



Queen's
UNIVERSITY

History

Annual News Magazine of the Department of History

Chronicles

Fall 2025 | Issue XVI

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COVER IMAGE: St Giles' Cathedral on the Royal Mile, Edinburgh.
(c) Amitava Chowdhury.



Message from the Chair

FALL 2025 | ISSUE XVI

by Professor Amitava Chowdhury
Chair and Associate Professor,
Department of History

Writing this message for our annual news magazine has become a ritual of reflection and introspection. For me it is an effort to locate our moral centre amidst the daily swirl of administrative exigencies. As I look back on another year, it would be wrong to pretend that our world isn't changing; indeed, it has changed. On some days, the budgetary challenges seem insurmountable. But it would be equally wrong to let our challenges define the moment. If history has taught us anything, it has given us the perspective of tenacity that we must adopt as we are guided by our enduring mission. I would think that it is this spirit of tenacity that defines the Department of History today: we are not merely surviving the challenges, but we are scaling new heights and actively moulding the years to come.

Out of everything we do as a department, teaching and supervision are fundamental elements. On that front, it is immensely heartening to me that student interest in our graduate and undergraduate programs remains undiminished. It is a testament to my colleagues that despite the capriciousness of external trends, the quality of our programs continues to be superior. The quality of our taught courses remains noteworthy. And while I



Credit: Professor Amitava Chowdhury

confront the daily administrative challenges head on, the bustling murmurs of students in the classrooms, corridors, departmental lounge, and the graduate offices continue to shape my resolve. Our students continue to be the lifeblood of Watson Hall.

As you will see on the pages of this issue, members of the faculty remain engaged in research and outstanding endeavours, but I sadly note that this year, the department has become a bit smaller. Distinguished Byzantine scholar, Richard Greenfield and our very esteemed Latin Americanist, David Parker, chose to retire. We have also lost Karen Dubinsky, renowned historian of transnational Canadian history and historian of gender and sexuality, and Martina Hardwick, social historian of 19th and 20th cent-

ury Canada. While we have found ways to keep these colleagues engaged in departmental activities and scholarly community, they are no longer a part of the faculty complement. These are bittersweet moments, and yet amid celebrating their careers and achievements, I cannot help but notice a decidedly sharp decline in our full-time professoriate. Compared to last year, because of retirements and departures, we are about to witness a loss of over thirty percent of our faculty complement by the end of next year. In a climate where faculty renewal through regular hiring remains difficult to achieve, we must remain hopeful that the creation of endowed chairs through the support and generosity of our benefactors will allow us to maintain our teaching capacity and

Departmental Events

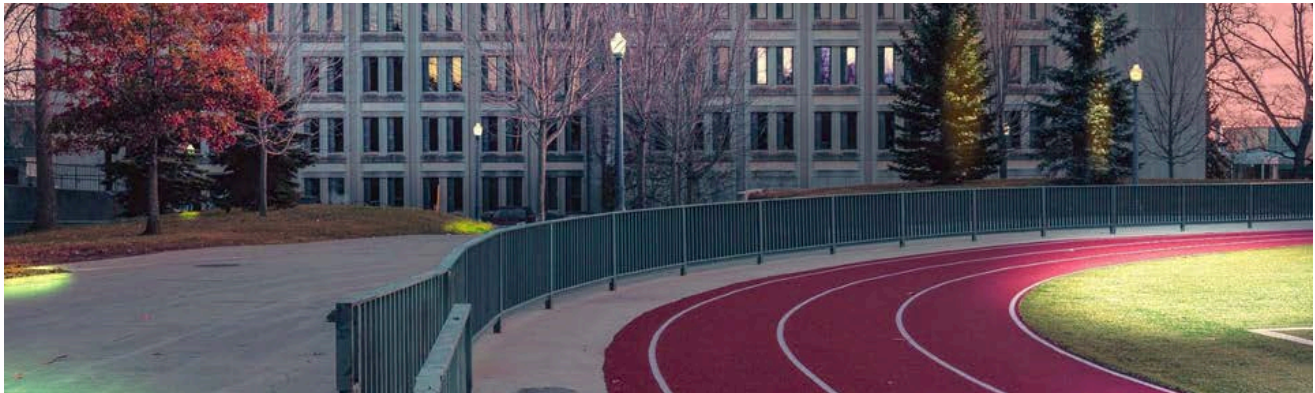
research excellence in these important fields.

While we have witnessed a decline in professorial numbers, it has been gratifying to see vitality in our postdoctoral profile. Queen's History is fast becoming one of the strongest homes for postdoctoral research in North America. This year, blessed by philanthropic leadership, we were able to expand our postdoctoral footprint significantly. A generous new gift from Cathy Buchanan allowed us to enhance our Buchanan Postdoctoral Fellowship in Canadian history, which would now enable the fellow to teach a course in the department. On another front, a gift

from Jacques Courtois, helped to establish a brand new postdoctoral fellowship in Latin American history. And finally, our colleague (and the inaugural Principal Daniel R. Woolf Professor in Humanities), Nancy van Deusen, created a one-year postdoctoral position in Indigenous history. The new positions and the arrival of these new postdoctoral fellows will infuse the department with fresh energy, expertise, and promise. Two of our new postdoctoral fellows are profiled elsewhere in this issue.

As the year draws to a close and I near the halfway point in my fourth year as Chair, my task for the coming year is clear.

I recognize this is a time of transformation both internally as we recalibrate our operations after so many retirements and externally as we navigate the changing landscape of higher education. First and foremost, we must strive to safeguard and elevate the student experience. At the same time, I imagine that in the coming months and years, we will create vibrant new programs that build on our strength and tradition and create new opportunities and avenues for our students and graduates. In this effort, as always, I will count on your faith and support.



Credit: Professor Amitava Chowdhury

Departmental Events

DEPARTMENT SEMINAR SERIES:

October 10, 2024, Marc Stein (San Francisco State University)
“Queering the U.S. Bicentennial: Patriots, Protestors, Pornographers, and Profiteers”.

October 31, 2024, Dagmar Herzog (City University of New York)
“The Question of Unworthy Life: Rethinking Nazism's First Genocide”.

January 30 2025, Dr. Ahmed Ragab (The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine)
“Sex Time: Belatedness and the Sexed Body in Medieval Islamic Medicine”.

Thursday, February 27, 2025, Mitra Sharafi (University of Wisconsin - Madison)
“Fear of the False: Forensic Science and the Law of Crime in Colonial South Asia”.

September 25, 2025, Sebastián Gil-Riaño (University of Pennsylvania)
“Confronting Development: Ethnocide and its International Revival after 1968”.

November 20, 2025, Dr. Bryna Cameron-Steinke, Majorie McLean Oliver Postdoctoral Fellow (Queen's University)
“Like Bees to an Apiary”: Vineyards, Orchards and Gardens in Early Medieval Brittany”.

THE ARTHUR LOWER WORKSHOP SERIES IN CANADIAN HISTORY (ACADEMIC YEAR, 2024-2025)

The Arthur Lower Workshop in Canadian History is named after Arthur R. M. Lower (1889-1988), a prominent national historian who taught in our department during the 1940s and '50s. In 2024-25 **Cathleen Clark, Buchanan** Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of History, presented her paper “Less than a year to defuse the situation”: The Militancy Crisis at the 1968 Glendon Forum on the Canadian Indian” on November 20 2024.

ANNUAL LECTURES

Nugent Lecture, September 26, 2024
“Artificial Historians” with Marnie Hughes-Warrington University of South Australia.

Faculty Lecture, November 28, 2024

“A Radical Reformer in Old Regime France: The Political Thought of the Marquis d'Argenson” with Andrew Jainchill.

John M. Sherwood Memorial Lecture, November 13, 2025
“United by Lightning: The US Transcontinental Telegraph of 1861” with Edmund Russell, the David M. Roderick Professor of Technology and Social Change, and Professor of History, at Carnegie Mellon University.



Credit: The Department of History



Credit: The Department of History

BERNICE NUGENT LECTURE: “Artificial Historians” with Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington AO (University of South Australia)

Our annual Nugent lecture is the signature intellectual event of the year. It is delivered by a distinguished historian who has helped reshape their field and whose scholarly preoccupations or historical practice have something to impart to us all. The Nugent lecture was made possible by a generous bequest from Bernice Nugent, a Queen's History alumna (BAH 1938) who dedicated her estate to supporting talks and lectures in the department.

In the academic year 2024-2025, the Nugent lecture was presented on September 26th 2024 by **Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington**, Bradley Distinguished Professor and Standing Acting Vice-Chancellor at the University of South Australia. The title of her lecture was “Artificial Historians”, a very topical theme given the advances in Artificial Intelligence over the past several years and their implications for forms of human knowledge, including history.

The lecture imagined a world in which histories are made by machines and then demonstrated that this world is already with us.

Professor Hughes-Warrington stepped from the examples of generative producing history texts through to the ways in which thinking about and learning from the past shapes everyday technology



Credit: The Department of History

platforms which help us to navigate to places, to shop and to listen to or to watch media. She also pondered whether the ‘ifs’ and the possibilities of histories might be lost in a world of artificial historians, and how that may impact our access to education, healthcare, financial resources, and justices as automation progresses.

The lecture may be viewed online at <https://www.queensu.ca/history/news-and-events/events/artificial-historians>.

