

history matters

FALL 2019 | NEWSLETTER

ANNOUNCING THE 2020 HISTORY LECTURE SERIES

THE WEEKLY SERIES BEGINS ON JANUARY 22, 2020, AND RUNS THROUGH FEBRUARY 12.
BE SURE NOT TO MISS THIS FANTASTIC QUARTET OF LECTURES!

This year's History Lecture Series, entitled *Life, Death, and the Gods*, will explore attitudes toward death and ritual practice in the ancient and pre-modern worlds. The series will feature four members of the Department of History's distinguished faculty: **Patricia Ebrey**, **Mira Green**, **Joel Walker**, and **Adam Warren**. Each lecture will adopt a different cultural perspective to explore a question familiar to all societies and cultures: What is the relationship between life and death, the present and the afterlife? How past societies dealt with this topic can grant us perspective not only on modern approaches to death and burial, but on the human condition more broadly, in all its commonalities and variations. Tickets may be purchased after December 4 from the UW Alumni Association at www.washington.edu/alumni/history



- ▶ **Joel Walker's** talk, entitled "Heaven, Hell, and the Good Life in Ancient Iran," will explore ideas about death, burial, and the afterlife in ancient Iran.
- ▶ **Patricia Ebrey's** "Death and Ancestors: The Religion of the Family in China" will examine the veneration of ancestry in traditional China.

- ▶ **Adam Warren**, in "The Body as Offering: Making Meaning of Sacrifice in the Aztec Imperial Past," will tackle themes of death and sacrifice in the Aztec Empire.
- ▶ **Mira Green's** talk, "Skeletons and Dining Couches: Eating and Dying in the Roman Empire," will discuss food, health and death, and funerary images in the Roman Empire.



THE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW CHAIR GLENNYS YOUNG

DEAR FRIENDS OF HISTORY,

I am excited and honored to have started my three-year term as chair. For those of you who don't know me, I'm a historian of Russia and the Soviet Union, the Cold War, and global communism. I'm getting close to finishing a new book, *Displaced: From the Soviet Union to Franco's Spain in the Cold War*, which reconstructs the political, social, and cultural shock waves produced by the repatriation of Spanish nationals from the USSR in the 1950s, and the implications for the Cold War international system.

Before starting my term, I headed to Europe, including Spain, where I did research in a Spanish military archive in Ávila, about an hour and a half west of Madrid. I was also interviewed for a Spanish documentary on the CIA's operation (Project Niños) to interrogate nearly 2,000 Spaniards who repatriated from the Soviet Union in the second half of the 1950s. The documentary, to be aired on the Discovery MAX channel, is tentatively titled *Cold War in Sunny Spain*.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleague Anand Yang for leading the department with distinction for four years. Before ending his term, Professor Yang presided over the department's annual convocation, a joyous and inspiring occasion. This year, we celebrated the fact that 87 students earned a BA in history, and 4 students were awarded the PhD. The department once again extends a warm congratulations to all! One of the PhD recipients was Michael Aguirre. I am extremely pleased to announce

that Dr. Aguirre has received the UW Graduate School's Distinguished Dissertation in the Humanities and Fine Arts Award. He is only the second history PhD to receive this accolade!

This year brought, unfortunately, two retirements. Our distinguished colleagues Bill Rorabaugh and Laurie Sears have joined the ranks of our professors emeriti. I salute their contributions in research, teaching, and service. The department and its students will very much miss having them in our ranks. (See page 11 to learn more about their celebrated careers, along with other news from our award-winning faculty.)

As we enter fall quarter, I'm happy to report that enrollment is robust. On a recent day, 51 first-year students registered for history courses. Students across campus seek out our courses because of the perspective they grant on the most urgent issues of our day, as well as the essential career skills they provide.

I look forward to seeing you in Smith Hall or on campus this fall!

Glennys Young
Professor, Chair, Jon Bridgman Endowed Professor

History on the Road

SUMMER STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES OPEN UP A WORLD OF HISTORY

In the summer many of our students partake in study abroad courses led by faculty from the Department of History. Below are snapshots of two exciting programs that took place this summer as part of the Comparative History of Ideas (CHID) program. To learn more about these courses and the many other wonderful opportunities on offer, visit www.washington.edu/studyabroad/

BUILDING FOR PEACE IN THE WAKE OF WAR: HA NOI, HUE, HOI AN, DONG HA, VIET NAM

Since 1999, Christoph Giebel, professor of international studies and history, has been taking students to Vietnam for an immersive approach to the history of the Vietnam War and its social, political, and environmental legacies. Building for Peace in the Wake of War combines academic learning with cultural excursions. It also has a unique service component in partnership with PeaceTrees Vietnam, which has as its mission the removal of unexploded ordnance and the promotion of sustainability in vulnerable communities.

