful political leader. How did he achieve this status? What have been his chief goals, values and operating principles? What accounts for his vast popularity in Russia, even at a time of military engagement and economic recession? A product of Leningrad's "mean streets," the young Putin sought glory in the KGB, and after the demise of the Soviet Union—a collapse he rues to this day—moved into the heights of power. We will explore Vladimir Putin's life path, political maneuvers, ideas about Russia's identity and place in the world, and his image as the epitome of potent masculinity. Assignments will include biographical and autobiographical writings, speeches, videos and a plethora of images and caricatures of this enigmatic and forceful leader.

New Courses for 2017-2018

HISTORY 254
THE UNITED STATES IN THE WORLD WAR II ERA
Prof. Brenna Greer

World War II was a uniquely defining moment in U.S. history, its sweeping influence forever altering the nation's culture, economics, and global position. This course examines events surrounding U.S. involvement in the Second World War from the Depression era through the early Cold War years. Our focus will be political, social, and cultural developments on the "home front," which we will contextualize within broader world dynamics. Topics include: domestic attitudes toward the war, the political and cultural significance of FDR's "four freedoms," shifts in foreign policy, a reshaped workforce ("Rosie the Riveter," Bracero programs, desegregation), sex and sexuality in the military, military personnel's experiences, wartime consumer trends, scientific advances, and the nation's geopolitical concerns and objectives.

New Courses for 2017-2018

HISTORY 261
THE CIVIL WAR AND THE WORLD
Prof. Ryan Quintana

This course examines the American Civil War, one of the central conflicts in US history, by placing it within the broader context of the making of the modern world. The course will explore the roots, consequences, and experiences of the war—the long history of slavery and emancipation, territorial expansion and industrialization, and the everyday experience of modern warfare. The class will do so by considering those events through the lens of global history. We scrutinize the political upheavals around the world that gave broader meaning to the Civil War; the emergence of modern weaponry and tactics and their consequences; and the development of the nation-state and colonialism, which resulted in new forms of governance and coercion that emerged in the wake of emancipation.

HISTORY 266
PORT CITIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
Prof. Lidwien Kapteijns

The history of Indian Ocean port cities situated on the littorals of the Red Sea, East Africa, the Persian Gulf, and the west coast of India, which together enclose the western Indian Ocean. Timeperiod: from c. 1600 to the present, with special emphasis on the transition to, and impact of British colonial rule. Focus on the local life and contexts of these port cities, as well as their relations across the ocean: the movements and networks of people; products of exchange; technologies, legal and other; religious and political ideas, as well as common health challenges. Port cities to be studied include Zanzibar, Brava, Mombasa, Aden, Jeddah, Kuwait, Bahrein, Dubai, Diu, and Bombay/Mumbai.

HISTORY 365
AFRICAN HISTORY THROUGH PUBLIC AND POPULAR CULTURE
Prof. Lidwien Kapteijns

In this research seminar we will study African expressions—the fancy word is “mediations”—of history from c. 1900 to the present, with emphasis on public and popular culture broadly construed. This means that we will draw on a wide range of historical sources (digital and otherwise) such as the popular arts (song, theater, and television); journalism; photography and film; historical monuments and museums; literary representations of history, and historical scholarship. The five central themes of the seminar are: (1) colonialism, nationalism, and modernity; (2) constructions of gender; (3) cultural and political identities; (4) the history of the environment, and (5) the roots and aftermaths of modern conflicts. Student papers are expected to include one major set of African primary sources.

Public Programs 2016-2017

RUSSIAN AREA STUDIES PRESENTS

Russia NOW: The Current State of the Former Soviet Union



With
Professor Thomas Hodge
 Russian
Professor Igor Logvinenko
 Political Science
Professor Nina Tumarkin
 History

September 8, 2016
 at 8:00 p.m.
 Library Lecture Room

WELLESLEY

info / tumarkin@wellesley.edu
 Disability: accessibility@wellesley.edu
 info@wellesley.edu
 781-235-8434

WELLESLEY COLLEGE BOOK STUDIES PRESENTS A SYMPOSIUM

GRAPHIC DESIGN— IN THE DIGITAL FUTURE: LESSONS FROM THE RENAISSANCE BOOK

SAT
SEPT 10
 LIBRARY LECTURE ROOM

The symposium features Simon Thakur, V.J. Russell Mann, Kim Bonick and Sue Lin Pui. Workshops led by Sotir Lera, Katherine M. Reilly and Beth B. Rogin.

