

Department of History

Summer 2016



**Outgoing Department
Chair (2015-2016)**
David Armitage



**Incoming Department
Chair (2016-2018)**
Daniel Smail

From the 2015-2016 Department Chair, David Armitage

This will be my last newsletter as Department chair. After spending three of the past four years in the corner office, I am delighted to hand the reins to Dan Smail who will lead the Department for the next two years, after spending 2014-15 as interim chair. I will miss working closely with our wonderful staff and having the bird's-eye view of all the Department's many activities. I'll also miss the satisfaction that comes with putting our colleagues' and students' ideas into action.

As midsummer falls over Robinson Hall, we can look back on a relatively calm year in the life of the Department. I say "calm" in part because we had no searches in the Department for the first time since our records began: that is, since about 1970. Predictions of an end to austerity in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences proved premature and we were not able to fill any of the continuing gaps in our faculty left by retirements, deaths, and resignations. Two senior colleagues departed this past year, as Roy Mottahadeh retired after thirty years in the Department and Niall Ferguson left us for the Hoover Institution at Stanford. (Fortunately, Roy will become Gurney Professor *Emeritus* and Niall will remain a senior fellow of the Center for European Studies.) We were also much saddened in February by the death of our retired colleague in Chinese history [Philip Kuhn](#). On the positive side of the ledger, we welcomed six new colleagues to the Department. Fredrik Logevall, formerly of Cornell and now at the Harvard Kennedy School, and

Intisar Rabb from Harvard Law School, took up joint appointments in the Department, while David Howell (from East Asian Languages and Cultures), Cathy Brekus (from Harvard Divinity School), Arne Westad (from the Kennedy School), and Ken Mack and Kristen Stilt (both from Harvard Law School) became affiliated faculty members. In the coming year, Dimitar Angelov (a former visiting professor from the University of Birmingham) will join us as the Dumbarton Oaks Professor of Byzantine History and Derek Penslar, of the University of Toronto and the University of Oxford, will come as a visiting professor before taking up the newly created William Lee Frost Chair of Modern Jewish History in 2018-19. We will also host Penny Russell, from the University of Sydney, as the Gough Whitlam and Malcom Fraser Visiting Professor of Australian Studies, and Khaled Fahmy, from the American University in Cairo, will again be offering courses in the history of the modern Middle East. Finally, two of our recent graduate students will be returning to the Department, as Greg Afinogenov takes up the crucial role of Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies and Shaun Nichols will teach modern U.S. history as a College Fellow.

The year ended on a valedictory note with the resignation of our Director of Administration, Ann Kaufman. Many of you will recall that Ann joined us from the FAS Finance Department when Janet Hatch retired in 2014. Ann stamped her vibrant personality on the Department in a short time. She brought Midwestern openness and her own entirely characteristic brand of humor (and her peeling laughter) while working financial

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wonders to squeeze the most out of every dollar to the benefit of students, staff, and faculty. On the principle of getting out while you are ahead, Ann decided to start an entirely new life in California. We wish her all the best for her great adventure in Santa Barbara and will announce our new Director of Administration in the next newsletter. Over the past few months, Ann spearheaded an important initiative to refurbish Robinson Hall. Visitors to the second floor can already see our impressive new suite for digital scholarship which complements the state-of-the-art electronic classrooms on the ground floor. They can also meet Jeremy Guillette, our new Digital Scholarship Facilitator, who assists our continuing Lecturer in Digital History, Gabriel Pizzorno. There will be other major changes in the fabric of Robinson Hall in the next eighteen months or so. They will be just one part of the legacy Ann leaves behind.

The major event in the Department was the arrival in early April of a distinguished Visiting Committee made up of senior colleagues from peer institutions around the country. This visitation happens every six or seven years at the request of the University's Office of Governing Boards and gives us a chance to review our strengths, to assess any weaknesses, and to offer a vision for the future of the Department over the next five to ten years. The Visiting Committee's report was robust, realistic, and reassuring. They affirmed our own sense that we are being asked to do more and more—to cover more periods and places in history, to broaden ourselves methodologically, and to contribute more to the administrative life of the University—with less and less, above all with fewer faculty. They also strongly supported our own self-

assessment that the Department remains nationally and internationally pre-eminent, despite the evident stress imposed by straitened resources. We hope that the committee's findings and recommendations will resonate with the administration. Indeed, our main request for a new faculty member has already been approved and we will at last be able to search for a senior or junior colleague in the field of the Indigenous History of North America.

Evidence of Department members' dynamism and distinction can be found within and beyond the University. Over the past year, Mark Elliott has been named Vice Provost for International Affairs, Michael Szonyi was made Director of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Emmanuel Akyeamong took up the Oppenheimer Faculty Directorship of the University's Center for African Studies, and Jim Kloppenberg started chairing the Committee on Degrees in Social Studies. Meanwhile, within the wider historical profession, Nancy Cott began her term as president of the Organization of American Historians for 2016-17. Along with these responsibilities came many honors. In September, Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham [received a National Humanities Medal](#) from President Obama in a ceremony at the White House., and in June, the University of St Andrews awarded Emma Rothschild an honorary degree. Closer to home, Ann Blair was promoted to the Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professorship, in succession to Robert Darnton. Four other named chairs were filled this year: the McLean Professorship of Ancient and Modern History and of the

Classics by Emma Dench; the Coolidge Professorship of History by Maya Jasanoff; the Robert Walton Goelet Professorship of French History by Mary Lewis; and the Frank B. Baird Jr. Professorship of History by Dan Smail. Kirsten Weld was promoted to John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences and earned the Roslyn Abramson Award for Excellence in Teaching for her outstanding work in the classroom. We were also very proud of the University-wide awards given to our longest serving staff members—a Harvard Heroes Award for Laura Johnson and a Dean's Distinction Award for Mary McConnell. Congratulations to everyone on these very well deserved acknowledgements of their many achievements over the years.