As part of the study abroad program, students spend five weeks in rural Vietnam working with PeaceTrees. Giebel believes that this collaboration has been essential to the success and longevity of the course. He explains:

“Educators have to be careful that study abroad programs don’t turn into tourist experiences which exoticize the people and cultures being visited. While this course does offer students the chance to visit major cosmopolitan centers like Hanoi, the focus on working with PeaceTrees means that they get to spend most of their time engaged with the more everyday life of people still dealing with and affected by the legacies of the war.”

The relationship with PeaceTrees has been extremely fruitful. Over the years, University of Washington students have helped to replant demined areas, aided in the construction of schools, and worked alongside local contractors to rebuild homes and communities affected by the ongoing issues caused by unexploded ordnance. They have also played an active role in PeaceTrees educational programs designed to teach local communities how to cope with the danger of unexploded mines.

This program is a unique testament to the value of citizen diplomacy in a country that has a deep and complex history with the United States. Students learn that Vietnam is far more than the name of a war and that though conflicts like these are easy to start, the effects can be felt for decades after.

“It probably sounds clichéd,” Giebel reflects, “but I know that for many students the experience has truly been life altering—one student has even gone on to start their own NGO in the area and another has continued to work for PeaceTrees. It’s great to see.”

UW STUDENTS HELP PEACETREES REPLANT DEMINED AREAS IN VIETNAM





1. LUCIA BALLUMBROSIO TEACHES STUDENTS THE HISTORY OF HER FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY OF EL CARMEN IN A VISIT TO THE TOWN'S CEMETERY.
2. STUDENTS AND FACULTY POSING IN FRONT OF THEIR FINISHED MURAL IN BARRANCO WITH ARTIST JOSÉ LUIS PALOMINO.
3. HISTORY MAJOR PAULA ARAQUE AND STUDENTS MIREYA GREY AND ESTEPHANY GONZÁLEZ PAINTING A MURAL IN THE BARRANCO NEIGHBORHOOD OF LIMA. HISTORY MAJOR BILLY MILLIE IS PAINTING IN THE BACKGROUND.

ART AND THE POLITICS OF BLACKNESS AND INDIGENEITY IN PERU'S PAST AND PRESENT

This multifaceted program, led by Adam Warren (professor of Latin American history) and Mónica Rojas-Stewart (assistant director of African Studies and Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the Jackson School of International Studies), was made possible by a course-development grant from the Department of History in 2017. Now in its second year, the class centers on Peruvian racial politics and on how Peruvians have creatively negotiated identity and challenged structures of inequality in both the past and present, especially through art and culture. Warren explains:

“This course came about as a result of a conversation between Mónica Rojas-Stewart and me about the value of having students study racial politics and racial inequality in Peru. We saw this as providing them with experiences and knowledge of a different context that might help them to reflect critically on these same issues back in the United States.”

During the program, students get to visit three different regions of one of the most ethnically diverse countries in Latin America, home not just to black and indigenous populations, but also to many people of Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, Italian, and German descent. There, the students are asked to think critically about questions of race, identity, and diversity.

This is a unique and eye-opening experience full of culture and colors. Art takes center stage, and one of the most exciting things about this study abroad program is the opportunity to combine the study of Peruvian history with hands-on activities such as workshops in the plastic and performing arts. This mix is one of Professor Warren's favorite things about the course:

“This program is truly interdisciplinary. As a highly accomplished musician and performer of Afro-Peruvian dance from Lima, Professor Rojas-Stewart has been able to draw on a wealth of experience in the arts world in Peru and has coordinated a host of wonderful and unique opportunities for students to work alongside and learn from artists who have considered their art to be a form of anti-racist political activism. I provide the students with an understanding of the longer histories of inequality, discrimination, and resistance in Peru, focusing especially but not exclusively on the ways in which Afro-Peruvian and indigenous people have confronted discrimination, challenged systems of inequality, displayed resilience, and shaped Peruvian society since Spanish colonization.”

This is done not only through a mix of onsite teaching and walking tours, but also through activities with local residents, who often share their own experiences of the past.

This summer, students visited a range of sites. They also met a diverse group of locals, including Afro-Peruvian musicians, dancers, actors, artists, and activists. One especially popular activity was an all-day mural painting organized by the Japanese-Peruvian painter Jorge Miyagui and the Afro-Peruvian painter José Luis Palomino, in the neighborhood of Barranco, in the south of Lima.

Billy Millie, a history major who took part in the program this summer, described his favorite activity:

“We visited a small town about 12,000 feet above sea level called Patacancha. This was the most remote, removed-from-society place we visited. Here we had the opportunity to join the community in a ceremony. I had the chance to try and lasso an alpaca so that we could be shown how to harvest its fur to be turned into material for members in the community to weave. I then was told to pick up a younger alpaca and carry it to the center of the ceremony, where it was then married to another alpaca, a process that brought good wishes to the future alpaca offspring and left me with the title *el padrino*, ‘the godfather’ in Spanish.”