FACULTY LECTURE: “A Radical Reformer in Old Regime France: The Political Thought of the Marquis d'Argenson” with Professor Andrew Jainchill

The 2024 Faculty lecture was given by Professor Andrew Jainchill, whose research focuses on Old Regime France and the French Revolution. Jainchill spoke about his forthcoming book *A Radical Reformer in the Old Regime: The Political Thought of the Marquis d'Argenson*. Jainchill's book will be the first major study of d'Argenson, an important eighteenth-century political writer, who came from one of France's most powerful political families and held high-up positions in government at the same time as he was an active participant in the intellectual circles of the early Enlightenment. His most important writings called for the far-reaching reform of state and society, but were

never published in his lifetime because of their incendiary nature. However, they circulated in manuscript and were well-known to some of the most celebrated writers of the Enlightenment such as Voltaire, Emile du Châtelet, Montesquieu and Rousseau.

Jainchill shared with the audience the excitement of his work in archives and libraries in France, where he read thousands of pages of d'Argenson's manuscripts and letters, much of which had never been studied because they only became available to the public in the 1970s. Jainchill's talk had two main themes. The first focused on how d'Argenson's experience as an administrator, when he tried to implement certain key reforms, influenced his political philosophy. The second involved an in-depth analysis of the deep changes d'Argenson sought to enact, including the egalitarian distribution of land and the decentralization of government to empower communities.

He concluded by arguing that careful study of d'Argenson's ideas and career reveals the surprising fact that some of the century's most radical reformist ideas originated from the heart of the state. He also challenged certain predominant historiographical assumptions about Enlightenment political philosophy, notably the old saw, dating from Tocqueville in the nineteenth century, that Enlightenment political thinkers lacked real-world experience and thus held only abstract ideas with no bearing on the actual practice of government.



Professor Andrew Jainchill presenting at the annual History Faculty Lecture at the University Club, November 28, 2024.
Credit: The Department of History

THE 43RD ANNUAL ARCHIVES LECTURE: “Arthur Lower and I: An Archive Story in Three Parts” with Donald Wright

by Daniel Woolf

The 43rd annual Archives Lecture was held on October 20, 2025, in the Stauffer Library. While not a History Department event per se it is invariably of interest to students and faculty in the department and this year's event was no exception, not least because the subject of the lecture was Professor Arthur Lower (1889-1988), a distinguished Canadian historian whose very lengthy career included fifteen years in the Queen's History Department as a faculty member and thirty years as an Emeritus Professor after his retirement in 1959. His portrait hangs in Watson Hall, Room 217, and the 2nd-floor lounge is named in his honour. Meanwhile, the Arthur Lower Workshop in Canadian History is a seminar series offered by the department occasionally throughout the academic year. Lower also left a formidable archival legacy, which was the subject of Professor Donald Wright's Archives Lecture.

Professor Wright is a leading Canadian historian (despite working in a Department of Political Science at his home institution the University of New Brunswick), and Past President of the *Canadian Historical Association*. An authority on Canadian historiography and historians, his books include a study of the professionalization of history in English Canada and a biography of University of Toronto historian Donald Creighton who, attendees at the lecture learned, was something of a nemesis to Arthur Lower—feelings that were reciprocated by Lower towards Creighton.

Professor Wright is currently writing a biography of Arthur Lower's most distinguished pupil, historian Ramsay Cook (1931-2016), who wrote an MA under Lower's supervision at Queen's in the early 1950s. The two remained close until Lower's death, and because Lower appeared to keep every piece of paper that came across his desk, and copies of letters he himself wrote to others, the Lower archive is a marvellous source for the history of history in Canada. Professor Wright's talk took an innovative approach, focusing on the three separate occasions in his (Wright's) career—from graduate student to senior scholar—that he has made use of the Lower papers, and the different things he has observed in them every time. Prof. Wright emphasized that his attitude toward Lower evolved as he himself aged and acquired greater sympathy for some of the aspects of Lower's character that now seem outdated. (Lower insisted, for instance, on teaching male and female undergraduates separately so that the two sexes would not be distracted by one another.) The talk, organized by Queen's University Archives, was very well attended by students and faculty, with one faculty member bringing along his entire fourth-year undergraduate seminar and several distinguished guests. Among these were Ian Wilson, a former Chief Librarian and Archivist of Canada and himself a Queen's graduate (MA 1974), whose career began in Queen's Archives; and H.E.A. (Eddy) Campbell, past president of the University of New Brunswick and a former faculty member in Queen's Mathematics and Statistics Department.

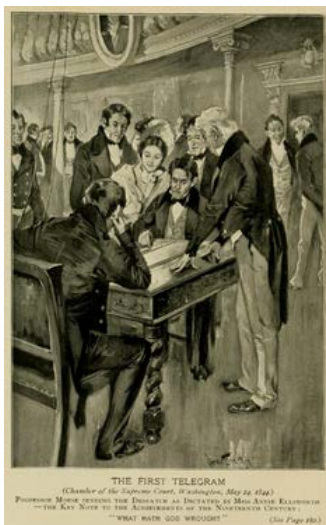


JOHN M. SHERWOOD MEMORIAL LECTURE: “United by Lightning: The U.S. Transcontinental Telegraph of 1861” with Professor Edmund Russell

By Edward Chaykowski

Sponsored by the family of the late Professor John M. Sherwood, the 2024 John M. Sherwood Memorial Lecture in Science and Technology was given on November 13, 2025, at the Donald Gordon Centre by Professor Edmund Russell, the David M. Roderick Professor of Technology and Social Change at Carnegie Mellon University. An accomplished scholar in the history of science, with a special interest in the environment and technology, Professor Russell's path to history was quite unusual. After obtaining a B.A. in English from Stanford in 1980, he later completed a PhD in Biology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1993. As one might gather, Professor Russell brings an interdisciplinary perspective to his research, which he has done with his relatively recent arrival to the field of global history.

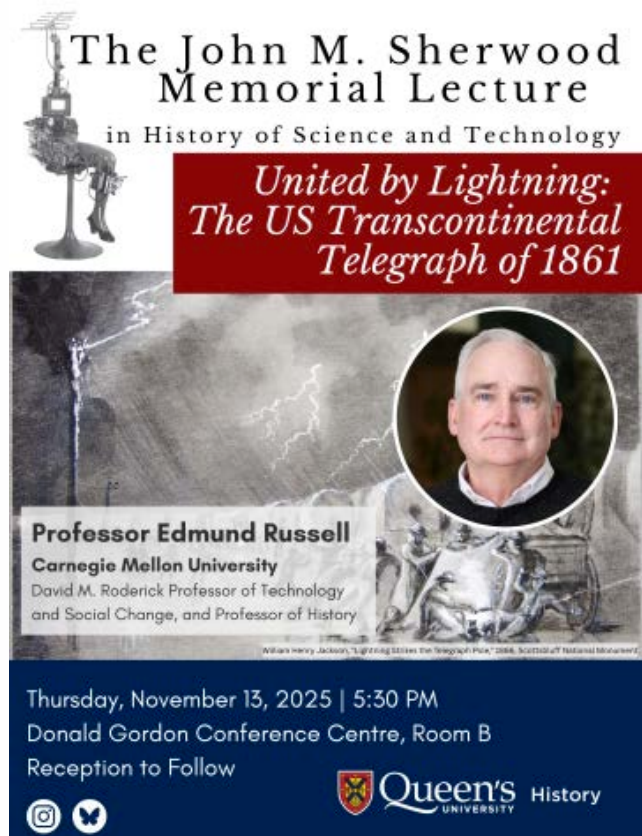
The title of Professor Russell's lecture was “United by Lightning: The U.S. Transcontinental Telegraph of 1861”. The subject of his lecture was the genesis and legacy of the Pacific Telegraph Line, which was completed in 1861. He contended that this telegraph line was used to bridge both the physical space, between the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, and the political divide in the United States, between east and west, between California and the rest of the emerging country. He argued that this east-west divide has largely been forgotten due to the coincidence of the American Civil War.



The First Telegram between Washington, DC and Baltimore, May 24, 1844. Credit: “Uniting the States with Telegraphs, 1844-1862”, Carnegie Mellon University Libraries

Although the story of the Pacific Telegraph began, he explained, as one of American national integration and interconnectedness through telegraph communication, it gradually became one of transnational and transcontinental interconnectedness. He therefore called it the ‘transcontinental telegraph line’.

Professor Russell emphasized the role of the telegraph in heralding the dawn of the digital age. He even went so far as to say that it enhanced the speed of communication more than cell phones. Professor Russell characterized the completion of this Pacific-Atlantic telegraph line as a revolutionary change in human connection.



Poster for “United by Lightning: The U.S. Transcontinental Telegraph of 1861” by Professor Edmund Russell. Credit: The Department of History.

Department News



QUEEN'S GLOBAL HISTORY INITIATIVE COLLABORATES ON CONFERENCE WITH UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

By Mike Ross and Heather Poussard-Nadeau

The Queen's Global History Initiative and the University of Glasgow Global History Research Cluster hosted "Transforming Nations and Identities in a Global World After 1945" at the University of Glasgow, October 1-3, 2025. Co-organized by Heather Poussard-Nadeau, Mike Ross, Amitava Chowdhury (Queen's), and Julia McClure (Glasgow), with additional support from Katherine Mackinnon (Glasgow), the conference critically examined how national and transnational belonging changed across a variety of registers in the aftermath of the Second World War. Open to graduate and early-career researchers, it was a fruitful opportunity for participants to showcase their ongoing research, receive feedback, and engage with peers working in the field of global history. Most importantly, the conference bolstered the global history networks that sustain the discipline.