As always, we have had a series of wide-ranging discussions within the Department about our discipline and its future. A few years ago, we invented a new tradition: the annual "[History is Everything/Everything is History](#)" extravaganza, timed to coincide with the moment for concentration declaration in the Fall semester. In October, Caroline Elkins, Michael McCormick, Lisa McGirr, Samuel Moyn, and Kirsten Weld gave brief talks on their current work and enduring passion for history; as Ann Blair notes elsewhere in this newsletter, we will reprise the discussion with a fresh line-up of colleagues on October 19th, 2016. Our most high-profile event this year was a roundtable in November on "[#BlackLivesMatter in Historical Perspective](#)" with presentations from Evelyn Higginbotham, Elizabeth Hinton, Walter Johnson, and Brandon Terry (from African and African-American Studies). More than two hundred people packed Robinson's



two seminar rooms for this wide-ranging discussion in person and by live-stream which showed the value of capturing the long-range view of intense current debates.

The last event of the year was the annual “[Faculty Book Tour](#)” at which colleagues gave rapid-fire, eight-minute presentations on their most recent publications, among them this time the unforgettable spectacle of Niall Ferguson rapping, *Hamilton*-style, about Henry Kissinger. Not all of our faculty authors could present in April, but it is a pleasure to record the Department’s major contributions this year to scholarship and to a general readership’s knowledge of history: Joyce Chaplin’s co-authored [The New Worlds of Thomas Robert Malthus: Rereading the Principle of Population](#) (Princeton) and her co-edited [Genealogies of Genius](#) (Palgrave); Niall Ferguson’s [Kissinger: The Idealist, 1923-1968](#) (Penguin); Annette Gordon-Reed’s co-authored “[Most Blessed of the Patriarchs](#)”: *Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination* (Norton); Elizabeth Hinton’s [From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America](#) (Harvard); Jim Kloppenberg’s [Toward Democracy: The Struggle for Self-Rule in European and American Thought](#) (Oxford); Jill Lepore’s [Joe Gould’s Teeth](#) (Knopf); Lisa McGirr’s [The War on Alcohol: Prohibition and the Rise of the American State](#) (Norton); Samuel Moyn’s [Christian Human Rights](#) (Penn); Serhii Plokhiy’s [The Gates of Europe: A History of Ukraine](#) (Perseus); and Dan Smail’s [Legal Plunder: Households and Debt Collection in Late Medieval Europe](#) (Harvard).

The Department’s commitment to undergraduate teaching remained undiminished, as you can see in more detail in Ann Blair’s message below. Although our total of newly-declared concentrators fell from a recent high of 70 in 2013 to 45 (the same number as in 2012, before our recent overhaul of the undergraduate program), the number of students who took courses from members of the Department, whether within History, through General Education, or in Freshman Seminars, remained steady. History classes are therefore just as popular as ever, even if the size of the cadre of concentrators fluctuates. The impact of our teaching and the excellence of our students also continued to shine. Eight of our students were elected to Phi Beta Kappa this year; five of our thirty-one senior thesis writers (Lane Baker, Alice Han, William Holub-Moorman, Andrew Sanchez, and David Steinbach) won Hoopes Prizes for their excellent senior theses; and the College-wide Barrett Wendell Prize went to Caleb Shelburne. We were also proud of the fellowships and scholarships our concentrators won: a Mellon Mays Fellowship by Nancy Ko; a Schwarzman Scholarship by Jonathan Jeffrey; a Von Clemm Fellowship by Andrew Sanchez; and a Rhodes Scholarship by Hassaan Shahawy. Many congratulations to our undergraduate students on their great achievements!

Our graduate students also excelled this year. Fourteen received their PhDs this year and their placement rate—in tenure-track positions, post-doctoral fellowships, and alternative careers for historians—

outperformed comparable departments at Harvard and remained exceptionally robust despite the ongoing challenges of a weak job-market. (You can find further details of their fascinating research and about their new positions later in the newsletter.) From a pool of outstanding diversity—including the highest proportion of minority applicants in recent years—we admitted fifteen promising new graduate students, from Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. We look forward to welcoming them into the Department in the fall and congratulate those who are leaving us for new positions around the world. In light of all this inspiring news, it was quite fitting that the graduate programme was ranked number one in the US in the annual Graduate Programs survey of History departments, which is self-reported by students themselves. The Henry Adams Club—soon to be renamed the History Graduate Student Association—has, as always, done a remarkable job of protecting and promoting the interests of graduate students, as you can see from the report on their activities below.

You can also read much more about the achievements of our faculty and students in the rest of this newsletter, on the Department’s ever expanding and frequently updated [website](#), on our [Facebook](#) page, and by following our [Twitter](#) stream. We encourage all our alumni, undergraduate and graduate, to keep in touch, to send us your news, and to return often to the Department to keep up with old acquaintances and make new friendships. Thanks to all of you, and to the current members of the Department, History’s future looks very bright indeed.

