



## Some Remarks from the Chair of the Department

Richard Greenfield



Welcome to the first newsletter from the Department of History!

We expect this to be the first in a series of annual newsletters through which we can keep in touch with our alumni, friends and

colleagues. Here we hope in future to pass on information about the Department, highlight changes and achievements, reflect on issues and developments, and offer opportunities for contact and support. In this first issue, however, it may be appropriate to begin by describing briefly some of the broader changes that have taken place in the Department over the past decade. These are considerable. Even those of you who knew us only a few years ago may find us significantly different!

### Faculty Development

During the past decade we have welcomed sixteen new tenure-track or tenured faculty members. They have swelled the number of our regular faculty to twenty-eight. We are proud to say that eleven of these appointees have been drawn from equity seeking groups. The Department used to have a primarily dual orientation in the fields of research and interest of its faculty – European and Canadian or North American history, with a small number of faculty engaging in broader regional or thematic fields. While we have striven to maintain our reputation for strength and excellence in these fields, diversification has been a major part of the Department's realised plans over the

past decade or so. Now, in 2008-09, the pattern has evened out with roughly one third of our regular faculty specialising in each of Canadian/North American history, European history, and the history of other areas of the globe – Africa, Latin America, East Asia, the Middle East, South Asia, the Caribbean. Many faculty, of course, have broader interests or approaches which span these rather clumsy geographical parameters in all sorts of different ways. Our policy and achievements in producing this shift have strongly supported, and actually predate by some considerable time, the University's wider plans and visions for "Engaging the World."

### Undergraduate programme

Happily History remains a very popular subject with students at Queen's. Our total number of concentrators (almost nine hundred) makes us the third largest department in Arts and Science (a little way behind Biology and Psychology). Such large numbers of students require a lot of courses, especially given our on going commitment to the seminar format whenever possible. We offered no fewer than ninety separate on campus undergraduate course sections in 2008-09 and plan to run almost the same number next year. These encompass an enormous range and diversity of historical subjects, reflecting the current interests of our faculty and students, and our goals as a department. We now offer three first year courses (on European intellectual, World, and Canadian history). Our second year concentrators can chose seminars in the more traditional areas of European and North American history, but may also work on Caribbean or Indian history, for example. Our upper year students can

choose from forty full or half year seminars. Alongside solid and fascinating staples there are courses on the automobile in American history, saints and sainthood, sex and the history of medicine, culture and crisis in fin-de-siecle Europe and America, liberalism, authoritarianism and citizenship in Latin America, Byzantine society, the history of global warming, the Italian Renaissance, or theory and methodology in global history. And, for our electives and concentrators taking lecture classes, the range and depth is equally attractive. It's nice to know, too, that although those high marks are still hard to come by, the wonderful quality of our concentrators hasn't slipped either.

### **Graduate Programme**

Thanks to a recent infusion of government money, our Graduate programme is back to the size it was ten years and more ago, despite having shrunk quite substantially in the interim. We welcomed twelve new PhD and 32 new MA students in the Fall of 2008 and expect similar numbers this coming September. We now operate with a total Graduate enrollment of around 100. This means we have one of the five biggest graduate programs in Arts and Science. Many of these students have won highly competitive external awards and, while at Queen's, are already beginning to publish their work and present their research at national and international conferences. While Canadian history remains a field of great interest for our students, particularly at the PhD level, we already have in place or are developing other significant areas of strength. Over the past couple of years, we have attracted numerous award-winning graduate students in a range of other fields, most notably Early modern and modern European, intellectual, and African history. The graduate programme's growth in new fields reflects our recent faculty hiring patterns, with a number of appointments made specifically with the needs of the graduate program in mind. The graduate programme now mirrors more closely the new balance of regional and thematic fields established in the Department and we thus listed ten fields of specialisation in our recent OCGS report: Canada, United States, Atlantic World, Modern Europe, Intellectual, Mediterranean World, Medieval and Early Modern Worlds, Africa, Middle East, and "Race:" Historical and International Perspectives. It was wonderful to see no fewer than seven doctoral and six masters students graduate from the Department in June of 2008, and another three doctoral and an amazing twenty-two masters students in the Fall. Congratulations to them!

### **An uncertain future**

While so much is positive, there are, however, some very threatening clouds on the horizon. It is true that infrastructure and new building projects continue to flourish on campus as a result of generous public and private funding. These will undoubtedly make Queen's a much better place for its students and staff, but it is sadly also true that the provincial government has not made funding for the *every day academic operation* of its post-secondary institutions a priority, except in very specific, targeted areas (such as graduate growth). This situation, one that has persisted for years, has now been seriously exacerbated by the global financial downturn, while the central administration at Queen's may also be argued to have failed at times in recent years to demonstrate an unequivocal commitment to academic quality as its top priority.