LECTURES AND DISCUSSION
 9:00AM-12:30PM

LUNCH
 12:30PM-2:00PM

WORKSHOPS
 2:00PM-4:45PM

RECEPTION AND DISCUSSION
 4:45PM-5:45PM

QUESTIONS AND WORKSHOP REGISTRATION:
 Sarah Wall-Randell
 wallrao@wellesley.edu

Our media landscape is changing radically. New technologies offer new ways of reading and new modes of processing texts. But how completely can we really break with old paradigms? Do the design principles of the printed book have a place in our digital future? To find an answer, this conference compares our ongoing technological revolutions with an earlier one: the invention of the printed book itself in Renaissance Europe.

The History Department,
 Harambee House and MMUF Present:

Reframing Power: Somali Storytelling as/in History

“Hoygaygi waa Halkee:
 A Nomad Seeking the Sensation of Home”

Speaker: Suban Nur Cooley,
 Doctoral Student, Michigan State University

“Using Somali Storytelling and Orality to Reframe Power”

Speaker: Hawa Y. Mire,
 Masters in Environmental Studies Candidate,
 York University

Harambee House
 Monday, October 24, at 6:00 PM

?? Susan x 2605, susan.wood@wellesley.edu
 ?? disability related accommodations,
 contact disabilityservices@wellesley.edu or 781-235-2434

The History Department
 invites you to a talk by

Jonathan Shapiro Anjaria Brandeis University

Bicycle Love: Rethinking persons and objects in India



November 1, 2016
 4:30 PM
 Founders 120

WELLESLEY

Questions: hrap@wellesley.edu
 Disability: anjaria@wellesley.edu

Public Programs 2016-2017

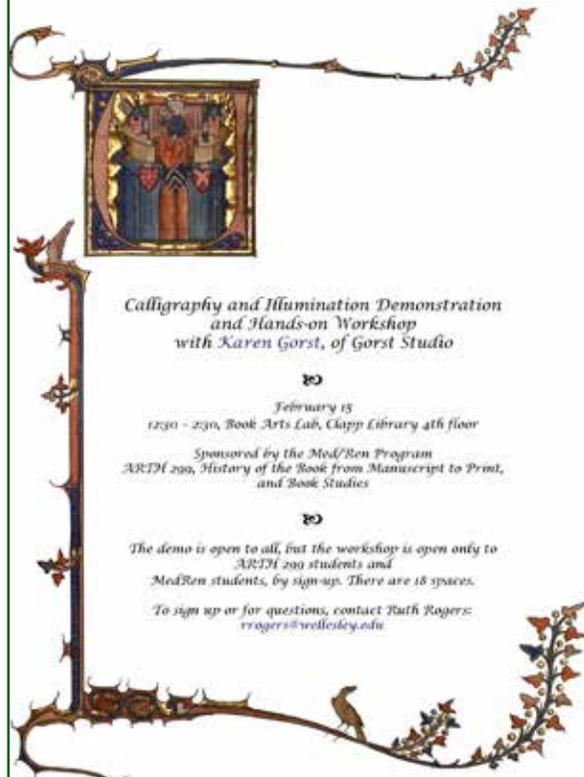
RUSSIAN AREA STUDIES PRESENTS

PROFESSOR WILLIAM TAUBMAN
Author of "The Great Russian Revolution" and "The Collapse of the Soviet Union"



Why Did the Soviet Union Collapse?

Thursday, FEBRUARY 9, 2017, 8:00 PM
 Library Lecture Room, Clapp Library



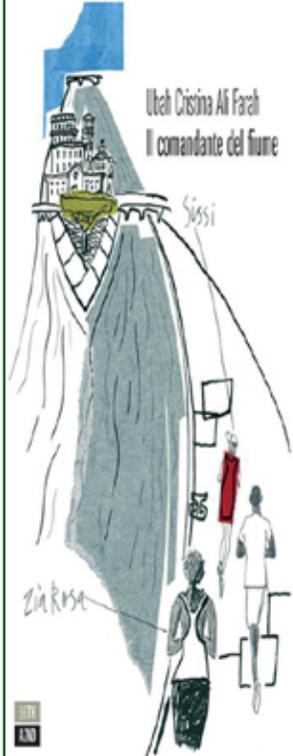
Calligraphy and Illumination Demonstration and Hands-on Workshop
 with Karen Gorst, of Gorst Studio

February 15
 12:30 - 2:30, Book Arts Lab, Clapp Library 4th floor

Sponsored by the Med/Res Program
 ART21 200, History of the Book from Manuscript to Print, and Book Studies

The demo is open to all, but the workshop is open only to ART21 200 students and Med/Res students, by sign-up. There are 18 spaces.