Faculty News

DAVID
ARMITAGE
CIVIL WARS
A HISTORY
IN IDEAS

David Armitage completed his three years as Department Chair in 2015-16. Alongside his administrative duties, he finished revisions on [*Civil Wars: A History in Ideas*](#), which will appear from Alfred A. Knopf and Yale University Press in February 2017, and co-edited *The Law of Nations in Global History*, forthcoming from

Oxford University Press. He published articles and essays on subjects from civil war and revolution to the histories of Haiti and of the Pacific world; translations of his work appeared in Arabic, French, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. Among his major lectures this year were the Katherine Baker Memorial Lecture at the University of Toronto and the keynote address to the International Society for Intellectual History on the island of Crete; he gave other talks in Athens, Barcelona, Berlin, Bielefeld, Lisbon, St Petersburg, and Toronto and at institutions across the US and the UK. He ended the year as a visiting professor at the Freie Universität Berlin and greatly looks forward to returning to the Departmental back benches for the foreseeable future.



The *New York Times* named **Sven Beckert's** Bancroft-Prize winning [*Empire of Cotton*](#) one of the ten best books of 2015; the Cundill Foundation awarded it its prize for excellence. This summer Beckert also published, with Seth Rockman, [*Slavery's Capitalism: A New History of American Economic Development*](#).

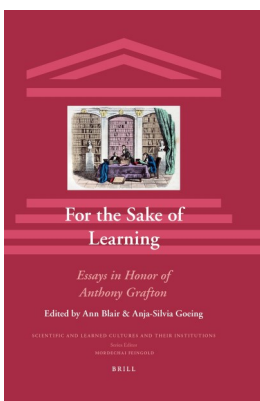
in celebrations of the 500th anniversary of Conrad Gessner (1516-65), a polymathic humanist, bibliographer, and natural historian, by delivering plenary lectures at a conference in Zurich and at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America in Boston. The latter, on the role of printing in Gessner's work, will appear in *Renaissance Quarterly* next year.



Sidney Chalhoub coedited a book about black thinkers in Brazil in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (*Pensadores negros - Pensadoras negras: Brasil, séculos XIX e XX*, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte, 2016) and published the article "[The Politics of Ambiguity: Conditional Manumission, Labor Contracts and Slave Emancipation in Brazil \(1850s to 1888\)](#)", *International Review of Social History*, Amsterdam, International Institute of Social History, volume 60, August 2015.



Mark Elliott became Vice Provost for International Affairs in September 2015, and traveled to fifteen countries on four continents in his first ten months on the job. In October 2015 he delivered the first JESHO Lecture on Asian History, sponsored by Brill Publishers, at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, and in May 2016 he delivered the inaugural Academia Sinica Lectures in Humanities and Social Sciences in Taipei, Taiwan.



Ann Blair co-edited a massive two-volume Festschrift for Anthony Grafton who advised her Princeton dissertation. [*For the Sake of Learning*](#) (Brill, 2016) features 56 articles in the broad range of fields in which Grafton has been active—principally the history of classical scholarship and the cultural and intellectual history of early modern Europe. While pursuing her research on the hidden helpers of intellectual work in early modern Europe, she participated



On leave at the Radcliffe Institute this year, **Tamar Herzog** completed a new book manuscript, provisionally titled "A Short History of European Law: the Last Two-and-a-Half Millennia." It describes the evolution of law in Europe (both continental Europe and England, as well as European overseas colonies) starting with the Roman empire and ending with the European Union. Among her other activities this year,

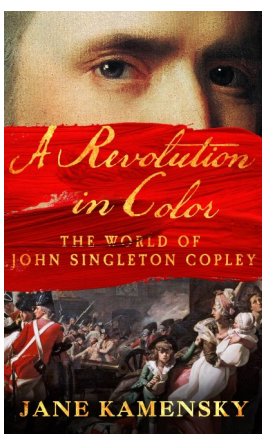


she interviewed on stage opera singer Plácido Domingo (“Giving Voice: A Conversation with Plácido Domingo”).



Andrew Gordon continued work on the contemporary history of Japan’s so-called “lost decades,” preparing two articles for publication later this year or 2017. He gave talks on this topic and on the controversies surrounding Japan’s history of imperialism and war that took place in 2015, the 70th

anniversary year of the end of World War II. He spoke on both topics as the Staley Distinguished Visiting Professor at Arizona State University in January 2016, and as part of a Japan Studies Institute at San Diego State University in June 2016. In May 2016 he spoke on “Creating a ‘Society Where Women Can Shine’: Japan’s Impossible Dream” at Portland State University. He is also beginning a study of the history and politics of historical heritage sites in Japan and more broadly, with particular focus on UNESCO’s designation of the sites of Japan’s industrial revolution as World Heritage Sites in 2015.



Jane Kamensky completed work on [*A Revolution in Color: The World of John Singleton Copley*](#), which will be published by W. W. Norton in October. The book is at once a biography of Copley, the preeminent painter in Britain’s American colonies in the 1760s and early 1770s, and a new history of the American Revolution as seen through Copley’s rueful, ambitious gaze. A lifelong Briton from his birth in New England in 1738 until

his death in London at the end of the Napoleonic Wars, Copley reveals an age of revolution shot through with ambivalence and loss. *Revolution in Color* also explores the importance of marriage and family to the making of men and politics.