Whatever the precise causes of the funding shortfall, the consequences are all too obvious and inescapable at the basic departmental level. The Department of History has had its operating budget cut by almost 9.0% for the two years 2008-10. Massive cuts of 6.0% and 8.0% are threatened for 2010-2012. Given the way that departmental budgets work, these cuts must be made from the money we use for our everyday academic operations. In other words, these cuts are not made at the fringes but at the heart, from the money we have at our disposal to hire new full time faculty, employ part-time instructors, pay Teaching Assistants, employ staff – in short to make possible almost all the things that have in the past caused our programme to stand out in terms of academic excellence, and thus allow us to fulfill what should be the core mission of the University.

In the spring of 2008 our Internal Academic Review – a very rigorous examination of everything the Department does which takes place on a seven year cycle – finished the work it had begun in 2006. The final report was very positive indeed, but, far from concluding that we had adequate resources with which to do our job, it indicated that we were achieving well beyond our means. For example it suggested that we were short at least five regular faculty members and in consequence the Department set priorities for hiring in the fields of Canadian, African, and German history. And then the serious cuts began.

If we were already achieving beyond our means in 2007 we are now living on borrowed time. Keeping up our standards has only been possible at Departmental

and Faculty levels by using up all our reserves, by suspending all sorts of academic and support programmes, by a freeze in the hiring of regular faculty, by 'letting go' a number of adjunct faculty, and by 'reorganizing' the way we offer some of our courses. If the sort of cuts that the Principal and the Board are envisaging over the next two years are not mitigated by increased government funding or broader initiatives within the university that are applied directly to the academic heart of Queen's, then the sort of programme that this Department has built over so many years, the sort of programme that so many of our alumni remember so fondly as playing a key role in their education, will likely be, at best, 'reorganised' beyond recognition, at worst, destroyed. The size of our classes will rise, large lectures will replace most of our seminars, the breadth and excitement of our offerings will dwindle, our graduate programme will shrink again, and we will be unable to hire new faculty, while some of our current professors will inevitably start moving to greener pastures.

In these circumstances, we look to our alumni, the parents of our students, our friends and supporters to help us. **We need your help, in two ways.** Financial assistance will of course never go amiss, especially if it is targeted specifically in ways which will help us maintain and improve the core *everyday* educational experience and opportunities of our students in the classroom. But, just as importantly, you can help by letting those who have the power to change this unfortunate situation, in government and administration, know what its consequence will be, on the ground, for our students. It will indeed be sad if, when you read this newsletter next year, you hear reports of drastic changes to the pattern of our programme and that declining quality has hurt our reputation to the extent that it has caused many students, and their parents, to start considering other options for their education.

### **The Beatrice Nugent Fund**

There is, however, one bright light that shines out for the Department, amidst this potential gloom. In 2007 we were privileged to receive a generous bequest of almost \$800,000 from the estate of Beatrice Nugent (BA 39). The interest from that endowment became available to us this year, and will be made available on an annual basis. It has already had a major and immediately tangible impact on the intellectual life of the Department. Under the terms of the Fund, which direct that the money to be used in connection with lectures and papers in the Department, we have been able to develop our seminar series, reinvigorate our

annual Faculty lecture (given by a distinguished member of the Department), support an annual workshop at which our Graduate students present and discuss their research, support the annual Queen's McGill Graduate History Student conference, and provide quite substantial funds to faculty in the Department who are organizing conferences and workshops which will bring to Queen's historians from other institutions across Canada and from around the world. This is really exciting stuff. To have funds available to actually develop the things we do, in particular for our students, at a time when everything else is constantly being cut back or shrinking is truly inspiring!

### **A new Chair of the Department**

Finally, this first newsletter will be my last. After six years (one of them on leave) I am stepping down as Chair of the Department in July. It has been my honour to work for the Department, to build on the solid foundations laid by my predecessors, and help it maintain and develop its standing in the Faculty of Arts and Science and the University. It's been a great experience and one for which I have no regrets, but I am looking forward to returning to regular academic life and getting on with my own research again. I am happy that, at this difficult time, I can leave everything in the more than capable hands of my successor, David Parker.

My best wishes to you all,

Richard Greenfield  
Professor and Chair of the Department



## Introducing our Newest Members

The Department of History is pleased to introduce our two newest faculty members, who joined the department in the fall of 2008.