To sign up or for questions, contact Ruth Rogers: rrogers@wellesley.edu



Utah Cristina Ali Farah
 Il comandante del fiume

Novelist
Ubah Cristina Ali Farah

(Post-)Memory of Violence in Somali Italian Context: A Literary Approach to Confronting the Past

Date: Thursday (Monday schedule), 20 April
 Time: 4:00 PM
 Place: PNE-127

All welcome

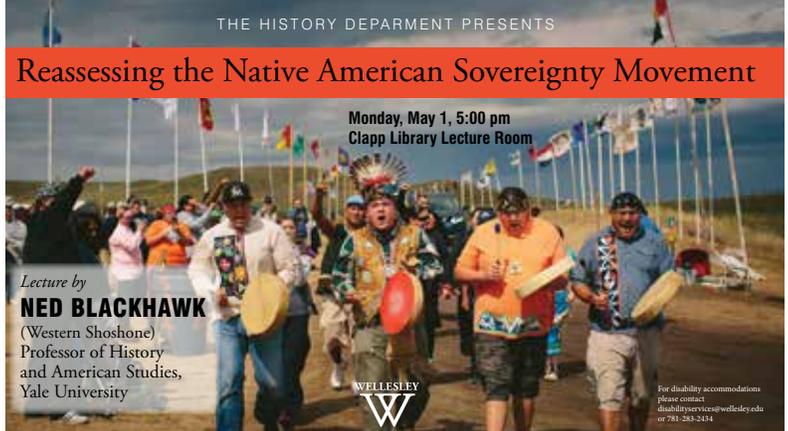
For excerpts from her novels, contact Prof. Kapteijns (ikapteijns@wellesley.edu)

For disability-related accommodations, please contact disabilityservices@wellesley.edu or 781-253-2434

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

Reassessing the Native American Sovereignty Movement

Monday, May 1, 5:00 pm
 Clapp Library Lecture Room



Lecture by
NED BLACKHAWK
 (Western Shoshone)
 Professor of History and American Studies,
 Yale University

For disability accommodations please contact disabilityservices@wellesley.edu or 781-253-2434

Faculty Workshops

Continuing our tradition of holding faculty research workshops that feature work in progress, Professor Nikhil Rao presented in fall 2016 and Professor Brenna Greer presented in spring 2017.

“Bombay’s Urban Edge”

Nikhil Rao

Discussant: Liza Weinstein, Northeastern University

For a while now the History department has organized a workshop, once a semester, where one of us gets to present work in progress and benefit from one’s colleagues’ feedback while enjoying a buffet dinner. On November 3, I presented my paper titled “Towards A Morphology of Bombay’s Urban Edge: Villages, Suburbs, Slum, and the Expanding City” at this forum. Professor Liza Weinstein of Northeastern University, a sociologist and author of a recent book on the Dharavi slum in Mumbai, was invited to respond to my paper. I received excellent feedback from her and from colleagues in the department. I thought to myself – as I have on previous occasions at this workshop – that this was a really good forum for us as History faculty members to engage one another about our scholarly work. I felt grateful for and gratified by the support of my colleagues.