James T. Kloppenberg began his term as chair of the undergraduate concentration in Social Studies and taught that program’s year-long social theory course with Brandon Terry of African and African-American Studies. Kloppenberg also co-chaired the Standing Committee on



Public Service, which appointed Flavia Perea to a newly created position as Mindich Director of Engaged Scholarship at Harvard. He helped inaugurate the Mindich program by sponsoring two new courses in Social Studies, including a very successful seminar on the history

and current condition of education in the US taught by Harvard History PhD Ariane Liazos. Two of his books are appearing in the summer and fall of 2016: [*Toward Democracy: The Struggle for Self-Rule in European and American Thought*](#) has been published, at last, by Oxford University Press. OUP is also bringing out his co-edited collection of essays *The Worlds of American Intellectual History*, which includes work by Harvard faculty members Peter Gordon, Andy Jewett, and Sam Moyn and by Harvard PhDs Angus Burgin, Sophia Rosenfeld, and Nico Slate. Kloppenberg’s essay on the history of town meeting and deliberative democracy will be published as the introduction to an issue of the French journal *participations*. Because of continuing interest in his book [*Reading Obama: Dreams, Hope, and the American Political Tradition*](#), he was invited to speak on the topic “Reading the Clintons” at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association, and his paper on the political ideas of US presidents from Adams to Obama will be published in a volume of proceedings from a conference held at the Russian Academy of Science in June, 2016.



Mary Lewis has just completed a Frederick Burkhardt Fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute where she began work on her new project: “The First French Decolonization: A New History of Nineteenth-Century Empire,” which focuses on the long-term consequences of the Haitian Revolution for French imperial and commercial relations. In 2015, she was also awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to support the same project.

Fredrik Logevall spent the 2015-16 year acclimating to life at Harvard and conducting research for a book on John F. Kennedy. He published two essays, “Domestic Politics,” in *Explaining the History of American Foreign*



Relations, edited by Frank Costigliola and Michael Hogan (Cambridge University Press); and “Graham Greene’s *The Quiet American*,” in *The Familiar Made Strange: Iconic American Texts After the Transnational Turn*, edited by Brooke Blower and Mark Bradley. He also gave several keynote addresses

throughout the year, including one on “The Uses of History” to the annual meeting of the National Council for History Education. In addition, he was elected to the executive board of the Society of American Historians. In the spring semester Logevall taught his first Harvard course, “U.S. Foreign Policy in a Global Age,” with students from various parts of the campus.



Ian Miller spent the 2015-2016 academic year on sabbatical digging around in archives in Tokyo and elsewhere exploring the history of energy and electricity in Japan and its former empire. He was named a Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellow as part of that work. Awarded in support of his project

on “Carbon and its Discontents: Japan in the Age of Global Energy,” the three-year fellowship will support multi-national research and interdisciplinary training on the history of energy, the energy sciences, and climate policy.



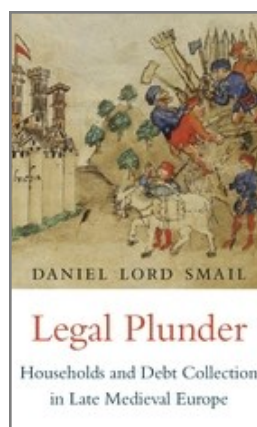
Afsaneh Najmabadi received a new NEH grant to continue the work of the digital archive, [Women’s Worlds in Qajar Iran](#), over 2016-18. She presented keynotes at the annual conference of International Academy of Sex Research and at the Goethe University (Frankfurt).

Intisar A. Rabb, while on leave during the 2015-2016 academic year, was a Radcliffe Fellow as a Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. She published a book chapter, “Society and Propriety: The Cultural Construction of



Defamation and Blasphemy as Crimes in Islamic Law,” in [Accusations of Unbelief in Islam: A Diachronic Perspective on Takfir](#) (Brill, 2016). Among her presentations and lectures, she was a panelist at a session hosted by the Law Library of Congress, “Perspectives on Reform of Islamic Law,” which convened at

the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. (December 2015). As part of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Fellows’ Presentation Series, she gave a lecture on “Cases and Controversies in Early Islamic Law and Society” (December 2015). She gave a Legal History Workshop presentation, “The Substantive Pull of Procedure in Early Islamic Law,” at the University of Pennsylvania Law School (March 2016). At the History Department Faculty Book Tour, she presented on her most recent book, [Doubt in Islamic Law: A History of Legal Maxims, Interpretation, and Islamic Criminal Law](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2015) (April 2016). In addition, at the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, she led a book panel, in an Author-Meets-Reader format, discussing *Doubt in Islamic Law* (May 2016). Next Spring, she will again be a Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.



Dan Smail was on sabbatical in 2015-16; he spent the fall quarter as a Fellow at the Neubauer Collegium at the University of Chicago, and during the spring he was a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, where he worked on “The Documentary Archaeology of Late Medieval Europe,” a digital humanities project he is leading with Gabe Pizzorno which is being supported by an ACLS Digital Innovation Fellowship. He is also

involved in another digital initiative on campus, “Medieval Object Lessons,” with colleagues in Medieval Studies. The book he has been researching and writing for nearly ten years, [Legal Plunder: Households and Debt Collection in Late Medieval Europe](#), was published this June by Harvard University Press. He also contributed a transcription to *L’Enquête générale de Leopardo da Foligno en Provence*, a critical edition of a major



fourteenth-century governmental inquest in southern France.



Kirsten Weld spent the year working on her second book, a history of the Spanish Civil War’s impact in Latin America. Her first book, [*Paper Cadavers: The Archives of Dictatorship in Guatemala*](#) (2014), received the 2015 WOLA-Duke Human Rights Book Award and the 2016 Best Book Prize from the Latin

American Studies Association’s Recent History and Memory Section. She taught two new courses (“History of Modern Mexico” and “History and Memory in Latin America”), prepared *Paper Cadavers* for publication in Spanish, and gave invited talks at the University of York, Wesleyan, the University of Florida, Harvard Law School, CUNY Queens College, and Duke. In May, Harvard’s Faculty of Arts and Sciences recognized her with the Roslyn Abramson Award for “excellence and sensitivity in undergraduate teaching.”