**Amitava Chowdhury** specializes in Caribbean History, with a particular interest in the emerging field of World History, and earned his Ph.D. in 2008 from Washington State University. At Queen's, Professor Chowdhury teaches courses in Caribbean, Atlantic, and World History. His research examines identity

formation among Indian indentured laborers in the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean. Drawing on colonial and metropolitan archives, Professor Chowdhury fundamentally challenges the notion of an inherent, static and immutable identity in the diaspora. Instead, he presents identity as a process, which is dynamic, adaptive, and contextual, and is contingent on legal, ideological, political, demographic and economic determinants. Professor Chowdhury is currently working on publishing his dissertation in the form of a monograph.

Before initiating his doctoral education at Washington State, Professor Chowdhury taught at the University of Mauritius between 2001 and 2004. While in Mauritius, he directed several archaeological projects on sites related to slavery and Indian indentured labor. His site, the Aapravasi Ghat (literally, the immigration depot), which served as the gateway for half million Indian indentured laborers was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2006. While in Mauritius, he also directed excavation on Le Morne Brabant, a mountain peninsula that served as the refuge for fugitive slaves in the 18th century. This site was also designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2008. Among his other works, between 2002 and 2004, Professor Chowdhury discovered remains of the now extinct Dodo, in sites used and inhabited by fugitive slaves in colonial Mauritius. This discovery remains the only instance where Dodo bones have been found in association with human habitation, or in the context of human consumption.



**Wendy Wall** earned her Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1998, and moved to Queen's after teaching stints at Colgate and Duke Universities. Her research focuses on political culture, nationalism, and identity in the 20th-century U.S., while her teaching interests include both modern U.S. history and the history of the American West. Her book, *Inventing the "American Way":*

*The Politics of Consensus from the New Deal to the Civil Rights Movement*, was published by Oxford University Press last year and was a co-winner of the Organization of American Historians' 2008 Ellis W. Hawley Prize. The book also won the Phi Alpha Theta Best First Book Award, and was named a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title of 2009. Professor Wall has also published essays in collections on domestic U.S. political cultural, the "new international history," and gender in the American West. She is currently working on a book about religion, nationalism and American politics from Franklin Delano Roosevelt to Ronald Reagan.

Before entering graduate school, Professor Wall worked as a reporter in the *Wall Street Journal's* Chicago bureau. She interviewed farmers, commodities traders, and CEOs; traveled to Indonesia for a story on the Green Revolution; and went spelunking in Indiana and rattlesnake hunting in southwestern Colorado. She credits her years tromping through pig sties and cow pastures with honing the persistence required to spend long hours in the archives. A native of California, she now balances her academic life with her role as mother to two small children. Having recently moved from a tiny hamlet in upstate New York, she and her family spent this year sampling the cosmopolitan wonders of Kingston!

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This spring, the department held a reception to welcome the University's new principal, **Dr. Daniel Woolf**, a specialist in early modern British cultural history and in the history of historical thought and writing. Dr. Woolf studied history at Queen's as an undergraduate, and returned to Queen's as a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council postdoctoral fellow from 1984 to 1986 under the supervision of Paul Christianson. We look forward to having Dr. Woolf as a member of the department. We will feature his past and current research in the next issue of this newsletter. We also welcome his research associate Ian Hesketh, a historian of modern Britain.

# Crossing Borders: The History Department Seminar Series

## Ishita Pande

The History department seminar series presented a year of thought-provoking and well-attended lectures that challenged traditional boundaries through a focus on the interdisciplinary and the transnational. This year, the series benefited tremendously from funds provided by the Nugent bequest intended for hosting talks in the History department. The funds have made it possible for the department to invite scholars from further a field than was possible in the past, and to host special events that have proven to be occasions for crucial intellectual and social exchange. The first Annual Nugent lecture was presented by the prominent historical ethnographer, critical race theorist and postcolonial critic, Ann Laura Stoler, on October 23, 2008. Prof Stoler is the Willy Brandt Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology and Historical Studies at the New School for Social Research in New York City and is the author of several influential works that include *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power* and *Race and the Education of Desire*. At Queen's, Stoler delivered a lecture titled "Imperial Dispositions of Dis-regard", drawing from her book that was released later the same month, *Haunted by Empire: Epistemic Anxieties and Colonial Common Sense*, (Princeton, 2008). For the paper, Stoler juxtaposed the official state archives with thirty years of letters between a father - a failed colonial official - and his young child turned sullen grown daughter, to question Albert Memmi's description of two kind of colonialists - those who accept the incivilities and inequities of empire, and those who refuse, and to explore what she terms the 'well-tended conditions of dis-regard' in the nineteenth-century Netherlands Indies.