The conference opened with a Scottish Global History Network Roundtable, chaired by Amitava Chowdhury on the State of Global History in Scotland. Global historians Andrew Mackillop (Glasgow), Julia McClure (Glasgow), Meha Priyadarshini (Edinburgh), and David Wilson (Strathclyde), discussed the opportunities for the strengthening of global history's place in academia, its value as a

methodology, and the precarious future facing both global history and the humanities in general as the university as an institution undergoes evolution and faces political scrutiny.

Over the next two days, eleven graduate and early-career researchers from universities in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, and Romania presented across 4 panels. Day one focussed especially on the intersection between national and transnational belonging and organizations. The first panel "Postcolonial Crossroads:

Transnational Identity and the Nation After Empire," which featured presentations from Queen's PhD candidates Niya Namfua and Mike Ross, noted how national identities and policies were shaped by visions of greater transnational belonging. Next, "Reimagining Order: International Institutions in the Postwar World," explored the complicated place of global organizations in shaping post-war politics and the struggles to navigate their relationship with the nation through presentations by Queen's PhD candidates Jik-hung Au and Heather Poussard-Nadeau. The day concluded with Professor



PhD students Mike Ross and Heather Poussard-Nadeau.
Credit: Department of History



Michael Goebel's (Freie Universität Berlin) keynote, "Contagion: Contingency, and Teleology: Imperial Disintegration and Nation-State Formation in Global History," which thoughtfully engaged with the historiography of nationalism and theories of its rise. Day two examined the construction and re-imagination of identity in the post-war period through two panels: "Negotiating Home: Race, Identity, and Postcolonial Belonging" which looked at mixed-race and immigrant identity in global post-war contexts, and "Projecting the Nation on Screen: Film, Censorship, and the Politics of National Identity," which discussed how artists worked within and at the behest of their particular political contexts to represent the national past and present.

Overall, the conference showcased the strength of emergent scholarship in global history and illuminated directions for future research. Scholars demonstrated how twentieth-century global contexts placed new demands on national identity, while the dislocations, disruptions, collapses, and reconfigurations of the post-war period led to new conceptualizations of identity and belonging both within and beyond the nation-state that both transcended and reinforced nationalism.

The conference was supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, by the Department of History at Queen's University, and by a gift from Queen's alumnus Peter Edwards.

PUBLICATIONS:

MATT TRUDGEN BOOK RELEASE

Matt Trudgen, who completed his PhD in 2011, has just had a book, *Securing the Continental Skies: The Development of North American Air Defence Co-operation, 1945–1958*, published by McGill-Queen's University Press.

EMMA BOCK RECEIVES HONOURABLE MENTION FOR THESIS ON MERCHANT-CLASS WOMEN IN COLONIAL ST. LOUIS

Emma Bock, who defended her MA thesis in August 2025, received an honourable mention for "Merchant-Class Women's Construction of French Colonial Society in Late-Eighteenth-Century St. Louis: A Chinoiserie Faience Plate."

JOSEPH BORSATO WINS FRENCH COLONIAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2025 ECCLES PRIZE

Joseph Borsato, who defended his dissertation in March 2025, won the French Colonial Historical Society's 2025 Eccles Prize for best paper by a graduate student at their annual conference in May for "Par le fer & par le sang: Kalinago Power and Virtue in the Early Seventeenth Century French Caribbean." Joseph also recently had his article "To Rule by Custom: Powhatan Assertions of Territorial Possessions against the Virginia Company, 1607–1624" published in *Ethnohistory*.

REBECCA CARTER-CHAND BOOK RELEASE

Dr. Rebecca Carter-Chand, who completed her MA in History at Queen's in 2002, has a forthcoming book, *Christian Internationalism and German Belonging: The Salvation Army from Imperial Germany to Nazism*, which will be available in October 2025.

NICHOLAS ROSE TORONTO STAR ARTICLE

PhD student **Nicholas Rose** recently had an opinion piece published in the *Toronto Star*, coinciding with the 80th anniversary of the Surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945, and discussing the legacy of Colonel Lawrence Moore Cosgrave.

CHRIS GREENCORN'S PUBLICATIONS

Chris Greencorn's article, "I doubt if they were unusual: Race and Place in Helen Creighton's 1967 African Nova Scotian Recording Project," *MUSI Cultures* 51 (2024): 193–225, appeared this past academic year. He also published "Genuine, but better variants known elsewhere: Helen Creighton's Nova Scotia Folk Song Collecting in Transatlantic Perspective," as a chapter in *Collectomania! Revisiting the Folk Song Collectors*, edited by Steve Roud and David Atkinson (London: Ballad Partners, 2025), 146–55.

CONFERENCES

NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON BRITISH STUDIES

Queen's history graduate students were once again well represented at the North America Conference on British Studies held in Montreal, Nov, 13 to 16. Current PhD candidates **Carli LaPierre**, **Amelia Rosch**, **Gabriel Pessoa**, **Heather Poussard Nadeau**, **Joshua Weisenberg Vincent**, **Rachel Peacock**, **Michaela Cardo**, and 2nd-year MA student **Amelia Corneil** presented papers, as did recent PhD graduates **Elyse Bell** and **Joseph Borsato**, and two additional recent graduates now doing postdoctoral work at the University of Toronto, **Michael Borsk** and **Alex Martinborough**.

INDIGENOUS HISTORIES OF THE AMERICAS GRADUATE STUDENT COLLOQUIUM

By Professor Scott Berthelette

On Friday, November 14, 2025, six MA and PhD students from the Department of History at Queen's gathered in The Welcoming Room in Mackintosh-Corry Hall to present their current historical research on topics related to the Indigenous history of the Americas. During the one-day event organized by Professors Nancy E. van Deusen and Scott Berthelette, students Isra Henson, Leslie Rodriguez, Jake Breadman, Emily Nagy, Hayley Kirk, and Isaac Weber shared their research with a large audience of fellow graduate students, history faculty, and members of the wider Queen's University community. We were thrilled with calibre of research, the quality of the presentations, and the impressive audience turnout and participation

All speakers built on a rich body of scholarship that, since the early 1990s, has reinterpreted Indigenous agency, emphasized the complexity of Euro-Indigenous relations, and overturned long-held beliefs about imperial power and control in the Americas. **Isra Henson's** paper challenged the assumption that Indigenous history begins in 1492 by centring Indigenous oral traditions, deep-time histories, archaeology, linguistic evidence, and cultural geography. By foregrounding the Athabaskan migrations (950-1300 CE) as complex, continent-shaping movements, Isra demonstrated that Indigenous peoples had possessed rich, interconnected histories independent of European contact.



Above: Presenters and organizers of the Indigenous History Colloquium. From left to right: Isra Henson, Professor Nancy E. van Deusen, Leslie Rodriguez, Emily Nagy, Hayley Kirk, Professor Scott Berthelette, Isaac Weber, and Jake Breadman. Credit: Professor Scott Berthelette

Some presenters also adopted an Atlantic World approach, emphasizing the transnational exchanges and mutual transformations that accompanied the circulation of microbes, global markets, technologies, belief systems, plants, animals, and peoples around the Atlantic Rim. **Hayley Kirk's** paper examined how a 1710 Haudenosaunee transatlantic visit to London and its subsequent artistic representations through portraiture, print, and performance transformed cross-cultural diplomacy into imperial spectacle and a British fantasy of empire. **Emily Nagy's** paper examined transatlantic intellectual traditions by exploring how both Spanish and Indigenous chroniclers sought to reconcile the Andean civilization with established biblical and classical frameworks. As Hayley and

Emily's work illustrated, the encounter with the Atlantic World compelled European and Indigenous peoples alike to adapt, to change, and to reimagine themselves and their relationships to others.

Other presenters approached Indigenous history through an environmental lens, emphasizing how geography and ecology are central to understanding Indigenous sovereignty and Euro-Indigenous relations. **Jake Breadman's** paper showcased how Indigenous warriors in the War of 1812 drew on millennia of environmental knowledge to halt American advances into their homelands as well as to negotiate their relationship with British allies. **Leslie Rodriguez's** paper analysed representations of Mesoamerican

animals and the Nahua understanding of the natural world as depicted in the Florentine Codex, which was a major collaboration between the Spanish Franciscan missionaries and a large team of Nahua elites.

the Ojibwe and Potawatomi to justify treaties, dispossession, and settler occupation of Indigenous lands.

Together, these papers highlighted the vitality, creativity, and depth of

graduate research in Indigenous history in the Department of History at Queen's University. Importantly, the colloquium supported the Faculty of Arts and Science's commitment to EDII (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Indigenization) and was made possible through funds attached to the Principal Emeritus Daniel R. Woolf Professorship in the Humanities, currently held by Professor van Deusen. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to making this event such a meaningful celebration of ongoing scholarship in Indigenous history at Queen's University.



Beside: Isra Henson presented her research to a packed room of fellow graduate students, history faculty, and members of the wider Queen's University community.
Credit: Professor Scott Berthelette.