Undergraduate News



*Letter from Ann Blair,
Director of Undergraduate
Studies, 2015-2016*

This year some important pieces of infrastructure changed behind the scenes: the College rolled out new software for course registration and declaration of concentration

which are now done online, in addition to a new design for course websites and for the course catalog (which is open to the public at my.harvard.edu). We also welcomed new members to the undergraduate office with Dr. Betsy More as Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies, Elizabeth Cross as Department Writing Fellow, and Jamie McSpadden as Departmental TF, and a great group of House advisers. In addition our [Peer Concentration Counselors](#) were especially active as well—you can find out about each of them on our website under the [Advising](#) tab. In particular thanks to their initiative we are planning to launch a Harvard Undergraduate History Club next year which will sponsor a few events throughout the year for undergraduates to interact with one another and with faculty and graduate student advisers.

Special thanks to colleagues who participated in events held in the Houses to introduce the Department to sophomores: Nancy Cott, Erez Manela, Samuel Moyn, and Emma Rothschild. And we are grateful to those who moderated one of the ten panels of the senior thesis conference in November: Joyce Chaplin, Holger Droessler, Elizabeth Hinton, Walter Johnson, Diana Kim, Frederik Logevall, Charles Maier, Michael McCormick, Erin Mosely, and Stephen White. Four months later thirty-one students in History 99 successfully handed in a senior thesis!

On October 14 we held the fourth iteration of our annual event showcasing examples of the range of historical work carried out by members of our Department. This year “[History is Everything/ Everything is History](#)” featured short, illustrated talks by Caroline Elkins, Michael McCormick, Lisa McGirr, Samuel Moyn (who holds a joint appointment with the Law School), and Kirsten Weld. This event is open to

the public--please join us if you can for the next one, already scheduled for Wed Oct 19, 2016, 5-6:30pm. Please check the Department Calendar on our website for further details closer to the time.

Our sophomore tutorial, History 97, ran for the third time in its new format of parallel seminars on different themes, linked by a shared schedule of writing assignments. The course guides students through the different elements of history writing, including historiographical argument and primary source analysis, to a final paper that integrates both elements. This year History 97 comprised seminars on the history of medicine (Emmanuel Akyeampong), intellectual history (Andy Jewett), the history of history (Ann Blair), urban history (Elizabeth Hinton) and family history (Jane Kamensky). We inaugurated a new format for the two plenary sessions which frame the course and we look forward to continuing to develop the course next year. In their evaluations the students generally felt they had learned a lot, although they noted that all that writing and revising was hard work!

One of our ongoing missions is to explain to prospective concentrators what concentrating History is like. We host panels every fall and spring at which we present the Department to freshmen and first-semester sophomores. The highlight of these sessions is the opportunity to hear alumni discuss the impact on their lives of having concentrated in History. Special thanks to recent alums who participated in our "Harvard and beyond" panels this year: Kate Aoki, Molly Brady, Lucy Chen, Brendan Maione-Downing, and Will Poff-Webster. We would be delighted to hear from alumni who could volunteer to participate on panels of this kind in 2016-17! Since students often ponder the large questions at other times, we also have 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!

Mary McConnell and Laura Johnson have been invaluable to the smooth running of the concentration for decades but this year their tireless attention to detail



and their calm help to students and faculty were especially appreciated as we adjusted to the new software and procedures. We are thrilled that their amazing skills and dedication were recognized officially this year, with Mary receiving a Dean's Distinction Award and Laura being named a Harvard Hero. We are truly lucky to have the two of them in Robinson 100! Warm thanks, finally and as always, to the terrific faculty, visitors, teaching fellows, and students who make History on our campus every day.



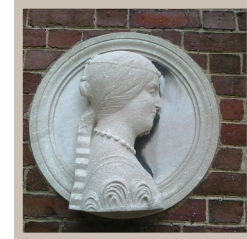
AB Recipients 2016

Lane Bradley Baker	Jon Christian Goetz	Alexander Nelson Muresanu
Samuel Orel Batiste Jr.	Alice Siqi Han	James Nelson Muresanu
Daniel Zachary Belmont	Benjamin Leeds Harland	Abbigaile Lynn Noyes
Udai Bothra	Jessica Lynn Harvey	Santiago Pardo Sanchez
Laura Katherine Brennan	Kevin Andrew Hazlett	Maya Master Park
Adam Oscar Brodheim	Katherine Rose Waldfogel Hebb	Margaret Chandler Ramsey
Coby Connor Buck	Elena Florence Hoffenberg	Rebecca Lynne Ritchie
Isaac Allen Buck	William Edward Holub-Moorman	Gregory Ephraem Athanasius Russell
Tijana Bzenic	Nicholas Hu	Andrew Vincent Sanchez
Jacob Michael Colbath-Hess	Alice Flora Hyde	Kelly Elizabeth Seaver
William Moriarty Collins	Jonathan Gusmer Jeffrey	Owen Lewis Senders
Madeline R. Conway	Matthew Maxwell Taylor Kennedy Jr.	Hassaan Shahawy
Megan Olivia Corrigan	Robert John Ledniczky	Tanner Elizabeth Skenderian
Jared Lai Cowan	Jennifer Wai-Yee Leung	David Steven Wanger Steinbach
Kendall Patricia Crawford	Matthew Mansson	Carter Lydia Winifred Stratton
Bethany Lynn Donovan	Anne Harper Mathews	Lily Collins Sugrue
Isabelle Mackinnon Dowling	James Nathaniel Matthews	Yutong Sun
Robert Benz Duvnjak	Sean Michael McDonagh	Christina Marie Teodorescu
Devin Dwyer	Cordelia Fuller Mendez	Mattheus Alexander Wagner
Thomas Vincent Earle	Christopher Andrew Miao	Veronica Schumacher Wickline
Chloe Louise Field	Michael Raymond Mocco	Peter Samuel Wu
Philip Claudy Fleischman	Chelsea Alexandra Mullen	Alison Ruilan Zhang