The transnational and interdisciplinary tone set by the Nugent Lecture continued with the other talks. In November, Prof. Selçuk Esenbel, Professor of History in Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey, who is currently at Queen's as the Good Family Visiting Faculty Fellow to work on a book exploring the often neglected transnational roots and international relations that informed nationalism in the twentieth century, presented a lecture drawing upon her ongoing research ("Japan's Global Claim to Islam: Chinese Coins and the Asian Muslim Network"). The Seminar series also teamed up with the China Week organizers to present Prof Jin Guangyao, who spoke on Chinese and American perceptions of each other, and

their impact on bilateral relations and international politics. ("Admiration and Ambivalence: Chinese Perceptions of the United States in the Twentieth Century"). In December, Ian Mackay delivered the first annual Nugent Faculty Lecture, "Empire, race and liquid modernity: policing the cultural boundaries of liberal order in Vancouver, 1914." Ian McKay's lecture was followed by the annual holiday luncheon made possible by generous funding from the Nugent bequest.

The discussions and conversations generated by these critical looks at nationalism, post/colonialism, and the very discipline of history, continued into the winter semester. Visiting speakers included Samuel Moyn from Columbia University, who revisited several historical terrains to pose provocative questions on the relationship between anticolonialist thought and the post-World War II history of human rights ("Was Anti-Colonialism a Human Rights movement?"), and Sherman Cochran from Cornell University, who provided an intimate look at the personal and political upheavals and transnational dislocations experienced by a single Chinese business dynasty through revolutionary times ("Chinese survival strategies in business, war and revolution"). Elizabeth Lapina, our current Marjorie McLean Oliver Post-Doctoral Fellow who came to us with a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, put the well-known critiques of Orientalism to the test by treading some novel ground, in rethinking the construction of the East-West dichotomy in the Middle Ages ("The West prepares to illuminate the East': the Binary of Occident and Orient in the Chronicles of the First Crusade"). We were also pleased to welcome one of our distinguished retired faculty members, reformation specialist James Stayer, who shared his discoveries of a new field with us ("The Creation of the Hebrew Bible, and What it Tells Us about Early Jewish History"). The first Nugent sponsored graduate student workshop, a forum designed for advanced PhD students to share their research with the rest the department, was very well attended; we hope that this would become an ongoing event with even greater participation in the future.

# History Professor Accompanies Alumni on tour of Argentina

David Parker



Last winter, I lectured on the competing mythic images that Argentines have invented about themselves: the rustic and violent but noble *gaucho* of the *pampas*, the debonair gentleman of Buenos Aires (“the Paris of South America”), the borderline criminal underworld of the tango, and the *descamisado*--the worker loved and exalted by Juan and Evita Perón. My argument, that each stereotype was created for political purposes, re-inventing the past in order to debate the future, might have seemed a bit abstract to a typical undergraduate hearing this in Stirling Lecture Hall B with only my word and a few powerpoint slides to go on. This time, however, I could see that flash of recognition in people’s eyes. They got it. It made sense. The reason it made sense was that my “students,” twenty Queen’s alumni sitting in a conference room in the Cesar Park Hotel in Buenos Aires, had already been to an open-air “Pampa Opera,” where *gauchos* on horseback demonstrated their skills and told their history. They had been to a tango show. They had soaked in the Parisian beaux-arts architecture as they strolled the streets and sat in the cafés of Recoleta and Barrio Norte. They had stood in the crowds jostling to get a look at Evita’s grave.

“Academic” tourism for alumni is a substantial and growing segment of the travel industry. Tour operators partner with university alumni offices, who are responsible for recruiting travelers. I think the model works for two reasons: first, tour groups comprised of people who share an *alma mater* are more likely to get on well, and when you see the same

people every day for two weeks, that’s an important consideration. The group I accompanied ranged from Applied Science ‘64 to Law ‘70 to Arts ‘78, and it was amazing to see how easily they became friends. At the end of the tour some were already talking about cruising the Danube together the following year. Second, those who choose travel through their university tend to be hungry for the academic enrichment that comes with having a faculty member in tow. Attendance at my lectures was 100% (even one at 8:30 AM), and people seemed genuinely excited to have the chance, over good food and much wine, to pick my brain about everything from the pros and cons of Augusto Pinochet’s economic policies to the popularity of Boca Juniors.