Finally, since the 1990s, many historians have been influenced by Australian historian Patrick Wolfe's reconceptualization of settler colonialism as a structure rather than an event—one driven by a "logic of elimination" that seeks to erase Indigenous presence to secure settler access to land. Building on this approach, **Isaac Weber's** paper examined the processes and structures of settler colonialism at play in the Saugeen Peninsula of Upper Canada during the nineteenth century, showing how, despite the endurance of traditional Anishinaabe governance the Indian Department constructed a narrative of factionalism between



Above: Jake Breadman delivers a presentation on the pivotal role of Indigenous warriors in supporting British military operations around the Great Lakes during the War of 1812.
Credit: Professor Scott Berthelette

Faculty News

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FACULTY AWARD AND GRANT RECIPIENTS! WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THEIR ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO HISTORICAL SCHOLARSHIP

Scott Berthelette: Co-applicant in SSHRC Partnership Grant \$2.5m Project: “Project Onkwehón: we–Territory, Identity and Social Interactions in Ancestral Iroquoia (A collaborative and interdisciplinary research partnership).” M. Elizabeth Arthur Award for best full-length scholarly work from Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society–Winter 2024.

Jeffrey Brison: Global Affairs Canada – Faculty Mobility for Partnership Building Program.

James Carson: Best article in Volume 36 of the British Journal of Canadian Studies, published by Liverpool University Press (2024): “Language Tells Another Story: When Tobacco Is cistemaw and the Cree Are nêhiyaw.”

Amitava Chowdhury: MITACS Globalink, “The Commonwealth of Nations and Decolonization in the Global British Empire.” Intern: Heather Poussard-Nadeau.

Rosanne Currarino: Society for the Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era Rodger D. Bridges Distinguished Service Award, April 2025.

Jane Errington: Awards to Scholarly Publications Program (ASPP) Grant for the Champlain Society vol. 2024.

Jenna Healey: Lectureship Award, Fall 2024, Aesculapian Society (School of Medicine).

Steven Maynard: The Messecar Visiting Professor, Department of History and the Wilson Institute for Canadian History, McMaster University, March 2025. Selected and invited by department executive. Responsibilities included delivering the annual Messecar Lecture; offering a history workshop, open

to university and community members, on the queer history of Hamilton; and participating in the annual conference of graduate student work.

Daniel McNeil: Stuart Hall Award for Mentorship and Public Engagement, Caribbean Philosophical Association. This award honours activists, artists, scholars, teachers, and theorists who have cultivated influential critical communities that study and engage the connections between the arts, social justice, and decolonial thought.

Black Excellence in Graduate Mentorship Award, Faculty of Arts and Science, Queen’s University (nominated by students).

Leonid Trofimov: Departmental Teaching Excellence Award (2024).

Nancy van Deusen: Invited lecture, “The Challenges of Working with Indigenous Petitions for Freedom” University of Chicago, 24 October 2024.

RETIREMENTS

Finally, the Department of History recognizes the following faculty members who retired during the past academic year (2024-25):

Karen Dubinsky

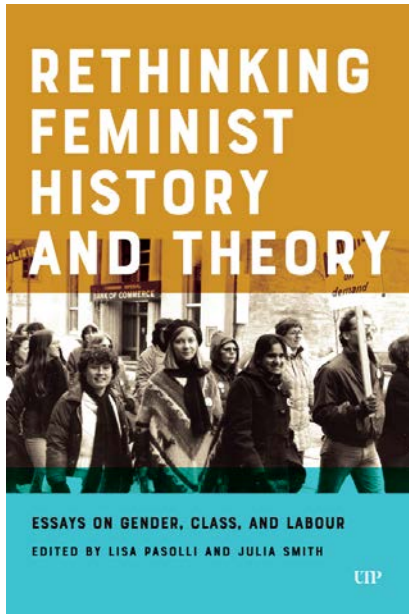
Richard Greenfield

Martina Hardwick

David Parker



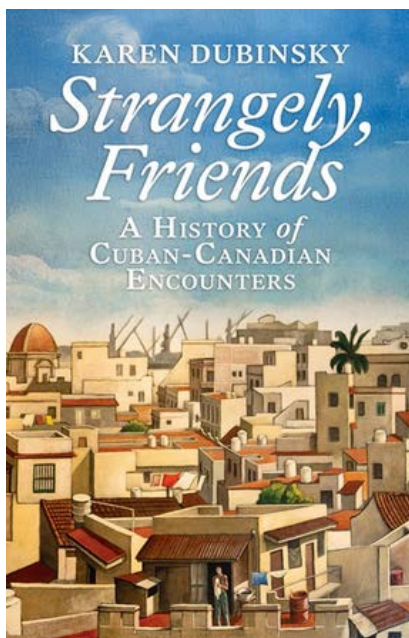
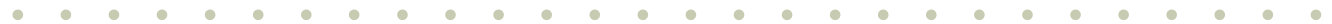
RECENT PUBLICATIONS



Lisa Pasolli, and Julia Smith, eds., *Rethinking Feminist History and Theory: Essays on Gender, Class, and Labour* (University of Toronto Press, 2025)

The book explores questions such as: How has women's resistance and radicalism been expressed, lived, represented, and repressed over the past century? How do we research these phenomena? How do we situate feminism in relation to other movements for egalitarian social change? Contributors explicitly address these recurring themes, aiming to chart new directions for future research and teaching.

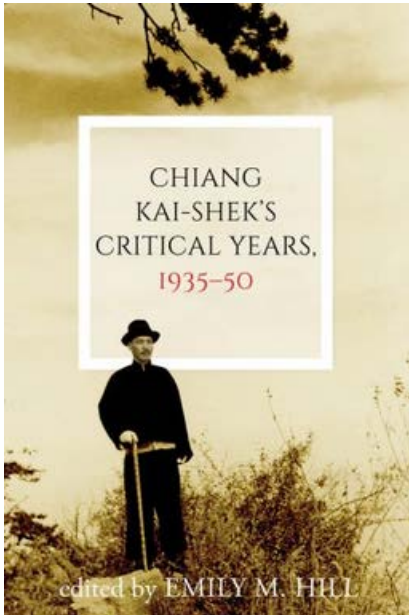
While primarily Canadian-focused, the collection includes global perspectives, with contributions from scholars in Chile, Iceland, Sweden, and the UK. These essays emphasize the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration, incorporating insights from labour studies, political economy, anthropology, legal studies, and feminist theory. Ultimately, *Rethinking Feminist History and Theory* engages deeply with Sangster's rich and wide-ranging work to understand and interpret women's experiences. It seeks to inspire future scholarship and teaching in feminist history and theory, showcasing the ongoing relevance and adaptability of feminist perspectives.



Karen Dubinsky, *Strangely, Friends: A History of Cuban-Canadian Encounters* (Between the Lines Books, 2025)

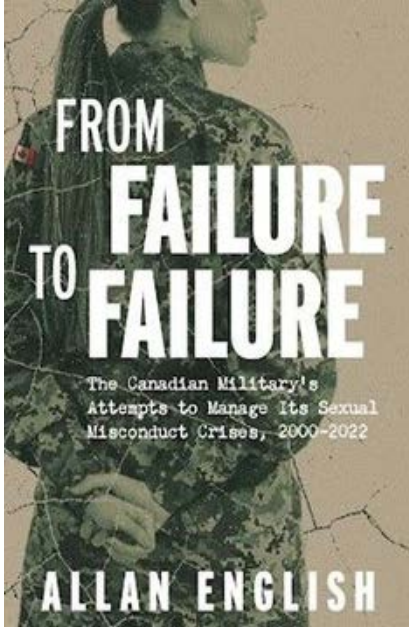
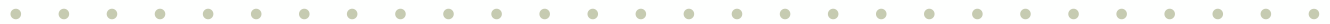
Strangely, Friends delves into the rich, often overlooked history of personal and cultural connections between Cubans and Canadians. From the early days of the Cuban Revolution to the present, this book uncovers the stories of Canadians who were drawn to Cuba—teachers, artists, development aid workers, filmmakers, and activists—who left an indelible mark on the island, and Cubans, especially the musicians, who found a home in Canada.

Through intimate portraits and serendipitous encounters, Karen Dubinsky explores how these relationships transcended political ideologies and state policies, revealing a shared humanity that defies borders. From the classrooms of Havana to the jazz clubs of Toronto, this book captures the enduring bonds forged through music, education, and mutual curiosity, offering a fresh perspective on the power of people-to-people connections.



Emily M Hill, ed., *Chiang Kai-shek's Critical Years, 1935-50* (University of British Columbia Press, 2025)

Based on Chiang's own writing, particularly his diary, *Chiang Kai-shek's Critical Years* offers context for significant decisions that have long been inadequately explained. Leading scholars analyze key episodes, including Chiang's call for full military mobilization against Japan in 1937 and against the Chinese Communist Party in 1946. They shed new light on his efforts to accommodate the CCP; his relations with representatives of the United States during the war with Japan; and his ability to hold on to the presidency of the Republic of China after 1949, despite disastrous military failure.



Allan English, *From Failure to Failure: The Canadian Military's Attempts to Manage Its Sexual Misconduct Crises, 2000-2022* (Friesen Press, 2025)

This book consolidates and applies key insights from his past research to analyze the various attempts made by the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) from 2000 to 2022 to "manage" its sexual misconduct crises that, according to General Wayne Eyre, Canada's Chief of the Defence Staff from 2021 to 2024, threatened to make the military "irrelevant" in Canadian society if they were not dealt with properly. Drawing on his past work, the book concludes with the critical insights needed to enact practical change in the CAF to deal with these crises.



Postdoctoral Fellow Profiles

Q&A WITH DR. AMANDA SUMMERS, GLOBAL INDIGENEITY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW



Image courtesy of Amanda Summers

Chronicles: You've come to Queen's from the U.S.A. Where did you do your degrees and other postdoc positions? What has brought you to Kingston?