Through experiences like this and many others, students were exposed to local voices and traditions that are not easily translatable to the classroom. “Learning about a people, process, or event in the past is different when one does so by visiting the relevant places,” Warren notes. “My hope is that students build on some of the connections they develop here and think about how they might draw on the examples they have seen in engaging in their own historically informed and anti-racist activist work back home.”



History in Action

NEW COURSE COMBINES GLOBAL AND LOCAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE HISTORY OF THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

Last spring, the Department of History offered a new course, *The AIDS Epidemic: A Global History*. This class provided a critical look into the history and ongoing discussions around HIV and AIDS, at both the local and global levels. Professors Laurie Marhoefer and Lynn Thomas asked students to examine the AIDS epidemic as a key episode in 20th-century world history, but they also focused on smaller sites (such as cities and neighborhoods) and the roles that local communities and activists played in the trajectory of the disease.

Professor Marhoefer recalled how this approach came about:

“During the development of the course we realized how the history of AIDS shows you a vivid, global portrait of the whole world in that moment of the ‘80s through 2000s ... the AIDS crisis created global health! During the class we got into what felt like everything—people I never thought would come up, came up.”

Emily Thornton, a student in the class, was drawn to the topic because of the opportunity to study a subject with such contemporary relevance:

“The acceptance and communication in the classroom were amazing. The global nature of the class and what we learned was so incredibly important in confronting all the stereotypes associated with AIDS and its origins, in the United States and elsewhere. It forced me to understand where my own associations had originated from versus what is actually true.”

Students learned that politics of sexuality, class, citizenship, and race often shaped local responses to the epidemic by governments and communities, sometimes with dramatically different results. Seattle was one of many North American cities deeply affected by HIV and AIDS, and one where the legacy of the first outbreak is still felt today. To learn more about this local history, students were

invited to participate in a walking tour of Capitol Hill, a Seattle neighborhood that continues to be a center for LGBTQ+ activism. Bradley Horst, a PhD candidate in the Department of History and TA for the class, came up with the idea for the tour because he wanted to show students that knowledge of the past can be a powerful tool in tackling present-day challenges. “I think historians have a duty to get out of the classroom and bring their expertise to engage with real world issues, especially those affecting their local communities,” Horst explained.

“I ABSOLUTELY LOVED THE CLASS AND LOVED LEARNING ABOUT AN ISSUE SO PRESENT: IT INCITED THE ACTIVIST INSIDE OF ME!”

– EMILY THORNTON, STUDENT

During the tour, which was also led by Horst, and which Thornton described as one of the most “amazing parts of the class,” students visited several important sites for the history of HIV and AIDS in the city. Students also heard from and spoke with two leaders of the AMP: AIDS Memorial Pathway project. This community-driven initiative is in the process of constructing a walkway and several art pieces that will act as physical places for remembrance and reflection on the AIDS epidemic and all those affected by it. The project hopes to “provide a call to action to end HIV/AIDS, stigma, and discrimination.”



HORST LEADS STUDENTS ON A TOUR OF LGBTQ+ SITES IN THE CAPITOL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENT TURNS A LENS ON THE PAST

Emma Hinchliffe, a PhD candidate in the Department of History and budding documentarian, has always been curious about the power of film as a tool for telling impactful and important stories about the past. Recently she got the opportunity to travel to northern Italy to film a documentary on heretics in the 16th century.

The film, sponsored by the University of Verona, follows the life of Girolamo Donzellini, a physician from Venice, and the heretical network to which he belonged. Donzellini survived the Italian inquisition three times before eventually being sentenced to death by drowning, at the age of 74, for the crime of reading and distributing banned books. The lives of Donzellini and his fellow heretics offer an important opportunity to reflect on the history of values that we hold dear today, such as tolerance and freedom of thought and expression, and on the dangers of dogma and authoritarianism.

Hinchliffe reflects on the experience:

“As a historian of early modern Europe, getting to film in Venice and northern Italy for a month was a truly amazing experience. As I literally walked in Donzellini’s footsteps, saw the exact canals and buildings he called home, and read the prohibited books he wrote and read, I was able to really experience the intersection of the past and the present—which reminded me of why I study history! I couldn’t help but feel the weight and importance of his actions and how his unwillingness to conform paved the way towards a more progressive and free future. It is because of Donzellini and people like him that I am even able to make this film! That is a very humbling thought that reminds us not to become complacent about the rights we have today, or to stop fighting for further progress.”

She explains why she chose film as the medium to tell this story:

“Immediately when I heard about Donzellini’s life I felt like it deserved to be told through film. Even though he lived almost five hundred years ago, it seemed so relatable and modern. I’ve always believed that film can democratize the past in a way that the written word can’t, so it seemed like the perfect medium for this project. Moreover, it is a reality that more and more people are turning to digital media to learn about history, and historical documentary and dramas seem more popular than ever. I think historians need to be more engaged with this medium so that we can help create historical narratives that don’t let truth fall to the wayside in the interests of entertainment.”