The alumni office is offering tours to 33 destinations in 2009, from the Amazon to Thailand to the Dalmatian Coast. Some are accompanied by Queen’s professors, while others may bring faculty members from another institution (it depends upon how many travelers each school provides). The companies that specialize in alumni travel tend put comfort above economy, so most tours are pricey, but the sticker shock ends when you realize that you are often staying in hotel rooms with rack rates of four or five hundred dollars a night. Our lodging in Bariloche Argentina, the Llao Llao, is on many “best in the world” lists. The Queen’s alumni travel webpage is at: [www.queensu.ca/alumni/programs/educationandtravel.html](http://www.queensu.ca/alumni/programs/educationandtravel.html)

## Faculty Honours and Awards

### **Ana Siljak a finalist for prestigious Charles Taylor Prize**

Ana Siljak's book *Angel of Vengeance: The "Girl Assassin," The Governor of St. Petersburg, and Russia's Revolutionary World* was a finalist for one of Canada's foremost prizes in non-fiction, the Charles Taylor Prize. Dr. Siljak is a specialist in the history of pre-Revolutionary Russia, and the book masterfully combines original research and rigorous analysis with a gripping narrative style. In the words of the jury for the Prize, "this meticulously researched book tells the dramatic and little-known story of one woman's act of political desperation and her very public trial. It is also a much broader portrait of ideological struggles in nineteenth-century Russia, revealing the devastating conflict between a society that could not find a way to change and those who demanded that it must. The author provides added contemporary resonance to the story by masterfully penetrating the minds of terrorists." The book will be coming out in paperback this winter.

### **Wendy Wall wins multiple awards for her new book**

Wendy Wall's *Inventing the 'American Way': The Politics of Consensus from the New Deal to the Civil Rights Movement* (Oxford University Press, 2008) was awarded three prestigious prizes this year. The book won the Phi Alpha Theta Best First Book Award, was named a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title of 2009, and was a co-winner of the Organization of American Historian's 2008 Ellis W. Hawley Prize. (The prize is given annually for the best book-length historical study of the political economy, politics, or institutions of the United States, in its domestic or international affairs, from the Civil War to the present). *Inventing the 'American Way'* argues that Americans in the postwar years were united not so much by identical beliefs, as by a shared conviction that a distinctive "American Way" existed and that the affirmation of such common ground was essential to the future of

the nation. The book traces the competing efforts of business groups, politicians, intellectuals, civil rights activists, and many others over nearly three decades to shape public understandings of America's core values, and identifies the origins of phrases such as "free enterprise" and the "Judeo-Christian tradition" that remain central to American political life. The book has been heralded by University of California, Berkeley historian David Hollinger as "one of the most informative studies yet written of the dynamics of nationalism in twentieth century America." It will be coming out in paperback this fall.

### **Don Akenson is awarded honorary degree from Queen's University Belfast**

Don Akenson, who currently holds the Douglas Chair in Canadian and Colonial History at Queen's, was awarded an honorary degree from Queen's University Belfast last year in recognition of his scholarly achievements and his remarkable contributions to Irish history. Dr. Akenson is widely considered one of the foremost historians of Ireland and the Irish. His prodigious output – over thirty books and countless articles and essays – has focused not only on Irish history and the history of the Irish diaspora but on a wide array of other topics ranging from biblical history to the history of Mormonism.

### **Caroline-Isabelle Caron wins Pierre Berton Award for the popularization of Canadian History**

Caroline-Isabelle Caron was among a team of historians to win the Pierre Berton Award for the Popularization of Canadian History for their work on an innovative new website entitled "The Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History Project." Professor Caron collaborated with Lise Robichaud on "Jerome: The Mystery Man of Baie Sainte-Marie," one of the dozen mysteries featured on the website. Clues to this puzzling mystery can be found at <http://www.canadianmysteries.ca/sites/jerome/accueil/indexen.html>.

## Faculty Research Grants and Visiting Fellowships

**Nancy Van Deusen**, who joined our department in the fall of 2007 as a specialist in the history of colonial Latin America and the early Modern Atlantic World, was awarded a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities grant last year. She has spent the past year conducting research on a monograph tentatively entitled, "Indigenous Slavery and Personal Servitude in the Early Modern Iberian Atlantic World, 1492-1560." The project purports to examine forms of servitude and the trajectories of slaves' lives in post-conquest Santo Domingo, Panama, Pánuco, Cubagua, Spain, and Lima. Over the course of the year, Professor Van Deusen dramatically (and painfully) improved her ability to read sixteenth-century script as she transcribed hundreds of notary records and litigation suits found in archival repositories in Peru and Spain.

Distinguished Professor of Canadian history **Ian McKay** was also honoured last year with a William R. Eakin Visiting Fellowship in Canadian Studies at McGill University. While in Montreal, Professor McKay has continued work on his magisterial, multi-volume history of the Canadian left, launched in 2005 with the publication of the introductory *Rebels, Reds, Radicals: Rethinking Canada's Left History*. Volume One, entitled *Reasoning Otherwise: Leftists and the People's Enlightenment in Canada, 1890-1920*, was published last year and has recently been short-listed for the Canadian Historical Association's Sir John A. Macdonald Prize, awarded to the non-fiction work of Canadian history "judged to have made the most significant contribution to an understanding of the Canadian past." In Montreal, Professor McKay has begun research on Volume Two of the series, immersing himself in the archives of the Université du

Québec à Montréal. Titled *Revolution's Iron Gates*, the book will cover the period from 1921 to 1956.