Sophomores entering the History concentration, 2011-2015

2011: 51
2012: 45
2013: 70
2014: 57
2015: 45



Undergraduate Awards and Prizes

UNDERGRADUATE ESSAY PRIZE

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

awarded to **Lane Bradley Baker** for his History 60i paper:

“Clashing Crowds: The Decline of the Flagellants in
Strasbourg, 1349”

and to **Nelson Barrett** for his History 1965 paper:

“Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation”

FERGUSON PRIZE

for best History 97 essay, 2014-2015

awarded to **Gregory Bricker** for his History 97i paper:

“As Long as You Live: Mildred and Richard Loving”

PHILIP WASHBURN PRIZE

for best thesis on historical subject

awarded to **Hassaan Shahawy** for his thesis:

“Pensions and Professors: Medieval Islamic Law and the
Accommodation of Social Change”

and to **Andrew Vincent Sanchez** for his thesis:

“A Turn of the Mind: Frameworks for Religious Conver-
sion in Seventeenth-Century Intellectual Discourse”

DAVID HERBERT DONALD PRIZE

for excellence in American history

awarded to **David Steven Wanger Steinbach**

and to **Elena Florence Hoffenberg**

COLTON AWARD

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

awarded to **Lane Bradley Baker** for his thesis:

“New World in the North: Renaissance Debates on the
Riphean Mountains, 1517-1549 ”

and to **Alice Siqi Han** for her thesis:

“Double Détente: The Role of Gaullist France and Maoist
China in the Formation of Cold War Détente, 1954-1973”

and to **Alice Flora Hyde** for her thesis:

“Contagion and Response: African and Colonial
Authority During the 1908 Outbreak of Plague in the Gold
Coast Colony”

LILLIAN BELL PRIZE

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

awarded to **Yutong (Lilias) Su** for her senior thesis:

“Berlin Wall of the Free World: International Politics of
the Chinese Refugees in Hong Kong, 1949-1962”

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY PRIZE

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

awarded to **William Edward Holub-Moorman**

and to **Carter Lydia Winifred Stratton**

College-Wide Prizes

BARRETT WENDELL PRIZE

awarded to **Caleb Ogden Shelburne**, class of 2018, for his paper:

“In Search of Prudence: Guy Allard’s Zizimi and Ottoman Intrusions into French Court Society”



Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize

This year five of our thirty-one senior thesis writers in History won a Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize. Sixty-four Hoopes Prizes were awarded this year by the College to recognize outstanding senior theses in all fields of the arts and sciences. 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 in History were:

Lane Bradley Baker for his submission entitled

“New World in the North: Renaissance Debates on the Riphean Mountains, 1517-1549”
nominated by Mr. Shane Bobrycki

Alice Siqi Han for her submission entitled

“Double Détente: The Role of Gaullist France and Maoist China in the Formation of Cold War Détente, 1954-1973”
nominated by Professor Niall Ferguson

William Edward Holub-Moorman for his submission entitled

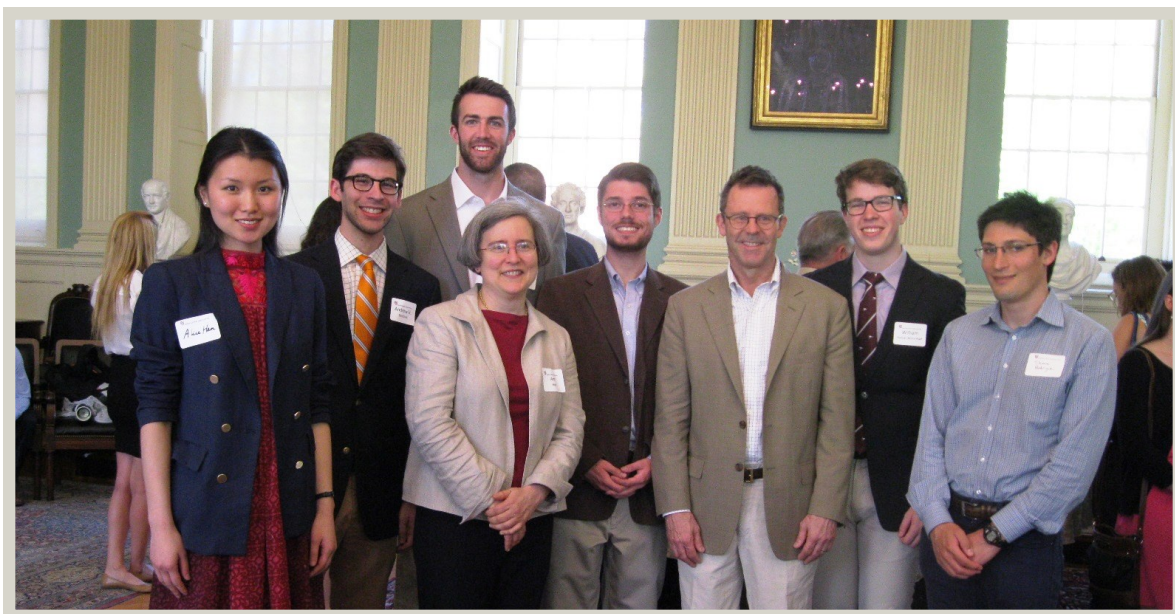
“Projected Development: Experts, Children, and the Psychological Separation of Hollywood Cinema, 1920-1940”
nominated by Dr. Stephen Lassonde

Andrew Vincent Sanchez for his submission entitled

“A Turn Of The Mind: Frameworks for Religious Conversion in Seventeenth-Century Intellectual Discourse”
nominated by Professor Ann Blair.