“Making Mother Rosa: Rosa Parks as Icon of Polite Protest”

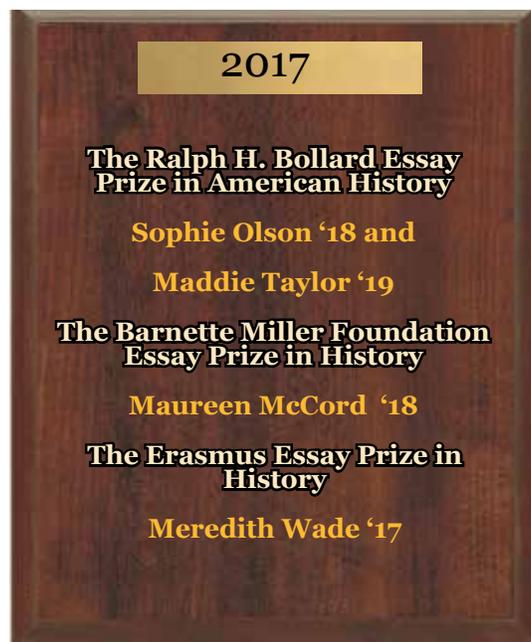
Brenna Greer

Discussant: Kimberly Juanita Brown, Mount Holyoke College

On April 6th, I was fortunate to present work central to my current research interests to my colleagues in the history department. After dinner, we discussed an article I drafted, “Making Mother Rosa: Rosa Parks as Icon of Polite Protest,” which traces how Rosa Parks and other civil rights activists encouraged the iconic image of Parks as the matriarch of non-violent protest and considers the legacy of that image. Two members from the English and Art departments also joined us. Kimberly Juanita Brown, Assistant Professor of English at Mount Holyoke College, graciously served as the discussant. The conversation was lively and the questions and direction my colleagues offered will be invaluable as I revise this work for publication, as well as to my broader thinking about representation and protest politics.

Student Essay Prizes

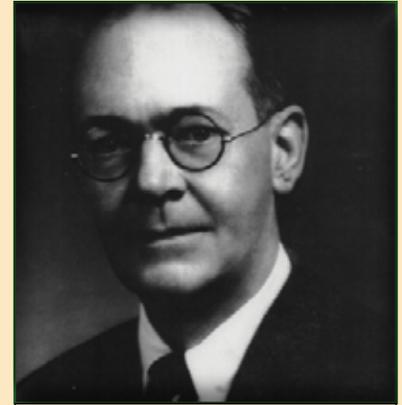
Each year the History Department awards essay prizes to student papers written for a History course (or on a historical subject).



The F.A.O. Schwarz Foundation

Honors Seminar Program and Scholarships

Each year a small number of outstanding students choose to undertake honors work in History. Candidates for honors in History build upon the knowledge learned and skills developed in their previous coursework by crafting their own interpretations of the past. This experience can be richly rewarding: it offers students an opportunity to work closely with a faculty adviser, to think deeply about a significant intellectual problem of their own choosing, and to grow as a researcher, writer, and thinker. Because of a generous grant from the F.A.O. Schwarz Foundation, honors students in History are eligible for the prestigious F.A.O. Schwarz Foundation Scholarship, established in memory of Professor Henry Schwarz, former chair of the Department of History. The scholarship grants funds for student research activities (including travel to archives and other collections) as well as a student senior year stipend. The Schwarz Foundation grant also funds the department's Honors Seminar, which brings the department's honors students together with their advisors and other faculty members throughout the year. In 2016-2017 the Schwarz Honors Seminar was directed by Prof. Grandjean. This year three students earned honors in History:



Professor
Henry Frederick Schwarz

Anna Page, "When Personalities Dominate, Stability Fails: Great Britain's Shifting North American Military Strategy, 1768-1775" (Kate Grandjean)

Meredith Wade "Breakfast of Unsung Heroes: Black Women's Forgotten Crusade for Survival in the Free Breakfast for Children" (Brenna Greer)

Annie Wang "The "Little Red Book": The Dissemination, Influence, and Impact of Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung in the United States, 1967-1980" (Pat Giersch)

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the F.A.O. Schwarz Family Foundation for its sponsorship of the History Department Honors Program.

Special Recognition



Anna Page '17 (History) at her official commissioning as 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army in Alumnae Hall on May 25. Her two brothers were allowed to pin the insignia on her uniform!

History Department Student Advisory Council

The Student Advisory Council (SAC), established in 2016, has advised the department on a number of issues, including connecting majors and minors by way of a Facebook page (See: Wellesley College History Department) .