This spring, **Anthony D'Elia** was awarded a fellowship at the prestigious Villa I Tatti, Harvard University's Centre for Italian Renaissance Studies in Florence. An established scholar of the Renaissance, Professor D'Elia is the author of numerous publications on the intellectual and social history of fifteenth century Italy, the most recent of which, *A Sudden Terror: The Plot to Murder the Pope in Renaissance Rome*, will be coming out this fall. He will spend the 2009-2010 academic year in Florence conducting research on a new book project, an exploration of the tension between high pagan culture and Christian society during the Renaissance. Titled *The Pagan Renaissance of Sigismondo Malatesta*, the book will use the case of Malatesta, Lord of Rimini, to provide a fuller picture of an important Renaissance ruler, reveal the extent of the influence of classical pagan ideas, and explore the relationship between poetry and life. The project will be further supported by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Grant, which Professor D'Elia was recently awarded.

**Jeffrey Collins** will also be joining the ranks of the department's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Grant holders. Professor Collins is a specialist in Early Modern Britain and the history of political thought. His ground-breaking first book, *The Allegiance of Thomas Hobbes*, recently came out in paperback. He was awarded a SSHRC to undertake research on his new project, which deals with the history of political thought and religion in the Early Modern Period, with a particular emphasis on the development of liberalism.

## Ph.D. Student wins prestigious Governor-General's Award

Sean Mills, who completed his Ph.D. in history at Queen's in 2008 under the supervision of Professor Ian McKay, was awarded the University's prestigious Governor-General's Gold Medal in recognition of his outstanding doctoral studies. In his thesis, he places the political movements of the Quiet Revolution in the larger international context in which they emerged, and looks to the complex interactions between Montreal's different linguistic and ethnic groups. He explores the ways in which Third World decolonization theory influenced New Left activists living in Montreal in the 1960s, and probes its impact upon the emerging feminist movement, upon labour uprisings, linguistic debates, and black activism. He also pays particularly close attention to the ways in which gender and racial metaphors were employed in the service of politics, and investigates the relationship between intellectual ideas, street politics, the city, and resistance.

Sean has recent contributions appearing in the *Canadian Historical Review* and *Histoire sociale/Social History*, and is currently in the process of completing two major projects. The first is a manuscript based on his thesis, tentatively entitled *Empire and the City: Montreal's Postcolonial Imagination*. The second is an anthology, for which he is a co-editor, of new writing on the 1960s entitled *New World Coming: The Sixties and the Shaping of Global Consciousness*.

## Feature: East Asian Studies at Queen's

### History hosts University's Good Family Faculty Research Fellow, Professor Selçuk Esenbel



For the second year in a row, the Department of History is hosting the University's Good Family Faculty Research Fellow, awarded to an outstanding scholar to spend up to a year in residence at Queen's. Last year's recipient was Kojo Amanor, who came to

Queen's from the University of Ghana. This year's Good Family Fellow is Professor Selçuk Esenbel of Bosphorus (Bogazici) University of Istanbul. Bogazici is the top liberal arts and engineering university in Turkey.

Professor Esenbel, whose diplomat-father brought her to Japan when she was a teenager, obtained a Ph.D. in Japanese and East Asian History from Columbia University. Returning to Turkey after completion of the degree, Esenbel established Japanese language programs in both Istanbul and Ankara, pioneered the development of Japanese studies programs and trained undergraduates and graduate students in Japanese history, economics and politics, even as she built the Bogazici History department as its chair for nine years.

Her first book, *Even the Gods Rebel: The Peasants of Takaino and the 1871 Nakano Uprising in Japan* was the culmination of decades of research on Tokagowa period peasantry. Both her research and contribution to the promotion of Japanese culture abroad have recently earned her multiple awards, including the Japan Foundation Special Award for Japanese Studies and the Japanese Foreign Minister's Award, both granted in 2007. That same year, Esenbel was also honoured with an award from the Japanese Emperor, The Order of the Rising Sun with Rosette.

Professor Esenbel's fellowship at Queen's has enabled her to make significant headway on her new book project, which deals with Japan and the World of Islam. Based on research in the Japanese archives, the book examines Imperial Japan's Muslim policy, forged

in an attempt to use Islam to build an Asian empire. The book charts Japan's pre-war cultivation of, and relations with, a transnational network of Muslim political actors from Central Asia, China, the Middle East, South East Asia, and India. Over the course of the year, Dr. Esenbel has made a significant contribution to the intellectual life of the department, presenting in the department Seminar Series, making a guest appearance in a graduate seminar, and engaging in many stimulating informal conversations with students and faculty alike.