The documentary also features the Department of History professor Mary O’Neil. For more information on the film, or to request a copy, please contact Emma at emmarh@uw.edu.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ETHAN SILVER RECEIVES THE RAVAGE ENDOWMENT PRIZE

The Ravage Endowment Prize is awarded to the author of an outstanding paper or project on the history of African Americans, with a preference for topics in the American West. Ethan Silver received this year's prize for his excellent paper, "An Old Struggle with New Ideas: An Examination and Comparison of the Civil Rights and Black Lives Matter Movements."

In his paper, Silver weaves together an impressive array of material, using secondary and primary sources to explore not only the strategic goals and tactics employed by each movement, but also the media response to

their actions across the political spectrum. Two big takeaways are clear. First, the history of Black Lives Matter shows how the concept of a social movement needs expansion in the modern age, when messages can now be spread as powerfully by passive and informal networks, such as online communities, as by organized ones. Second, the civil rights movement provided the organizational and structural foundations upon which Black Lives Matter could build.

Silver is thrilled to have received the award and feels inspired to continue his work in history. Reflecting on the importance of studying the past, he states:

"Often, I think of history as studying the messages and trends of the past, both good and bad, and it is the work of historians that helps analyze these trends in modern situations. It is this analysis that provides context, and even comfort, during times of social, political, or economic upheaval. After graduation, my goal is to work in public service law and give back to my community by helping individuals who are going through their own upheaval in some way."

CONGRATULATIONS, ETHAN.



POWER PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATING SENIOR: DAX TATE

This year's award for outstanding graduating senior went to Dax Tate. As Professor Robin Stacey explained at the department awards ceremony, despite the high number of exceptional students, the choice to honor Tate was made easy by the fact that so many members of our faculty thought so highly of him.

Tate majored in history with a minor in political science, and his research interests lie in European history. He was drawn to study the past in part because of the skills he realized it would help him develop in the present. He explains:

"In studying history I am learning about the people, both heroic individuals and more unseen members of society, who lived in and shaped a world that is so removed from our own in so many ways, and yet has so many of the same fundamental qualities. In that sense, history really taught me empathy and the ability to understand the perspectives of others. I have also always been very interested in current events, and I feel that I can never truly understand an issue without first understanding its history."

Tate has been a thoughtful and engaged member of the history department community, and he will be missed in the classrooms of Smith Hall. He now plans to spend six months backpacking in Europe. History, however, won't be too far from his mind. He plans to apply to PhD programs in history on his return with a view to becoming a professor in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS, DAX.



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AWARDS CEREMONY 2019

As each academic year draws to a close, the Department of History comes together in celebration of some of our best and brightest members at the History Awards Ceremony. This year thirty-one undergraduate students, four graduate students, and one outstanding high school teacher were honored and a total of nearly \$200,000 in scholarships and prizes awarded.

REFLECTING ON A YEAR ABROAD: CATCHING UP WITH THE 2018 BONDERMAN FELLOW ANNIE LEWIS

Last year, Annie Lewis, a history major and UW Dean's Medalist, was awarded the Bonderman Fellowship, which gives students the opportunity to undertake eight months of intensive solo travel to two regions of the world. We recently caught up with Lewis and learned that her fellowship had taken her through three world regions and no fewer than thirteen countries! These included Vietnam (where she learned to ride a motorbike), Morocco (where she camped and stargazed in the Sahara Desert), and Tanzania (where she volunteered on a vegetable farm).

Passionate about social justice, Lewis wanted to use this experience to inform her interests in improving educational accessibility in the United States, with the goal of understanding how marginalized groups can be better served in our country's higher education system. To this end, she spent most of her time in regions home to the highest (Asia) and lowest (Africa) numbers of international students in the Pacific Northwest.

Alongside the wonderful memories of the people she met and the places she visited, Lewis also values the personal lessons she will take from the experience. She explains that it has been a transformative one:

"As I met new people and interacted in diverse cultures, I became more aware of the perspectives and value systems I hold from growing up in the United States. I had a lot of time to contemplate my identities and privileges, and in the process decide which parts of myself I liked and which parts I wanted to redefine. Coming away from the Bonderman, I feel more in touch with who I am, and hope this self-awareness helps me to be a more thoughtful historian and community member."

Since returning Lewis has begun a position on campus as an operations and communications coordinator for the Foundation for International Understanding through Students (FIUTS).