David Steven Wagner Steinbach for his submission entitled

“Limits of Reform: The Tillman Act of 1907 and the Conservative Origins of American Campaign Finance Law”
nominated by Professor Lisa McGirr



Reception for Hoopes Prize winners and their advisers, May 2016.

History concentrators, left to right: Alice Han, Andrew Sanchez, David Steinbach, Lane Baker, and William Holub-Moorman; and (in front) their advisers Ann Blair, Stephen Lassonde, and Shane Bobrycki (unable to attend: Niall Ferguson and Lisa McGirr).



Fellowships & Scholarships

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship
Nancy Ko

Schwarzman Scholarship
Jonathan Gusmer Jeffrey

Michael Von Clemm Fellowship
Andrew Vincent Sanchez

Rhodes Scholarship
Hassaan Shahawy

Phi Beta Kappa

Class of 2016

Lane Bradley Baker
Bethany Lynn Donovan
William Edward Holub-Moorman
Andrew Vincent Sanchez
Hassaan Shahawy
David Steven Wagner Steinbach
Carter Lydia Winifred Stratton

Class of 2017

Joule Pauline Voelz

Tempus Update

Tempus, the Harvard College History Review, continues to publish outstanding undergraduate research related to history. In 2015-16, under the direction of Editors Sama Mammadova '17 and Caleb Shelburne '18, our seven members selected three outstanding essays from a record number of submissions on the Civil Rights Movement, nineteenth-century populism, and stadium building in Istanbul. We are working to expand our content beyond the traditional 10-25 page research papers to incorporate shorter essays, historical fiction, and even artwork related to history. Along with maintaining an active and professional journal and editorial community, *Tempus* aims to foster a stronger community of history lovers, founded on our reception in Robinson Hall at the end of each semester. *Tempus* publishes in [print](#) and [online](#) twice a year.





Graduate News

PhD Recipients 2015-2016

Gregory Afinogenov

“The Eye of the Tsar: Intelligence-Gathering and Geopolitics in Eighteenth-Century Eurasia”

Rhae Lynn Barnes

“Darkology: The Hidden History of Amateur Blackface Minstrelsy and the Making of Modern America, 1860-1970”

Shane Bobrycki

“The Crowd in the Early Middle Ages, c. 500-c. 1000”

Hannah Callaway

“Revolutionizing Property: The Confiscation of Émigré Wealth in Paris and the Problem of Property in the French Revolution”

Rowan Dorin

“Banishing Usuary: The Expulsion of Foreign Moneylenders in Medieval Europe, 1200-1450”

Claire Dunning

“Outsourcing Government: Boston and the Rise of Public-Private Partnerships, 1950-2000”

Carla Heelan

“Origin and Antitype: Medievalism in Nineteenth-Century Germany, 1806-1914”

Aline-Florence Manent

“The Intellectual Origins of the German Model: Rethinking Democracy in the Bonn Republic”

Stuart McManus

“The Global Lettered City: Humanism and Empire in Colonial Latin America and the Early Modern World”

Jerad (Ross) Mulcare

“Feeding Kansas: Food, Famine, and Relief in Contested Territory”

Shaun Nichols

“Crisis Capital: Industrial Massachusetts and the Making of Global Capitalism, 1865-Present”

Meredith Quinn

“Books and Their Readers in Seventeenth-Century Istanbul”

Sarah Shortall

“Soldiers of God in a Secular World: The Politics of Catholic Theology, 1905-1962”

Gloria Whiting

“‘Endearing Ties’: Black Family Life in Early New England”

Graduate Placement

Gregory Afinogenov

Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies,
Department of History, Harvard University

Shane Bobrycki

Postdoctoral Fellow, MIT-Harvard University

Rhae Lynn Barnes

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Southern Cal. (2016-18)
Assistant Professor, Princeton University (beginning 2018)

Hannah Callaway

Lecturer on Social Studies, Harvard University

Sakura Christmas

Assistant Professor, Bowdoin College

Rowan Dorin

Assistant Professor, Stanford University

Claire Dunning

Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University

Dzavid Dzanic

Assistant Professor, Austin Peay State University

Stuart McManus

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Chicago

Jerad (Ross) Mulcare

Public Services/Project Associate,
Harvard University Archives

Shaun Nichols

College Fellow, Department of History, Harvard University

Meredith Quinn

Chief of Staff, Office of the Provost, Harvard University

Sarah Shortall

Assistant Professor, University of Notre Dame



Graduate Prizes

HAROLD K. GROSS DISSERTATION PRIZE

awarded each year to the Ph.D. recipient whose dissertation, in the opinion of a committee of Department of History members, gave greatest promise of a distinguished career of historical research

awarded to **Sarah Shortall**

Dissertation Prospectus Conference

In January 2016, 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 annual conference is an opportunity for students who have recently completed their General Examinations to formally present research plans to members of the faculty and to their peers. This year's program included:

Session moderated by Professor James Kloppenberg

Samuel Klug, "The Politics of Decolonization in America, 1920-1975"

Elizabeth Katz, "Courting American Families: The Creation and Evolution of Courts of Domestic Relations, 1910-1970"

Yukako Otori, "Children's Rights, 1914-1959"

Cary Garcia Yero, "Building Cubanidad: Race, Nation, and the Arts in Cuba, 1938-1962"