### History's China Scholar Forges New Ties with Fudan University and Creates New Opportunities for Students

Although Queen's already enjoyed a high level relationship with China's premier university, Fudan of Shanghai, it took History's Emily Hill to consolidate the gains for Arts and Science undergraduates and graduates. Fluent in Chinese and an expert in modern Chinese economic history, Hill's skills as a diplomat were key to establishing an undergraduate exchange between the Development Studies Department and Fudan. To date, about fifteen History concentrators have spent a fall semester at Fudan. Upon completion of the program, several returned to take further courses in Chinese history and language, others entered graduate programs in Asian studies, and some decided to extend their stays in Shanghai. Thanks to the exchange, successive groups of students from Queen's have been able to immerse themselves in the society, culture and economy of this important region of the world. At the same time, the exchange has allowed for a number of Chinese students to study at Queen's, enriching the experience of undergraduates here in Kingston.

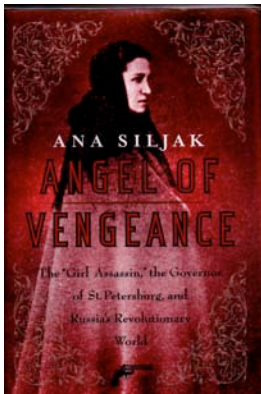
Last year, Professor Hill successfully coordinated the extension of the exchange program to graduate students. A couple of Fudan's graduate students have come to study history at Queen's, and this year Professor Hill supervised the department's first student to spend a semester at Fudan as part of a graduate degree program. The graduate program hopes that more students will take advantage of the opportunity to study for a semester in China.

## China takes Centre Stage on Campus

In the fall of 2008, the University held its first ever "China Week," organized by history's Professor Emily Hill and Professor of Religious Studies James Miller. Among a range of other attractions, the event brought leading historian Professor Guangyao Jin to Queen's for a series of lectures and featured the photography of renowned artist Edward Burtynsky.

China will once again be a focus of campus intellectual life this August, when Professor Hill hosts an international conference at Queen's entitled "Reassessing Chiang Kai-shek." The conference, which has been generously supported by the department's Nugent Fund, among other sources, will bring together scholars from China, Taiwan, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada to offer a reappraisal of Chiang Kai-shek, a Chinese political and military leader who subsequently became the president of Taiwan. The organizers hope that the conference will yield a better understanding of this elusive and often-neglected figure, and at the same time will help the field as whole re-examine the terms of reference in which studies of Modern China are conducted.

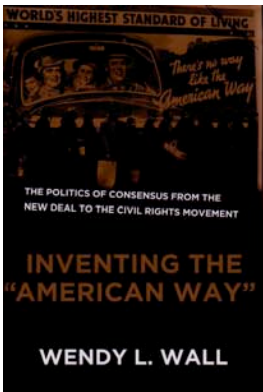
## Hot off the Press



### Ana Siljak

*Angel of Vengeance: The "Girl Assassin," The Governor of St. Petersburg, and Russia's Revolutionary World*, St. Martin's Press, 2008.

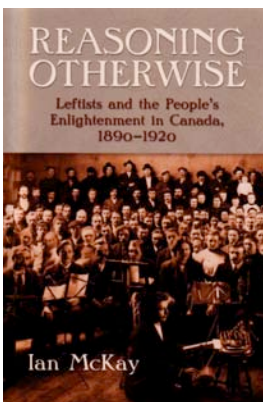
Finalist for Charles Taylor Prize, 2008.



### Wendy Wall

*Inventing the "American Way": The Politics of Consensus from the New Deal to the Civil Rights Movement*, Oxford University Press, 2008.

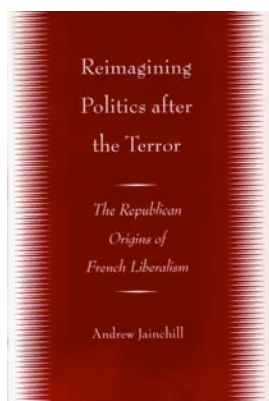
Winner of the Phi Alpha Theta Best First Book Award;  
Named a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title of 2009;  
Co-winner of the Organization of American Historian's 2008 Ellis W. Hawley Prize



### Ian McKay

*Reasoning Otherwise: Leftists and the People's Enlightenment in Canada, 1890-1920*, Between the Lines, 2008.