For more information on the Bonderman Fellowship, visit www.bonderman.uw.edu



IMAGES FROM LEWIS'S TRAVELS



UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Bicknell Fund for Academic Travel: **Emma Peterson, Angelica Runstadler, and Katherine Scannell-Daniel**

Filaretos Fotas Award for Study at Cardiff University: **Megan Scott**

Denison-Kernaghan Endowed Scholarship: **Fleur Anteau**

Meder-Montgomery Family Endowed Student Support Fund in History: **Sarah Cruse and Connor Ritchie**

Faye Wilson Award: **Paula Araque, Neave Carroll, Katherine Cavanaugh, Stella Haynes Kiehn, Victoria Jackson, and Kate Wooley**

Schwartz Award: **Jiaxin Du, Victoria Fleck, Yourong Pan, Calvin Paulson, and Angelica Runstadler**

Corkery Scholarship: **Katherine Scannell-Daniel and Jasper Winters**

Sleizer Award: **Paula Araque, Lindsey Carlson, Katherine Cavanaugh, Alexander Clark, Jiaxin Du, Nathan Elliott, Victoria Fleck,**

Jonathan Gillam, Madison Oversby, Yourong Pan, Calvin Paulson, Emma Peterson, Xavaar Quaranto, Angelica Runstadler, Ethan Silver, Meredith Weinstock, and Henry Zing

Freedman Remak Award: **Jacqueline Goodrich**

Power Prize: **Calvin Paulson** (winner), **Katherine Cavanaugh** (honorable mention)

Department of History's Dean's Medalist nominee: **Sarit Laschinsky**

EDUCATOR AWARDS

Pressly Prize for Excellence in Secondary Education: **Dave Armstrong** of Skyview High School in Vancouver, Washington

GRADUATE AWARDS

Power Graduate Paper Prize: **Frances O'Shaughnessy**

Power Prize for Outstanding Teaching Assistant: **Roneva Keel**

Power Prize for Outstanding Student Leader: **Jeffrey Haines**

THE ROAD TO TENURE: DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY ALUMNI REFLECT ON THEIR JOURNEYS

Over the years, the Department of History has had the pleasure of mentoring an impressive group of graduate students, many of whom have now gone on to be mentors themselves as tenured and tenure-track faculty.

Here, three alumni reflect on their time at the UW and how it shaped their academic futures.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY / ALUMNI GRADUATION YEAR: **2004**



NAME:
Sean Cocco

FIELD OF STUDY:
The Renaissance and the Reformation

PRIMARY ADVISOR:
Mary O'Neil

CURRENT POSITION:
Associate professor of history at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY / ALUMNI GRADUATION YEAR: **2013**



NAME:
Alan Lumba

FIELD OF STUDY:
History of the Philippines, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific

PRIMARY ADVISOR:
Vince Rafael

CURRENT POSITION:
Associate professor of history at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), Blacksburg, Virginia

Sean Cocco's research interests lie in early modern Europe, with a focus on urban and environmental history and the history of science. Born in southern Italy, he has spent his academic career researching an area that he knows and loves while trying to challenge and bring nuance to the oftentimes simplistic and negative images associated with this part of Europe—especially the city of Naples. Cocco's first book, *Watching Vesuvius: A History of Science and Culture in Early Modern Italy* (University of Chicago Press, 2012), built on his PhD thesis and presented a rich and detailed portrait of Mount Vesuvius and the Neapolitans living in its shadow, returning the historic volcano to its place in a broader European culture of science, travel, and appreciation of the natural world.

While at the UW, Cocco worked closely with Professors Mary O'Neil, Raymond Jonas, Robert Stacey, and Benjamin Schmidt. He looks back fondly on his time in Smith Hall and is especially grateful for what he believes is the unique mentoring he received there. "If I'm honest, when I was in graduate school I didn't know if I was ever going to be, or if I even wanted to be, an academic, but what I did know was that I was obsessed and passionate about my topic—that was who I was—and my advisors at the UW kindled that passion and allowed me to pursue and carve my own path rather than encouraging me to take up topics that might have been closer to their own interests."

This experience taught Cocco that loving what you do and what you study is essential if you are to succeed in graduate school and beyond.

"Luck may well play a not insignificant part in what you end up doing or what position you end up in, but one thing that you are in control of is how you feel about your work, your research, and your achievements. If you learn to trust your work and your ideas and can be excited about them, it's more likely that others will be too. I think that this attitude has been instrumental in getting me to where I am today."

As a first-generation Filipino immigrant, Lumba originally planned on teaching at a community college after graduate school, hoping to work with students from minority and underrepresented backgrounds. However, the "unique intellectual community" he encountered at the UW sent him in a different direction. "UW ended up taking me along a path more geared toward research and the joys of intellectual exchange," he recalls, "because I found the graduate seminars there were on another level. There were so many other PhD students working on so many different and interesting things, all with perspectives that I found useful and challenging at the same time."