Session moderated by Professor Andrew Gordon

Floris van Swet, "Ronin in Japan and Beyond: Unemployment and Social Dislocation in the Wake of Japan's 17th Century Unification"

Amin Ghadimi, "Asia's Lafayettes: Freedom, Rights, and the Japanese Empire, 1873-1889"

Subo Wijeyeratne, "Red Sun Rising: The Cold War, the Space Age, and the Construction of Modernity in Japan, 1935-2003"

Ryan Glasnovich, "Return to the Sword: Martial Identity and the Nineteenth-Century Transformation of the Japanese Police"

Session moderated by Professor Cemal Kafadar

Salmaan Mirza, "Merchants and the Practice of Commerce in a World of Free Trade"

Akif Yerlioğlu, "Paracelsus Goes East: Ottoman Medicine in the Early Modern Period"

Joan Chaker, "Muleteers as Bandits and Mutineers: Global Capital and Social Transformation in the Ottoman Countryside"

Session moderated by Kirsten Weld

Erin Hutchinson, "The Village Strikes Back: The Cultural Politics of the Nation in the Soviet Union After Stalin"

Joshua Freeman, "Print Communism: Uyghur Literary Canon Between China and the USSR"

Mateo Jarquín, "The Sandinista Revolution and the Cold War in Latin America, 1977-1990"

Session moderated by Professor Joyce Chaplin

Sonia Tycko, "Spirited Beyond the Sea: Persuasion and Consent in the Early English Empire"

Rachel Steely, "From Bioprospecting to Biodiesel: Soy Commodity Frontiers in the Twentieth Century"

Paul Schmelzing, "The Global Genoa System, 1926-1969"

Luke Willert, "Detectives and Publicity in the Mountain West, 1873-1893"

Session moderated by Professor Mary Lewis

Patrick Meehan, "Imagining Christendom's Frontier: Crusade, Colonization, and Christianization in the Medieval Baltic, c. 1230-1410"

Joseph la Hausse de Lalouvière, "The Restoration of French Colonial Slavery, 1802-1848"

Eda Özel, "The Politics of Piracy: Tunisian Pirates in the 17th-Century Mediterranean"

Jake Ransohoff, "Vision, Punishment, and Imperial Ideology in the Byzantine World"



Henry Adams Society

James Almeida (G1, Treasurer)

Aaron Bekemeyer (G2)

Chloe Bordewich (G1)

John Gee (G4, Co-President)

Cristina Groeger (G5)

Erin Hutchinson (G3)

Rachel Steely (G3, Co-President)

Maddie Williams (G2)

This past year, the Henry Adams Society held its third election under the new constitution. The Society continued to host weekly social gatherings and approximately biweekly information sessions in the graduate student lounge. Information sessions brought together panels of graduate students to introduce their peers to graduate school, exam preparation, teaching, dissertating, and many other topics. In addition to these events, we have collected sample general exam reading lists and a roster of working groups to make sure graduate students are aware of goings-on in the various subfields.

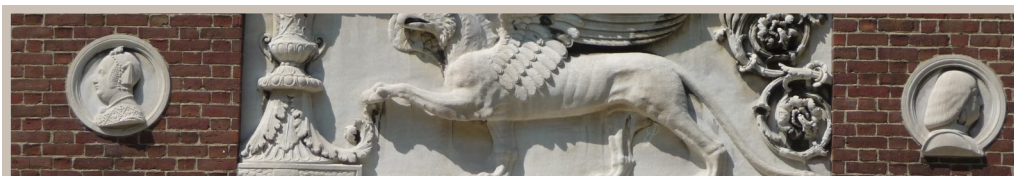
Among the largest successes this year was the book sale, which is now increasing geometrically in revenue. If all goes well, we should be able to found an “uber-for-booksales” app that a venture capital firm will value at tens of millions of dollars. Why let Stanford have all the fun?

In addition to running events, Henry Adams continues to serve as a voice for history graduate students in the department and the university at large. We have had fruitful conversations with other programs and with department administrators about how to make the admitted students’ day welcoming for students from underrepresented backgrounds. We discussed the state of the program with the visiting committee, and have already had spirited conversations about potential modifications to Robinson Hall. Most prominently, we have tried to facilitate conversations about the ongoing GSAS unionization movement.

The problem of over-large sections has diminished this year as a direct result of pressure from students and faculty last year. We have also been pushing for flexibility in the G3 and G4 year teaching guarantee and hope to see changes in that area soon.

Finally, in July the members of the Henry Adams Society voted by referendum to change the organization’s name to the History Graduate Student Association. This decision took place following longstanding conversations about the appropriateness of the old name.

Elections for representatives for the new academic year will take place in September. We thank the department both for its financial support, which enables us to have a regular schedule of events; and for its active engagement with graduate student concerns. We are grateful to outgoing chair David Armitage, incoming chair Daniel Smail, and continuing Director of Graduate Studies Alison Johnson, as well as to the wonderful History Department staff who have all been so helpful on countless occasions.





Alumni News

Robert Bireley (PhD '72) recently published [*Ferdinand II, Counter-Reformation Emperor, 1578-1637*](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2014). He is now professor emeritus of history at Loyola University Chicago.

Mark Molesky (PhD '00) recently published [*This Gulf of Fire: The Destruction of Lisbon, or Apocalypse in the Age of Science and Reason*](#) (Alfred A. Knopf, 2015). He is Associate Professor of History at Seton Hall University.



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.

Please make checks payable to Harvard University. All contributions are tax deductible.

☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____ Degree & year _____

Address _____

News for future newsletter _____

Please mail to: Department of History Alumni Newsletter, Robinson Hall, 35 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

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