Many thanks to this year's members:

Chandra Boudreau, '17

Maria-Alejandra Jamarillo, Davis Scholar

Sam Lanevi, '18

Sabrina Leung, '18

Johana Mata, '17

Megumi Murakami, '20

Anna Page, '17

Iletze Porras, '19

Ann Ritchie, '18

Maddie Taylor, '19

Ruhlman and Tanner Conferences

History faculty supervised six students who presented at the Ruhlman and Tanner Conferences 2016-2017:

Samantha Lanevi '18 - "Tobacco, Baseball, and Duke: A Summer at the Museum of Durham History" (Tanner) (Prof. Quintana)

Imara McMillan '17 - "That Old Threadbare Lie": Women, the NAACP, and the Sexual Politics of Lynching 1909-1939" (Ruhlman) (Prof. Ryan Quintana)

Anna S. Page '17 - "When Personalities Dominate, Stability Fails: Great Britain's Shifting North American Military Strategy, 1768-1775" (Ruhlman) (Prof. Grandjean)

Sydney Stento '18 - "GM Foes or GM Bros: Innate Potato Social Media Management (Tanner) (Prof. Grandjean)

Meredith J. Wade '17 - "Guns and Grits: Black Womanhood and Radical Self-Preservation in the Black Panther Free Breakfast Program" (Ruhlman) (Prof. Brenna Greer)

Annie Wang '17 - "Mao in America: The Publication, Influence, and Dissemination of Quotations from Chairman Mao in the United States, 1965-1980" (Ruhlman) (Prof. Giersch)

Student and Alumnae News

Pelumi Botti '16 (IR-History major) has completed a year as a campus ministry intern and will begin her studies at the Parsons School of Design (New York) in the Fall.

Eleanor Choi '17, a History minor with an emphasis on ancient history and classics, is joining an excavation of a Roman villa this summer. Next year she will be studying Latin and Greek at the University of Pennsylvania. Ad astra!

Taylor Gunderson '18 (History) was awarded a Kathryn W. Davis Prize for Undergraduate Research.

Alexa Laharty '17 (History) will be attending the University of Cambridge where she will undertake an MPhil in Archaeology, focused on Cultural Heritage Studies.

Seraphina Oney '16 (History) will be finishing a master's degree at Rutgers University (Newark) in biology, with a concentration in oral biology.

Anna Page '17 (History) commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army. She will be attending Duke University this fall as a dual-degree student, pursuing her Master of Divinity and Public Policy degrees. She writes: Studying and doing an honors thesis in history at Wellesley enabled me to cultivate my academic passions while exploring intersections with my future vocation as an Army Officer. I am incredibly thankful for the support the history professors offered me throughout my Wellesley career."

Annie Wang '17 (History) will be doing research at MIT this summer and hopes to be entering graduate school in the near future. She writes: "I'm definitely sad to leave Wellesley, but I'm looking forward to what's ahead. I will definitely miss History - my proudest achievement this year is completing my thesis with the help of my awesome advisor and the rest of the History Department!"

Ningyi Xi '18, who has worked with Prof. Rogers, has won Wellesley's Malone Prize.

Special Recognition



Congratulations to our own history major, **Taylor Gunderson '18**, who was awarded a Kathryn W. Davis Prize for the best conference presentation at the annual Undergraduate Colloquium on Russian and Eurasian Studies that was recently held recently at Harvard's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. Taylor's presentation was based on Professor Tumarkin's History 302 (World War II as Memory and Myth) paper on Polish historical politics surrounding the Katyn Massacre of 1940. Taylor's paper will be published by Harvard University's Davis Center.

(Taylor Gunderson on left)

Alumna Interview

Alexandra (Alex) Worden '92

Can you tell us something about your current work and family life?

I lead a molecular microbial ecology group at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, a not-for-profit organization focused on the intersection of ocean research and technology. My faculty appointment is at the University of California Santa Cruz. Presently I have four graduate students, five post-docs and three technicians in my group. I have tried to focus on gold-standard science in an atmosphere of collegiality, team spirit, and kindness. Kindness might not be the characteristic most people associate with science or a science-related career – but why not? Why should it not be a criterion for advancing? If we want to understand ocean ecosystems and how they will change with ongoing climate change (the focus of my research), we need to do multidisciplinary science that integrates all levels - from that of cell biology to that of global scale processes. I love facilitating this by bringing together smart people from different disciplines who understand that we will only figure this out by working together.