AS: My undergraduate, master's degree, and graduate certificate in Gender, Race, and Identity Studies are from the University of Nevada, Reno. My PhD is from Temple University. Before Queen's, I did a postdoc at the University of Tulsa's Helmerich Center for American Research. I have also held visiting fellowships with Fulbright, The McNeil Center, the Cushwa Center, and the John Carter Brown Library. Queen's had advertised a Global Indigeneity Postdoctoral Fellow last cycle, which falls in line with my work on Indigenous-Mestiza and African women and religions around the Iberian Atlantic, and I was excited to be offered the chance to come see what Canada is like and be a part of this history department.

Chronicles: Tell us about your PhD research, and your current projects which if I'm not mistaken includes the Spanish Inquisition?

AS: I work on the Spanish Inquisition in the Americas or Iberian Atlantic. My dissertation examined economically and politically motivated mass incarceration by the Inquisition in the early seventeenth century. I connected events occurring between Spain and Portugal with the three main tribunals in the Americas—Mexico City, Lima, and Cartagena de Indias—through the embodied experiences of gendered and racialized violence experienced by the incarcerated populations. It is an interdisciplinary work in the fields of history, gender, religions, and carceral studies. It's under revision for publication with Cambridge University Press and won the Richmond Brown Dissertation Prize from the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association. I have two chapters in edited volumes with Routledge and Bloomsbury on Mestiza women's sexual labour, witchcraft, and folk magic practices. I have a forthcoming article with the *New American Antiquarian* on masculinity studies within a transcribed and translated Mexican Inquisition source detailing a physical altercation among Dominican priests in Coyoacan in 1629, and another for a special edition of the *Anuario de Estudios Americanos* on gender, race, and religious performativity in seventeenth-century Caribbean courtrooms.

Chronicles: What are you going to be teaching while at Queen's?

AS: I will be teaching two classes in winter semester. One on the Spanish Inquisition, where we will start with the religious, political, and legal roots in Europe before examining more global contexts and how the institution changed when it was applied to Indigenous, African, and Asian populations. The second is western world ethnohistory where we will do an intersectional and interdisciplinary approach to folklore, religion, culture, and oral traditions of groups across the Americas and Atlantic World.

Chronicles: Your research has taken you to lots of different places and many archives. How did you enjoy that aspect of your career so far?

AS: I love my globe-trotting research life. I have done research in the US, Mexico, Spain, and Colombia, and digitally use archives from the Vatican and Peru.

I have visited roughly 20 archives across those countries and am planning further visits to Spain, Rome, and Mexico during my postdoc. On one hand I am a little tired from all of the travel, but I honestly love it. Spain and Mexico are as much home to me as the US. I feel lucky to have my research supported in such a way that I can spend a good part of each year abroad, immersed in the culture, and access to so many archives. I have also been influenced by so many scholars and neighbors who I've met during my travels. I love meeting local public historians and tour guides; I think it is important to include local perspectives when writing or teaching a history of a place you aren't from. Spending my time across all these places has allowed me to write a dissertation and articles I never planned on being able to. I feel very lucky to live the life I do.

Chronicles: In our earlier conversation you told me about a really interesting suspected witchcraft case. Can you summarize that for our readers briefly?

AS: Witchcraft cases are usually so interesting! One of my favourite cases was Isabel deMontoya, a Mestiza woman from Puebla de Los Angeles, Mexico in the mid-seventeenth century. She was arrested for witchcraft, making seduction spells and potions and selling them on the marketplace. But she was also an elder sex worker who had begun arranging mutually beneficial relationships between elite men and mestiza women. Her new work caused a stir in Pueblo, so the Bishop put her into a reform house. However, once in the reform house, Isabel seduced her confessor, rather publicly. Unable to control the situation, the bishop had to call upon his rivals in the Inquisition in Mexico City, who brought her to their prison. After her trial, Isabel was moved into a house behind the palace of the Inquisition. There, she continued servicing Mexico City's elite men, including priests and inquisitors, for years until one of her customers died during the act, leading to her second arrest for witchcraft.

Chronicles: As you note above, you have a strong interest in public history. You've also have worked in it. How does that influence your research plans?

AS: I have a decent social media following where I talk about what sources I'm working on and progress on my publications. I love talking about maps and paleography!

Also, the public loves hearing about the Inquisition, so it makes an easy entrance into conversations. I have done several digital history projects at the University of Nevada and the Nevada Historical Society, and the Database of Religious History. At Tulsa, I participated in several events about my work and the archive. I think it is important for scholars to engage with the public and make our work more accessible and to teach people of all ages what they have available to see in archives and museums in their own backyards. All my plans are for academic publications, but I continue to have talks about what I am working on and make my work and ideas accessible for the public.

Chronicles: I know from our conversation that you are a loyal fan of Philadelphia sports teams, especially baseball and football. Has that always been the case?

AS: It has! I love the Eagles and Phillies. I have played and watched sports my entire life, it is just a part of who I am. My step-grandfather played for the Philadelphia Athletics (pre-Phillies) and scouted for the Eagles, so the family is connected to those teams, but it is also impossible to be from Philly and not be a sports fan. My parents and I went to games my whole life, so being from a very sports-fandom-minded family and city has made me a lifelong devotee. Go Birds!

Chronicles: Any advice for our current masters and doctoral candidates as they consider post-degree careers?

AS: It is important to read broadly. Get to know the trends, theories, and methods from many different fields of history, and read outside of history as well. Always read the acknowledgements and footnotes and make a map of places you want to go based on research you enjoy and get to them. Don't be afraid to reach out to a scholar who influenced you. Go to the conference, apply for everything, say hello to the person sitting next to you in the reading room. A large academic community is nothing but beneficial. Most importantly, stay curious and focused, but also well-rested, hydrated, and happy. The job market is what it is, so enjoy this time where you get to do the thing you are most passionate about for as long as you can, but don't kill yourself doing it. Find your balance. And if you ever want to chat about Inquisition, prison, and really weird historical events, my door is always open!



Q&A WITH DR JESSICA SEALEY, AMS HEALTHCARE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

An interview with Dr Jessica Sealey, who holds an AMS Healthcare Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of History, with teaching duties in the Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Medicine.



Image courtesy of Jessica Sealey

Chronicles: You are unusual for a postdoctoral fellow insofar as you actually did your PhD here. What prompted you to return to Queen's for this postdoc position?

JS: I finished my degree and had the typically awkward post-grad phase, searching for new opportunities. I didn't think those opportunities would bring me back to Kingston or to Queen's but I was very fortunate that they did!

Chronicles: What was your PhD research about, and what are you working on now?

JS: My PhD research was on the Contagious Diseases Acts of Britain (1864-1886). This legislation which was designed to curtail the spread of venereal diseases amongst the British military allowed for the dete-

ntion and forcible medical examination of poor and working-class women who were accused of prostitution. My dissertation examined the impact of these Acts with a narrative approach, recounting the experiences of one woman who fell victim to this legislation. Today, my postdoctoral research is an examination of the history of the anatomical sciences and human dissection at Queen's University. This project involves conducting research into the historical practices of anatomical education and cadaver dissection, as well as the establishment of the Museum of Human Anatomy and their collection of anatomical specimens, and the history of human body donation.

Chronicles: What are you teaching while at Queen's—it's actually in the School of Medicine rather than the History Department I think?

JS: Yes it is. I am very grateful to have the opportunity to take over Professor Jenna Healey's teaching in the School of Medicine while she is on leave. (Dr. Healey is the Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine at Queen's). Teaching in the School of Medicine is organized differently than in History. Rather than being one overarching course, the history of medicine is integrated into the medical students' curriculum. For example, in their Cardiorespiratory Medicine course I am giving a lecture on the history of the stethoscope bringing attention not only to its technical development but also to the socio-political atmosphere that shaped this development, its broader cultural impact and the mythologizing of its historical narrative.

Chronicles: You had to complete your dissertation during Covid. How did that affect your research?

JS: The greatest impact the pandemic had on my research was certainly the delays it caused in terms of undertaking my archival work. The pandemic prevented international travel, which, as a Canadian researching Great Britain, was especially detrimental. Travel that ideally should have happened between years one and two, didn't get to happen until the summer of year three. And that travel was pretty formative for the path my research took!

Chronicles: On that subject, in our earlier conversation you mentioned that you had to change directions midway through your doctoral research. Tell us about that?

JS: It's sort of a funny story, but essentially once I was able to get into the archives in the UK, my initial hypothesis was disproven by the historical evidence that I found! You hear about this kind of thing happening in the sciences all the time, but you don't realize this can happen in any discipline. My initial thesis just wasn't supported by the historical sources, so I needed to switch gears. Luckily, it wasn't a complete restart because that archival research pointed me in a new direction by revealing my case study subject, the woman whose lived experiences would become the main focus of my dissertation.

Chronicles: You have a strong background in public history and have worked in it. How does that influence your research plans?

JS: Despite having never been "formally" educated as a public historian, it is something that I have become quite passionate about. I have a very interdisciplinary academic background which involved art history, curatorial studies, museum studies, and visual

and material culture studies all of which also led to a lot of interesting work opportunities in the arts/culture and tourism/heritage sectors. Over time, I found that I could translate my academic knowledge and training into these very public-oriented roles.