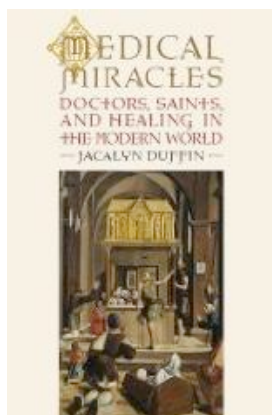
Short-listed for the Canadian Historical Association's Sir John A. Macdonald Prize



**Andrew Jainchill**

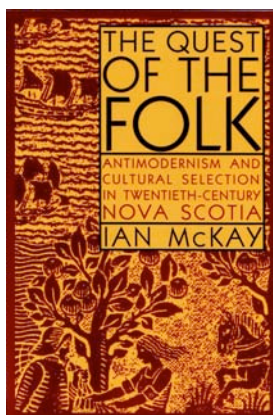
*Reimagining Politics after the Terror: The Republican Origins of French Liberalism*, Cornell University Press, 2008.

Short-listed for the Canadian Historical Association's Wallace-K.-Ferguson Prize



**Jacalyn Duffin**

*Medical Miracles: Doctors, Saints, and Healing in the Modern World*, Oxford University Press, 2008.



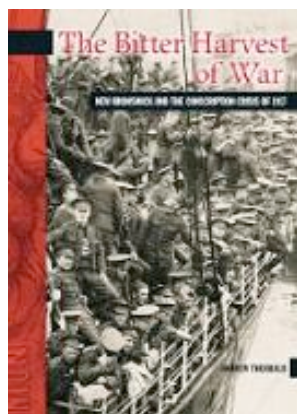
**Ian McKay**

*The Quest of the Folk: Antimodernism and Cultural Selection in Twentieth Century Nova Scotia* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) McGill-Queen's University Press, 2009.



**Marc Epprecht**

*Heterosexual Africa? The History of an Idea from the Age of Exploration to the Age of Aids*, Ohio University Press, 2008



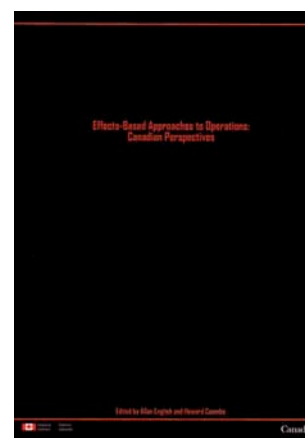
**Andrew Theobald**

*The Bitter Harvest of War: New Brunswick and the Conscription Crisis of 1917*, Goose Lane Editions and New Brunswick Military Heirtage Project, 2008

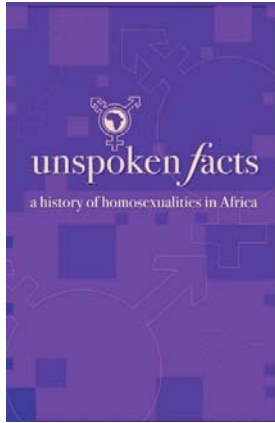


**Anthony D'Elia**

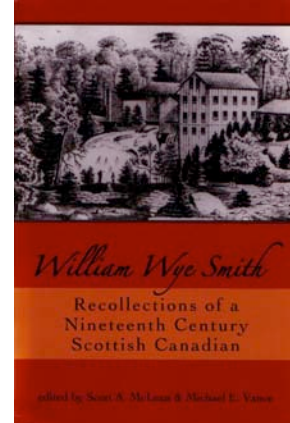
ed. and trans., *Bartolomeo Platina: Lives of the Popes, vol. 1. Antiquity*, The I Tatti Renaissance Library, Harvard University Press, 2008



**Allan English and Howard Coombs eds.,**  
*Effects-based approaches to operations: Canadian Perspectives*, Ministry of National Defence, 2008



**Marc Epprecht, ed.**  
*Unspoken Facts of a  
Dissident Sexuality in  
Southern Africa*, Galz,  
Zimbabwe, 2008



**Scott McLean and  
Michael Vance, eds.**  
*William Wye Smith:  
Recollections of a Nineteenth  
Century Scottish Canadian*,  
Natural Heritage Books,  
2008

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## Keeping in Touch with the Department

For a more complete picture of our faculty and programmes and news about the department, please consult our departmental website at [www.queensu.ca/history/](http://www.queensu.ca/history/). If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the department at (613) 533-2150. Inquiries about potential donations can be made to Deborah Stirton ([stirton@queensu.ca](mailto:stirton@queensu.ca)) or the Departmental Chair (613)-533-2232. Donations can also be made online through the [Office of Advancement's website](#). We are also in the process of launching an alumni webpage. Please consult the website for updates!



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