I met my partner in 1997 when he was a post-doc in Immunology at Harvard and I was midway through my Ph.D. He has of course been very supportive of my career and there has been lots of juggling as we've moved around the country. Currently he works as a hospital physician. We were together for 12 years before we finally started a family. I had always wanted to adopt internationally so that is where we started and we wanted our daughter to have a sibling (for which we went the biological route). We have a bilingual household (my partner is German) in the hope that the girls will learn a second language early on!



I would need many more pages (or a book – but that book has probably been written before) to talk about having a family and a research career. In deciding to have children, it never occurred to me that it would feel at odds with my work life. I became a professor six years before having a family. My girls are the center point and the most challenging aspect of my life (I used to think my research was the most challenging, before having children!). I am always grateful for supportive comments that other women and men make about my family and I question both the soundness of trying to do both things and my capacity to do so every day. However, the more I get back to sleeping through the night, the better it gets.

How did you experience your Wellesley College education?

I was very sheltered when I arrived as a first year at the College. In fact, I was totally clueless about all social matters and considered myself a republican (no offence meant to those who are, but I had a lot to learn about myself!). I learned later that I am a conservative in some ways (e.g., towards environmental stewardship), but left of left (by American standards) in others. Wellesley women played a huge role in getting me up to speed on a lot of social and political issues, not to mention women's issues (which somehow I didn't know existed until college, even though I had already experienced them!). All I knew when I started college was that there was this bad thing that had happened called 'Women's lib'. It was a long road to figure out who I was and how that was different from the way I was raised

Alumna Interview

Interview with Alex Worden, continued

and which core values were still similar. It took even longer before I was really grounded and became a more integrated person. This did not fully happen during my time at the College, but the process began there thanks to the women who surrounded me. That was the most important part of my WC education. And of course there were a few special professors who made a huge impression on me as well – especially Ruth Anna Putnam (Philosophy), Lidwien Kapteijns (History) and Sallie Chisholm (Ecology at MIT).

How has your Wellesley College experience figured in what you did afterwards?

As a mid-career scientist I have run into what is probably a quite ‘normal’ amount of gender related issues, and I am grateful for the knowledge, fortitude and wisdom of some of my Wellesley classmates and professors. I didn’t realize at the time that it would be so important to recognize that occurrences that are often dismissed as “one-offs” – isolated, accidental incidents— are often problems affecting many women, even when they are in leadership positions. I have been grateful for external recognition, such as being elected a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology last year, and the success of folks from my lab as they move on in the world; collectively these positives counterbalance some of the more unnecessary hurdles.

Can you reflect on your choice to major in History?

I remember struggling between choosing History and Philosophy as a major. I was interested in the connection between political regimes, the environment, and societal stability (with a special interest in colonial and post-colonial Africa). Already then, politics, the environment, and a stable society were, to my mind, integrally linked. Today, this is completely evident, whether in the U.S. or globally. It was in this context that I chose to study history at Wellesley and environmental sciences at MIT. Early in our education we are presented with history as if it is a factual summary of events, but then we learn that it is really an interpretation of an incomplete set of facts with the gaps filled in as best as possible (or, at times, unfortunately, in very biased ways!). In Wellesley history classes I learned to deeply scrutinize the source of so-called facts, to synthesize information from all different information sources, and to try to deduce truth – or to identify where there were complexities that then required contextual interpretation. These courses also allowed me to improve my writing and critical reading skills. Interestingly these skills are not unlike those needed to perform excellent scientific research.

Do you have any advice to WC History majors and minor and/or WC students in general?

Well, I still think the state of the natural environment plays a big role in the making of history – and visa versa – so take an ecology course! Dabble deeply in the realm of the sciences if you are a non-science major – more than might be asked of you. And if you are in the sciences, spend some more time (than is asked of you) in Founders Hall and other such places!

Anything we must change before you would advise your daughters Helena and Aziza to come to Wellesley College?

Wellesley continues to grow and change. I feel that the College pays attention to being and staying relevant, so at least at the moment I see no obstacle. I just brought my daughters to campus for a visit and was happy to see the diversity

Alumna Interview

Interview with Alex Worden, continued

of the student body. This is crucial to my vision for preparing students for the world after college and for making the world a more compassionate and healthy place in the long term.

Is there anything more you can share about your non-working life?