As part of his continued commitment to supporting minority voices, Lumba's research and teaching at Virginia Tech is focused on racial capitalism, imperialism and colonialism, and dis/ability in the Philippines, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific in the 20th century. Throughout his career, Lumba has tried to balance a deep commitment to his intellectual passions with a broad conception of where those passions might lead, and he advises current graduate students hoping to enter the academic job market to do likewise.

"It's important to be open to new ideas and new perspectives about your research project. It's best to widen the scope of what your research is capable of, what you are capable of teaching, and the kinds of communities you can engage with. This doesn't mean chasing trends. Instead, it's about having a real concrete, deep, and honest understanding of who you are and what are the stakes of your work and experiences. Your research, teaching, and academic-service experiences should align with an image of someone a department would want to work with, to talk to, and to learn from."

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY / ALUMNI

GRADUATION YEAR:

1998



NAME:

Robert Self

FIELD OF STUDY:

Environmental, urban, and labor history of the United States

PRIMARY ADVISORS:

Richard White and James Gregory

CURRENT POSITION:

Professor of history and department chair, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

Robert Self is quick to recall what he misses about Seattle and the University of Washington: “The optimism, intelligence, and dedication of people in Smith Hall: faculty, staff, and graduate students. Reading the evolving work of my fellow students, each new iteration a leap forward. Cherry blossoms. When the mountain was out. Rain-soaked Red Square. The last embers of grunge. Espresso-fueled conversations, when espresso was still new enough to be cool. The growing confidence that my generation had something to say, a notion nurtured in the southeast corner of the Quad.”

After graduating, however, Self kept looking forward, not back. Following postdocs at Stanford and the University of Michigan, and two years as an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin, he took a position at Brown in 2004, and became department chair in 2012. It has shaped up to be a stellar career for someone who wasn't always sure he would chase the academic dream:

“Did I plan to pursue a career in academia when I was in graduate school at the UW? In a word, no. The job market was no better in the late 1990s than it is now, and I was never certain that an academic career was possible. Whether it was the right path for me personally was another question. It was ultimately easier to resolve the second question—affirmatively and enthusiastically—than the first. But that resolution proved essential to the ‘pursuit’ implicit in the first. Once I knew that a career in academia was what I wanted, I could pursue it with the needed commitment, even if it often still seemed only remotely possible.”

Self recognizes that he benefited more than once from good fortune, as well as advantages of gender and racial identity. Nevertheless, he stresses the vitality of this attitude for anyone hoping to forge a similar path:

“My own truth about the profession is that it's all one seamless fabric of self-invention, self-improvement, and hustle. You have to make your career, because no one else makes it for you. And the sooner one realizes that, the better. That said, the work speaks. Self-invention and hustle cannot, ultimately, compensate if the work isn't there.”

**IN MEMORIAM:
STEVE MARQUARDT**

The Department of History was sad to hear of the passing of the former graduate student Steve Marquardt. Steve joined the department in 1990. Steve was a distinguished student and activist during his time on campus. To learn more about Steve and his service to the University of Washington please visit:

labor.uw.edu/content/SteveMarquardt



GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Michael Aguirre earned a PhD for his thesis, “The Wages of Borders: Political Economy, Labor Activism, and Racial Formation in the Imperial-Mexicali Borderlands, 1937-1979.” This dissertation was named the UW Graduate School’s Distinguished Dissertation in the Humanities and Fine Arts. He was also awarded the Inequality in America two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard, which he will begin this fall. And, he accepted a position as a fellow on the World Economic Forum’s Global Future Council (New Equality and Inclusion Agenda).

Ryan Archibald earned a PhD for his dissertation, “Traveling Dissent: Activists, Borders, and the U.S. National Security State.”

Jorge Bayona won a grant from the Dr. Clyde Snow Fund, run by the Latin American and Caribbean Studies center in the Jackson School of International Studies. He was also invited to give talks at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (Lima) and the Universidad Nacional San Cristóbal de Huamanga (Ayacucho).

Jorge Bayona and **Adrian Kane** earned a Mellon Collaborative Fellowship for Reaching New Publics in the Humanities from the UW Simpson Center for the Humanities.

Emily Hall earned a PhD for her thesis, “Kim Songhwa’s ‘Mr. Kobau’: Editorial Cartoons as Genre Weapons in South Korean Search for Democracy, 1945-1972.”

Arthit Jiamrattanyoo was awarded a Humboldt Yale History Network Travel Grant for 2018-19 (funded by the Anneliese Maier Research Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and with support from Yale University) for his archival research in Madrid and Seville, Spain.

Patrick Lozar earned a PhD for his thesis, “The Meaning of This Boundary Line: Indigenous Communities and the Canada-United States Border on the Columbia Plateau, 1850s-1930s.” Patrick will be joining the faculty at the University of Victoria in British Columbia as an assistant professor this fall.