All this experience continues to inform my work as an academic. I love when my work is engaging to the public—when it feels like it is re-

aching beyond the (sometimes) limited audience of an academic conference or journal. For example, my current postdoctoral work will hopefully conclude with a semi-permanent display mounted outside of the University's anatomy lab/museum, helping to contextualize the history of the space and the collection for both students and members of the broader public.

Chronicles: Any advice for our current masters and doctoral candidates?

JS: First, make sure you get the most out of your experience. Say yes to all the opportunities you can, network like crazy, and be ready for what lies ahead. Post-grad life is not always a straight forward path, but the right connections can certainly help you along in the journey.



Credit: Queen's University

Undergraduate News

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT STUDENT COUNCIL (DSC): YEAR IN REVIEW 2024-2025

By: Amanda Corrente, History DSC Co-President 2025-26

The History Department Student Council (DSC) is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming community for undergraduate students. The DSC hosts a variety of events aimed at strengthening both academics and engagement within the department. Led by last year's co-presidents, Eoin Thompson and Sophie Sterling, the 2024-2025 DSC continued beloved events while introducing new initiatives. The DSC has had a successful and exciting year since December 2024. It held a conference in January 2025 titled "Resistance and Regrowth". The keynote speakers were students Kajsa Engel Wood and Madeleine Forbes, who each presented compelling talks on the theme of resilience. Kajsa Engel-Wood presented her experience with writing her thesis in the Global Development Department. Engel-Woods' research interests include exploring the intersection between natural resources and exploitation between water and energy production. Madeleine Forbes presented their research on the ways art has been used as a form of resistance. The DSC is thankful for their time and commitment to engaging history students within their fields of study.



Photo from the "Resilience and Regrowth" conference, January 2025.
Credit: Marketing Team for the DSC

At the conference, students were able to meet each other and network in a social environment. Overall, the conference had great attendance and was a successful learning experience.

The DSC merchandise team worked hard to launch customized History crewnecks. Sweaters were offered in two different colours and highlighted Queen's pride. Sales were a success and a large accomplishment for the DSC.

The DSC introduced Museum Mondays, an initiative that offers history students a free tour of featured museums. In March, the DSC hosted a walking tour led by Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) Kingston. The collaboration with OPIRG allowed students to engage with "The People's History Project," which explores History from a person-centric perspective. The event was a fun and informative way to engage with the rich history of Kingston.

In March, the DSC hosted a trivia night at a local Kingston bar, The Mansion, that included special prizes such as our history merchandise. Trivia night is a great way for students to come together informally and get to know one another. The event had a great turnout and has become a staple for the DSC. On Remembrance Day, the DSC hosts an annual "Letter to Veterans" event where students have the opportunity to write a virtual message expressing gratitude for the sacrifices made by veterans. To end the 2025 year, the DSC hosted a historical movie night in November, which allowed students to bond and connect in an informal setting. Taking a new approach, the DSC decided to open meetings to any student who wanted to attend. This enabled transparency, inclusivity, and input from a broader range of students to come and make connections during their undergraduate experience. We have a fun year of events planned and cannot wait to see what the 2025-2026 year will bring!

LIVING HISTORIES 2024-25

By Tara Lade, Executive Editor 2025-26

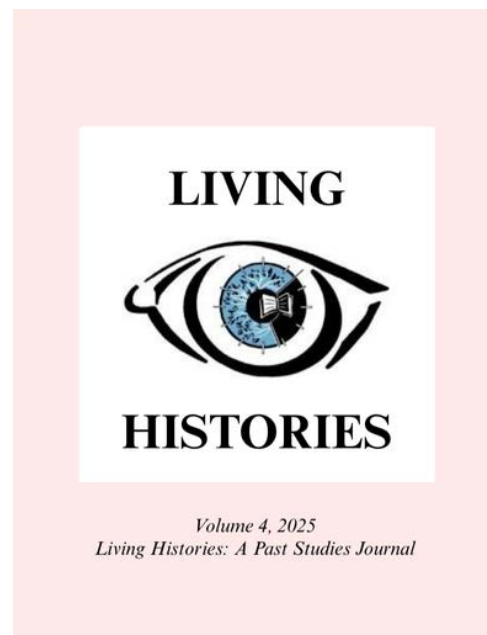
This past fall, *Living Histories: A Past Studies Journal* proudly published its fourth annual issue under the direction of George Hocking, the 2024-2025 Executive Editor. Sponsored by the Queen's University Department of History, the journal aims to publish high-quality historical research examining how historical events affect change in the contemporary world. Each issue highlights an explicit connection between past and present utilizing a variety of interdisciplinary approaches and analytical frameworks. Coordinated by a new editorial team of undergraduate students each year, the journal has offered a unique approach to academic historical publishing across North America since its first volume was published in 2022. With this most recent issue, *Living Histories* remains a distinctive opportunity for undergraduate research.

The 2024-2025 edition of *Living Histories* features a diverse collection of topics including Queen's student Sara Simon's submission "Divided by Music: Western-Russian Foreign Relations and the Eurovision Song Contest". Chantelle Schoeller from McMaster University offers an excellent paper called "Plagues and Paychecks: How the History of Pandemics Shaped Modern Labour", and "Indoctrination by Theatre: Kamishibai's Role in Redefining Childhood in Twentieth Century Japan" is presented by Concordia University student Vivian Horvath. Submissions to the 2024-2025 publication also examined contemporary Canadian issues such as "Erased by Policy: Gendered Policy Violence in The Indian Act and the Dispossession of Indigenous Women and their Descendants" by Syndel Thomas Kozar of the University of Saskatchewan. Also featured is a wonderful analysis of historical preservation titled "Stories Worth Preserving: Continuity and Change in West Centretown's Proposed Heritage Conservation District" by Carleton University students Erin Berry, Brett Bertelsen, Colson Swinarchin, Claire Cowley, Coralie Lajoie, and Destiny DeJong. As an open-access journal, all papers featured in the fourth volume as well as past publications are available to readers on the *Living Histories* website.



Beside is a painting titled "Soldier Play", (1944) discussed by Vivien Horvath in their paper, "Introduction by Paper Theatre: Kamishibai's Role in Redefining Childhood in Twentieth Century Japan." CREDIT: Hoover Institution.

Beside is an image from Erin Berry's paper, "Stories Worth Preserving: Continuity and Change in West Centretown's Proposed Heritage Conservation District, highlighting changes made to Original Percy Street School.



The fourth annual edition of *Living Histories* cover page 2025.

The fifth annual issue of *Living Histories: A Past Studies Journal*, anticipated to be published in the Spring of 2026, will continue the tradition of connecting past events to contemporary issues. The journal is currently seeking submissions which fulfil this mission, with additional criteria viewable on the *Living Histories* website. Submissions can also be made through the *Living Histories* website and will be accepted until January 26th, 2026. This year's editorial team is looking forward to reading all papers submitted!

The journal would like to offer a special thanks to faculty supervisors Professor James Carson and Professor David Parker, Queen's University's Scholarly Publishing Librarian Mark Swartz, and the 2025-2026 editorial team.

**THE FACULTY AND STAFF IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY EXTEND
WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF
OUR 2025 CONVOCATION AND
RETURNING STUDENT AWARD
WINNERS!**

CONVOCATING STUDENT MEDALS

Medal in History: **Chen Wennie**

Helena M. Child Prize: **Megan Hill**

Michael R. G. Harris Memorial Scholarship: **Lauren Jack**

Michael R. G. Harris Memorial Scholarship in History: **Thea Day**

Andrew Haydon Prize in Colonial History: **Ross Fenlon**

Arthur M. Keppel-Jones Essay Prize: **Lina Rhissa**

Alexander MacLachlan Peace Prize: **Alexia Platt**

Grattan O'Leary Prize in Canadian History: **Lauren Jack**

John Sherwood Memorial Prize: **Sofia Tosello**

The Frederick W. Gibson Prize in Canadian History: **Emma Smith**

Thomas M. Walsh, M.A., Memorial Prize in History: **Kenneth Hall**

Osborne Studd Book Prize in History: **Emma Smith**

RETURNING STUDENT AWARDS

Kathryn Dawson Scholarship: **Alyssa Nelson**

Catherine Brown Scholarship in History: **Adam Elrick**

David Alexander Ekdahl Scholarship in History: **Jordan Van Vliet**

Arthur and Evelyn Lower Scholarship: **Alyssa Nelson, Mia Gabitous, Avery Briese and Peter Ashton**

W. B. Munro Scholarship in History: **Riley Matlock**

Sarah Murray Scholarship: **Marie Bradley**

Alice Pierce Waddington Scholarship in History: **Valentina Sperini**

Arts 1909 Scholarship in History: **Sarah Burke**

James Henry Bocking Memorial Scholarship: **Jack Curran**



Credit: Queen's Gazette

Queen's Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF)

History undergraduate Joshua Kautto was a successful applicant this past summer for a Queen's Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF) working with faculty member Professor Awet Weldemichael. Josh here describes his project.

This past summer, I had the privilege of receiving an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship in the History Department at Queen's. The fellowship, supervised by Professor Awet Weldemichael, allowed me to pursue a reframing of the Enlightenment (chronologically the period from the late seventeenth century to the French Revolution, in Europe) as a global phenomenon by including relevant experiences in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East as fitting within this tradition. The Enlightenment is widely known as an era in which there occurred a rise in rationalist philosophy, a push towards religious tolerance, and a greater emphasis is placed upon societal features such as pedagogical practice and their influence on the citizenry. The period is broadly celebrated as producing the beginnings of modern politics, economics, and social structure in the West. However, these beliefs come with the consensus that the Enlightenment is a solely European phenomenon, establishing an intellectual hierarchy in which Europe reigns on top, administering modern knowledge to all other lands.