I am the mother of two six year-olds, so if I had hobbies they are rusty. We spend lots of time wandering beaches and collecting all manner of things – as well as doing endless cartwheels – and reading. I have always loved literature and traveling. My work has brought us to Europe quite a bit and we have traveled there with our young girls. My favorite cities are (at the moment) Prague, Barcelona and Seville, and my favorite nature areas are Brittany, the south of England, and Victoria Island (BC), although we also like the Monterey Bay area wildlife (close to us)! Finally, since I live in California, yoga is a must.



Alumnae, we encourage you to send us brief notes (250 words) about how you are and what you are doing. If you would like to be featured in the newsletter's alumnae profiles, please email us at susan.wood@wellesley.edu.

Student Events



History Internships Roundtable Lunch



YOUR STUDENT VOICE Matters

Join us for Pizza on Thursday, September 22nd
12:30 - 1:15
Founders 207

Learn about the Student Advisory Council

Open to all History/IR History Majors and Minors

Nominations being accepted



WELLESLEY COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
AND THE LIBERAL ARTS SOCIETY OF WELLESLEY COLLEGE

DEMYSTIFYING HONORS

Q&A about Senior Thesis and Independent Studies

November 29 • 12:30pm
Founders

WELLESLEY COLLEGE
108 WELLESLEY AVENUE
WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 02156
TEL: 617.552.3100

History Department
Mid-Semester Party
Cheese, fruit & chocolate tasting!
Dinner will also be served

History Department
End of Semester Party
Open to all students who attended History courses this year

Thursday, May 4th
6-8pm
Multi-Faith Center

Click here to RSVP



The Wellesley College
History Department
cordially invites you and your family to
Our Commencement Breakfast
Friday, May 26th 2017 8:30am
Founders 207

Please RSVP with number of people attending as well as any dietary restrictions to events.soc@wellesley.edu



Class of 2017

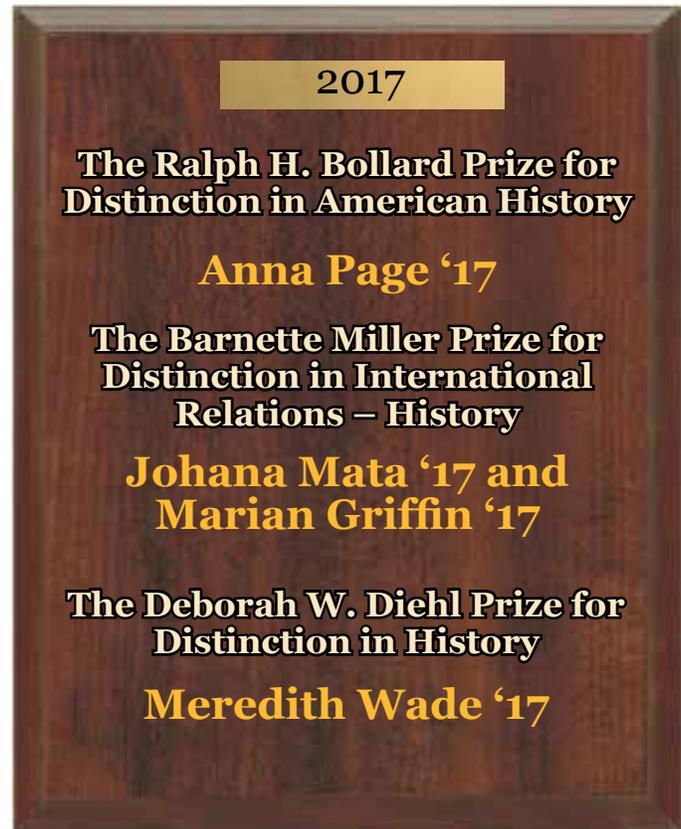
History Majors

Chandra Harvest Boudreau
Ceallach Byrne Gibbons
Bristol Lauren Gunderson
Catherine Mary Johnson
Juliet Yiran Liu
Imara H. McMillan
Jessica Macbeth Metelus
Bella Lucia Nikom
Anna Skae Page
Sara Andrea Restrepo
Denesse Salto
Meredith Jessica Wade
Annie Wang

History Minors

Eleanor Kathy So-Yong Choi
Alexa Elizabeth Laharty
Alice Elizabeth Palmer
Dorothy Pham Tran

Departmental Awards for Distinction in History



IR-History Majors

Marian Suzanne Griffin
Cierra Christine Henderson
Johana Careli Mata
Bianka Nicole Shavers-Rivera