Faculty Honors

James Felak was an invited guest at a conference at the University of Toronto commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Czechoslovakia. He attended a conference at Notre Dame commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Russian writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. In addition, Felak participated in a two-week program in Poland in which authors and publishers get feedback from Polish scholars on their book manuscripts (in Felak's case, a study of the visits of Pope John Paul II to his native Poland from 1979 to 1991).

Susan Glenn is researching a book on postwar conflicts over the permanent transfer of children from one group to another. Her article, "The 'Kidnapping' of Hildy McCoy: Child Adoption and Religious Conflict in the Shadow of the Holocaust" (published in the interdisciplinary journal *Jewish Social Studies*), reveals how debates between Jews and Catholics about the preservation of children's religious heritage that had been raging across the Atlantic in post-Holocaust Europe were transplanted to American soil in the 1950s and took decidedly different trajectories in the turbulent religious environment of the United States.

Scott Kurashige became president of the American Studies Association, which is the oldest and largest scholarly association devoted to the interdisciplinary study of U.S. cultures and histories. In November 2019, Kurashige will deliver the presidential address for the association's annual convention in Honolulu based on this year's theme, "Build as We Fight."

Vicente Rafael had two articles published in 2018-19: "Linguistic Currencies: The Translative Power of English in the United States and Southeast Asia," in the *Translator* (UK), and "The Sovereign Trickster," in *Journal of Asian Studies*. In addition, he wrote "Colonial Contractions: The Modern Philippines, 1565-1946," for the online *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History*. He was also the Dr. David Chu Distinguished Visitor Lecturer at the University of Toronto Asian Institute and delivered the keynote address at the 20th Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society Conference in Dumaguete, Philippines.

Ileana M. Rodríguez-Silva was named the director of undergraduate studies for the Department of History. She was also awarded the Giovanni and Amne Costigan Endowed Professorship in History and published a piece for the forum Puerto Rico and the United States at Critical Junctures entitled "The Office of Civil Defense and Colonialism as a State of Emergency" in *Modern American History*.

William Rorabaugh (professor emeritus) gave one of the History Lecture Series talks in January 2019 on American women of the 1960s. His recent book, *Prohibition: A Concise History* (Oxford University Press), is in production in paperback as part of the Very Short Introductions series. After forty-three years teaching at the UW, Bill retired in June 2019.

Benjamin Schmidt wrapped up a six-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Grant that focused on early modern conversion; some of the outcomes of the project will be published in a forthcoming volume he is editing on the politics of conversion. Schmidt also gave the opening lecture at the conference Drawings from Mughal India in the Age of Rembrandt, hosted by the Getty Museum; and he delivered the keynote address for the Amsterdam conference Imagineering Violence: The Spectacle of Violence in the Early Modern Period.

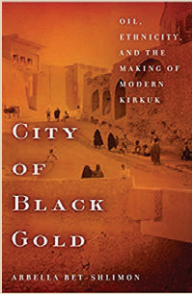
Charity Urbanski was awarded the 2019 Honors Excellence in Teaching Award by the UW Honors Program. She also signed a contract with Routledge for her second book, *Medieval Monstrosity*. The book is designed for undergraduate teaching and covers ancient, medieval, and modern monster theory, the use of monstrous rhetoric in the marginalization of religious outgroups and women in medieval Europe, and more conventional monsters such as dragons, revenants, demons, and apocalyptic beasts.

Adam Warren was recently appointed associate editor of the *Hispanic American Historical Review*, the flagship journal in the field of Latin American history. His term will last until 2022.

Dan Waugh (professor emeritus) participated in a Yale seminar in Tibet in July and early August, the emphasis being on Buddhist monasteries and their art. He was the principal photographer for the group. He has also been invited to deliver the keynote address for a small conference in Vienna in December focusing on foreigners in Muscovite Russia.

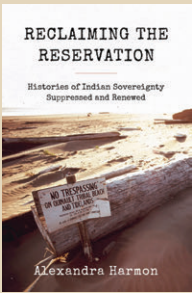
Glennys Young wrote the conclusion, "Wider Arcs of the Russian Revolution as Impact, Networks, or?," to Choi Chatterjee, Steven C. Marks, Mary Neuberger, and Steven Sabol, eds., *The Wider Arc of Revolution* (Slavica Press, 2019). She also contributed an article, "The Soviet Collapse as Social Revolution," to José Faraldo, ed., *Collapsed Empires: The Consequences of 1917 in the Mediterranean and the World* (Litverlag, 2019), to be published in September or October. Her article "Spain and the Early Cold War: The 'Isolation Paradigm' Revisited" will also be published in the *Journal of Cold War Studies* in the Spring or Summer 2020 issue.