This narrative has largely foreclosed historical treatment of the Horn of Africa and Middle Eastern regions, impeding the penetration of broader scholarship and removing the depth these histories deserve. Enlightenment ideas analogous to those in the European tradition developed independently in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East, there, too, fashioned by an active intellectual class within another wise repressive environment. In the Horn of Africa, "Enlightenment" philosophy resides in its most succinct and penetrative form in the *Hatata Inquiries*, written by Zera Yaqob and his pupil Walda Heywat. The text, the first half written by Yaqob and the second by Heywat, preaches that one should base a life's actions on individual rationality, questions the veracity of religious doctrine, asserts the equality of man and wo-

men and offers a lifestyle guide on all such principles.

In the Middle East, contrary to the pervasive notion of the total stagnation and regression of Ottoman scholarship during the period, a resurgence in deep reading and rationality was led by the Empire's minority groups such as the Kurds and the Azeris, who reinvigorated study in the natural sciences and rational philosophy. While these histories are excluded from the Enlightenment era, the course of my research has allowed me to establish a suitable base for their inclusion, and this treatment of Enlightenment history can be highly impactful in undoing and redressing a great deal of the epistemological violence that these two regions endured as a result of their exclusion. I thank my advisor, Professor Awet Weldemichael, whose research and teaching on the power of discourse or narrative and its implications for knowledge production proved crucial. This fellowship has afforded me the incredible opportunity to explore these topics, and in conjunction with Professor Weldemichael's own discourse-focused research program, the contents of my inquiry have made my fellowship so fruitful that I am now carrying over the same line of inquiry to my History 514 Honour's thesis.



Image courtesy of Joshua Kautto

Graduate News

GRADUATE HISTORY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION YEAR IN REVIEW-2024/25

By Bailey Rostek, President, Graduate History Students' Association

This past calendar year, the GHSA organized a variety of events, opportunities, and fundraisers here at Queen's University. Building on the interest and enthusiasm of the 2024 Fall term, the GHSA continued planning events and opportunities for our members into Winter 2025. Noteworthy events included a Kingston Frontenacs hockey game and a Christmas trolley tour. The GHSA also had a successful year of fundraising, including a book sale and unique Watson Hall branded merchandise, which turned out to be a big hit beyond just the Department of History.

Despite the PSAC 901 labour action calling many of our members to the picket lines, the GHSA was still able to successfully host the Annual Queen's-McGill Conference at an off-campus venue here in Kingston. The conference theme, "Histories Unbound: Pathways of the Past", prompted participants to consider the ways they approach history and the pasta cross a variety of disciplines. Overall, the conference was a huge success and showcased graduate student research from several universities. Over the summer, while many students were working on dissertations, comprehensive exams, and research, our Graduate Chair, Professor Lisa Pasolli, organized a new biweekly event called Focus Fridays. As the name implies, every other Friday be-

came a dedicated day of focused study in the history lounge in Watson Hall. These events included lunch and snacks, bringing students together to get some work done over the summer months.

This year, the GHSA has renewed its commitment to foster community and belonging among graduate students in the department. Our first event was a meet-and-greet social at the Grizzly Grill in September. The GHSA has also continued Professor Pasolli's Focus Fridays initiative into the Fall-with generous donations from many history faculty members. For October, the GHSA hosted a Halloween movie event called "Thriller Thursday" which offered a

much-needed spooky distraction for everyone.

As of the writing of this article, we recently hosted a "Beers with Profs" event in November, and plan to host a holiday-themed Focus Friday for December. None of this would be possible without the hard work of our executive and events planning committees, and of course, the enthusiasm and participation of our fellow history graduate students. Remarkably, interest in the GHSA has grown since the start of the term, fostering a strong community between incoming and returning students. We look forward to hosting many more events and fundraisers in the months to come!



GHSA members on the Christmas trolley tour, Fall 2024. Credit: Kaitlyn MacDonald

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT DOCTORAL GRADUATES!

DR. AMANIE ANTAR

Amanie's thesis, "Salvation in Times of Survival: The Singular Voice of a Crypto-Muslim Scholar in Sixteenth Century Spain" was completed under the supervision of Adnan Husain.

DR. JOANNE ARCHIBALD

Joanne's thesis, "Creating the 'New Canadian Nationalism': How Louis St. Laurent Shaped Canada's Defence and Foreign Policies in the Early Cold War" was completed under the supervision of Allan English.

DR. JOSEPH BORSATO

Joseph's thesis, "Falsis nominibus imperium: An Oceanic History of Indigenous Power, Virtue, and Territorial Possession in the Crisis of English Colonization, 1570-1630" was completed under the supervision of Jeffrey Collins and Scott Berthelette.

DR. SHANNON BROWN

Shannon's thesis, "Satellites Beyond Borders: Canada and the World in the Global Space Age" was completed under the supervision of Karen Dubinsky.

DR. GABRIELA CASTILLO

Gabriela's thesis, "Northern Profits, Southern Costs: Canada's Role in the Global Market of Inequality. A case study of the historical evolution of Canada-Chile relations from Confederation to the Free Trade Era" was completed under the supervision of Barrington Walker.

DR. BROOKELNN COOPER

Brookelnn's thesis, "Imperial Interiors: Dutch Wall Maps in the Domestic Sphere and the Formation of Cosmopolitan Identity in Seventeenth-Century Amsterdam" was completed under the supervision of Jeffrey Collins and Stephanie Dickey (Department of Art History and Art Conservation).

DR. JOANNA GORSKA

Joanna's thesis, "Reconsidering Empire: Nationality, Indigeneity, and Separatism in Nineteenth-Century Siberia" was completed under the supervision of Ana Siljak.

DR. DEIRDRE MCCORKINDALE

Deidre's thesis, "What Colour is Intelligence?: Kent County and the Tanser Study" was completed under the supervision of Barrington Walker and Rosanne Currarino.

DR. ALEXANDER PEACOCK

Alexander's thesis, "I Rejoiced to Find Myself on a Kindred Shore': British Travel Writers in the Revolutionary British Atlantic World, c. 1750-1820" was completed under the supervision of Jane Errington.

DR. KATRINA ROSIE

Katrina's thesis, "Ritual and the East Roman Home 451-842 CE" was completed under the supervision of Richard Greenfield.

DR. MARGARET ROSS

Margaret's thesis, "An Immense House of Ill-Fame': Prostitution, Politics, and the Instrumentality of Sexuality in Ontario, 1860s-1930s" was completed under the supervision of Karen Dubinsky and Steven Maynard.

DR. CARLIE VISSER

Carlie's thesis, "A 'little world for us': The Heterodoxy Club and the Intellectual Roots of American Feminism, 1912-1940" was completed under the supervision of Rosanne Currarino.



Above: Dr. Joanne Archibald outside of Grant Hall, at Fall Convocation 2025. Image courtesy of Joanne Archibald.

GRADUATE AWARDS

Harrison Dressler wins the MA Thesis Prize

The 2024-25 recipient of the MA Thesis Prize was Harrison Dressler for his thesis, “The Making of Blindness in Ontario: Incarceration and Class Formation, 1872-1926”. Harrison’s thesis examines the history of the Ontario Institute for the Blind (OIB) by using the records of three provincial investigations looking into allegations of mistreatment and abuses at the institution. Dressler argues that these sources get us closer to the experiences of students, revealing efforts to push back against authoritarian principals and teachers. Professor Lisa Pasolli described Harrison’s thesis as “a sophisticated, well-researched, and well-written dissertation that makes an important contribution to the way that Canadian historians understand education and disability.”

Michael Borsk and Shannon Brown are the co-winners of the PhD Dissertation Prize

Michael Borsk is the 2024-25 co-recipient of the Department’s PhD Dissertation Prize for his dissertation, “Measuring Ground: Surveyors and the Properties of States in the Great Lakes Region, 1783-1840”. Michael’s dissertation discusses both conceptual issues (what is property? How does it make the state?) and scholarly debates (What is accuracy? Is the United States an empire different from or similar to British colonies? What role does property play in Indigenous dispossession? Can we talk about bureaucracy before the late 19th century?). The external examiner called this work “pathbreaking.”

Shannon Brown is the 2024-25 co-recipient of the Department’s PhD Dissertation Prize for her dissertation, “Satellites Beyond Borders: Canada and the World in the Global Space Age”. Shannon’s dissertation combines historical research and scientific inquiry to produce an exceptionally innovative dissertation on the history of Canadian participation in satellite technology. An external examiner stated that “This is a thought-provoking, original and elegant work of scholarship. In my view, it is exceptional and makes a valuable contribution to the research in the field.”

Other Awards

MA Student Christina Lack was honoured for academic excellence as part of the Faculty of Arts and Science’s annual Dean’s Awards Reception earlier this month.

Joseph Borsato, who defended his dissertation in March 2025 has won a short-term Maddock Research Fellowship with Marsh’s Library in Dublin (Republic of Ireland). Joseph will be conducting research on Indigenous peoples’ relations with Huguenot colonizers during the seventeenth century, in a trans-imperial context.

PhD student Paige Groot has been elected to the American Society for Environmental History’s Early Career Caucus Committee as their Fundraising Coordinator.