FACULTY BOOKSHELF



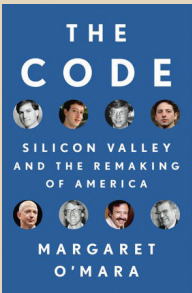
***City of Black Gold: Oil, Ethnicity, and the Making of Modern Kirkuk*, by Arbella Bet-Shlimon**

(STANFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2019)



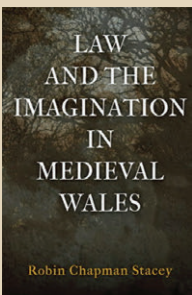
***Reclaiming the Reservation: Histories of Indian Sovereignty Suppressed and Renewed*, by Alexandra Harmon**

(UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON PRESS, 2019)



***The Code: Silicon Valley and the Remaking of America*, by Margaret Pugh O'Mara**

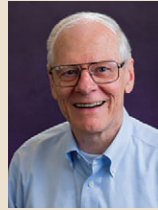
(PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, 2019)



***Law and the Imagination in Medieval Wales*, by Robin Chapman Stacey**

(UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS, 2018)

RETIREMENTS



WILLIAM RORABAUGH

In spring the department wished a fond farewell and retirement to Professor William Rorabaugh. A social historian of the United States, Rorabaugh has focused on exploring and illuminating periods of significant social change. He has written on a wide variety of topics, from the rise of the temperance movement in the early American Republic to the explosion of counterculture in the 1960s.

A member of the department for more than forty years, Rorabaugh first came to the UW in 1976 as “a one-year visitor and never left!” His service to the department and to the study of history has been exemplary. During his time here, he has taught more than 4,000 undergraduates, mentored six PhD students, and written an impressive seven books.

Robert Stacey, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, had these words to share about his friend and colleague of over thirty years: “His intellectual range as a historian is remarkable. But it is as a conversationalist that I shall miss him most. Quite apart from the many subjects on which he has published books and articles, Bill commands an endless stream of fascinating information on a whole host of topics far removed from his areas of scholarly expertise. I never come away from talking with Bill without having learned something I hadn’t known when our conversation began.”

Rorabaugh is looking forward to retirement and “not having any plans” for the foreseeable future.



LAURIE SEARS

The Department of History and Jackson School of International Studies professor Laurie Sears retired in December 2018. Sears is a social and intellectual historian of Southeast Asia with particular knowledge of the 19th- and 20th-century colonial East Indies and postcolonial Indonesia and Java. Her specialty as a historian is the oral and written literary traditions of Java and Indonesia in Javanese, Indonesian, and Dutch. She also published on the transnational discourse of psychoanalysis as it spanned the world in the 20th century. Sears directed for many years the Southeast Asia Center in the Jackson School.

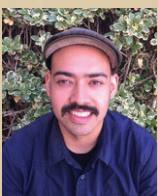
During her service to the UW, she introduced hundreds of students to the history and culture of Southeast Asia by teaching several general courses on the 19th and 20th century and allowed those interested to dive deeper through more specialized courses on the performing arts in Java. She also taught classes on Indonesian Islam, colonialism, imperial formations, and issues of diversity.

Her presence and expertise will be greatly missed.

NEW FACES



Hajin Jun joins the University of Washington as the James B. Palais Assistant Professor of Korean History. She earned her PhD in history from Stanford University. Jun’s scholarship examines the intersection of religion and empire, focusing especially on Protestantism and ritual transformation in early 20th-century Korea. Jun will hold a joint appointment with the Jackson School of International Studies and the Department of History. She is excited to work closely with the UW’s diverse and energetic academic community.



This September the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies and the UW Department of History welcome **Michael Schulze-Oechtering**. Oechtering joins us as a Ford Foundation PostDoctoral Fellow for the 2019-20 academic year. During his postdoctoral tenure within the Department of History, Michael will be working with Professor Moon-Ho Jung and completing his current book manuscript, “No Separate Peace: Multiracial Struggles against Racial Capitalism in the Pacific Northwest.”

Department of History
University of Washington
318 Smith, Box 353560
Seattle, WA 98195-3560

AWARD-WINNING FACULTY



PROFESSOR CHARITY URBANSKI WINS 2019 HONORS EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Professor of medieval history Charity Urbanski is the co-winner of the 2019 Honors Excellence in Teaching Award. This student-nominated award, given by the UW Honors Program, recognizes professors for their inspiring courses and willingness to connect with students. For more on Professor Urbanski and her award visit:

history.uw.edu/news/urbanskiwins



PROFESSOR EMERITUS QUINTARD TAYLOR GIVES DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE

The Department of History was thrilled when Professor Emeritus Quintard Taylor, Scott and Dorothy Bullitt Professor of American History, was selected to deliver the University Faculty Lecture for 2019. In April he lectured on "Six African American Women Who Changed the West (and the World)." To learn more visit:

history.uw.edu/news/facultylecture2019

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Also make sure to check out our online calendar history.uw.edu/calendar for the latest information on events. There is always something going on in the Department of History and our affiliated centers!