PhD student Kaitlyn Carter received the prestigious Donald S. Rickerd Fellowship in Canadian-American Studies.

PhD student Amelia Rosch was awarded the NACBS-Huntington Library Fellowship, a Francis Bacon Fellowship from the Huntington Library in Pasadena, California, and the Lord Crewe PhD Fellowship from the University of Durham.

PhD student Chris Greencorn received several research fellowships and awards this year: The Anne Dhu McLucas Fellowship from the Society for American Music, an Association for Recorded Sound Collections Research Grant, and a Grant-in-Aid from the Helen Creighton Folklore Society. He also was awarded the inaugural Herbert & Violetta Halpert Research Fellowship by the Memorial University of Newfoundland Folklore & Language Archive, for research in St. John’s. Chris received the Congress Graduate Merit Award in advance of the 2025 Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting in Toronto, and both the Letty Halpert Paper Prize and Luc Lacourcière Memorial Scholarship from the Folklore Studies Association of Canada, where he also presented his research.

Alumni Spotlights

Q & A WITH HISTORY ALUMNUS John C. Weaver, BA '69

*John C. Weaver is a leading Canadian historian who has spent most of his career at McMaster University in Hamilton, where he is Distinguished University Professor. He served from 1994 to 1999 as Dean of Graduate Studies. Among his many publications is *The Great Land Rush and the Making of the Modern World, 1650-1900* (McGill-Queen's University Press), which won numerous awards including the F-X Garneau medal of the Canadian Historical Association for the best book published in the previous five years by a Canadian Scholar, and the CHA's Wallace Ferguson Prize for the best book in non-Canadian history. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. *Chronicles* asked Prof. Weaver about his career, which began as an undergraduate in the Queen's Department of History.*



Image courtesy of John C. Weaver

Chronicles: How did you come to Queen's?

JCW: My choice of Queen's was a family commitment. If Queen's accepted me, I was going. Queen's had long been praised by my uncle Orville Menno Weaver (Queen's 1924-28). A Queen's Q letter recipient for intercollegiate track, he studied Chemistry and Physics. Raised in a settlement of Mennonites and

Evangelical Lutherans near Niagara Falls, he was the first in the family, possibly the community, to go beyond high school. Queen's was convenient too. My dad taught at Madoc, and my good friend and first-year roommate, Gordon Pitts, was planning to come to Queen's too. We had been taught by an enthusiastic History teacher at Madoc, George Super (Queen's, 1962). These matters add to the picture, but my uncle's affection for Queen's was crucial.

In "my day," there were the grade 13 provincial exams. My results were strong in Maths, Chemistry, Botany, and History; adequate in French; lousy in English. I am reasonably sure it was Jean Royce who dissuaded me from attempting a History and Chemistry/Math combined degree.

Chronicles: I know it's some time in the past, but have you any particular instructors whom you recall?

JCW: I was a frosh 60 years ago. Reflection now brings out contrast with contemporary universities, dramatically so now that AI has killed the essay. We had Saturday morning and eight o'clock classes. All my instructors were men, although when I was a student in History 121, Joan Campbell taught a section and once asked me to meet her in the Old Arts Building to go over an essay. She offered advice. Something like "be direct; check your word choices; use your own words." Instructors may have shuffled marking duties, because I had a dedicated and engaging first-year year history instructor, Alan Jeeves.

A few instructors in History, Economics, and Political Science were from the wartime generation. Richard Pierce, for example. Lucien Karchmar was a revelation. He introduced his seminar to goulash dinners, a coatimundi, a chimpanzee, a boa constrictor, a multi-lingual library of science fiction, and accounts of his flight from Poland to Mexico as



a young man. I believe that several professors had acquired second language skills from the Defence Language Institute in California and later pursued history in their language area. Queen's was expanding in the mid to late 1960s, and Canadian PhD programmes were in early stages. Consequently, many new appointees came from the United States. After the first year, my studies included French History (Stewart Webster, John Sherwood, and a distinguished visitor, Gwyn Lewis), Russian (Lucien Karchmar), Canadian (Gerald Tulchinsky, Donald Swainson, George Rawlyk; all had serious reading lists), and two American courses with James Nuechterlein, who encouraged reactions to his choice of readings. He put the issues out there and made us work for our views. I had fine courses in Political Theory (Jock Gunn) and Economics (Alan Green); both used humour to see if we were paying attention.

Chronicles: How did your undergraduate experience prepare you for graduate school?

JCW: Most of my Queen's history classes ran two terms; seminars in years three and four required research papers. There was a competitive edge to History seminars since students were expected to comment on one another's papers; classmates for the graduating years 1968, 69, and 70 were sharp and congenial.

It seemed to me that the study of History in the United State at the time was exciting and, frankly, I was intimidated by overseas studies. I did consider studying with Carl Berger at Toronto. The *Sense of Power* had just been published. George Rawlyk arranged a meeting. Yet, I wanted to be out of my comfort zone, but not too much. I must have had a plan, because I took the Princeton Graduate Record Exams. Queen's History prepared me well. I had letters of acceptance from Michigan, Wisconsin, and Duke. To cover expenses, though I needed a dorm counsellorship. A couple of weeks before final exams in 1969, I took the train (crazy but possible) from Kingston to Madison, Wisconsin to interview for a counsellorship, but the historian I was most interested in studying with, William Appleman William, a member of the 'Wisconsin School' of diplomatic history, had decamped for Oregon State University. I had to wait until late April for a Duke scholarship offer. Someone had declined a Commonwealth Scholarship. I was next in line.

Chronicles: Your academic output is striking not merely in its quantity and quality but also its range. What drove you to pursue particular lines of research?

JCW: I have bounced from topic to topic. I spotted records that cried out for quantification, not in the hope of substantiating any theory, but to aggregate then disaggregate life's reality. My bias toward empiricism in History likely has far distant foundations. I often conceptualize in data. I have taken risks on projects. Certainly, I gambled on The Great Land Rush. I was up for renewal as Dean of Graduate Studies, a position that I enjoyed—on most days—and might have opted for five more years. However, I had bits and pieces for a book and no chance of completing anything ambitious if I continued in administration. Patricia Nelson Limerick made my decision easier. She identified herself in a review of a paper I had submitted to the *American Historical Review*, backing it and giving guidance.

I see theories in the social sciences and in historians' adaptations to them as conjectures. An outlook that concluded A Sadly Troubled History and surfaces across Sorrows of a Century based on many New Zealand suicide inquests. I wanted to probe life's crises through patterns but also with vivid stories, not as outliers but indicative of patterns. The method was intended to avoid picking examples to prop up theories. Recently, I completed an account of economic restructuring in the 1970s and 1980s, *Adam Smith's Islands*. A New Zealand Labour government opened the country to enterprise while maintaining an extensive social welfare programme, decriminalizing (belatedly) same-sex sexual relations between consenting parties, innovating by establishing a ministry of the environment and another of women's affairs, and setting up retrospective reviews of Māori land claims. Economic restructuring was worldwide. In New Zealand, however, it was that and more. The accessible information on every measure is unparalleled. I would say that!

Chronicles: How did your work as a historian assist in your administrative career at McMaster?

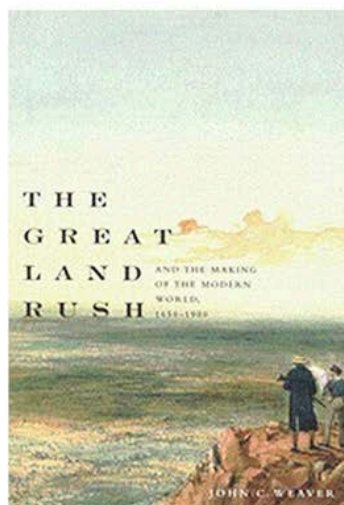
JCW: As Dean of Graduate Studies at McMaster, I dealt mostly with faculty careers: reading files on tenure and promotion cases; interviews with most job candidates; participation in chair selections

Preparation in History was important and may explain why four of my current colleagues in History serve as administrators, and others prior to them, and were very successful. Why? I suspect that we read actively, criticize, and are surprised by little. We have seen it all and we struggle with reaching fair conclusions. We understand alliances, negotiation, planning, expecting the unexpected, and can accept the occasional defeat (sort of).

Chronicles: Any advice for our students pondering academic careers?

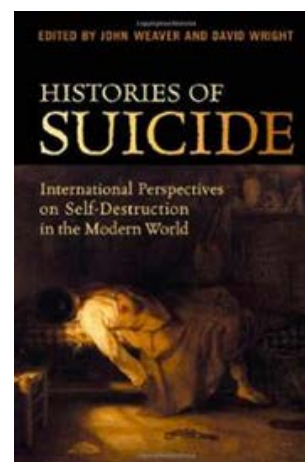
JCW: Tenure stream openings are rare, also sessional contracts. Academic careers are not the only reason for advanced study and preparing for both plans A and B can involve certificate programmes, language courses, and studying abroad for the degree. Good universities will have certificate courses that enhance professional development. Start to line up the letters of recommendation early in the last year and use requests for letters to solicit an instructor's advice on careers and graduate programmes. When nearing the completion of a graduate degree, look for positions abroad as well as at home. There are several lines of advice for graduate students already at the doctoral level. The recommendations, I am sure, already have been stressed by mentors. Move as quickly as possible into drafting chapters, even while conducting research. Be ready to abandon or at least adjust the proposal when encountering revelations in the archives and take advantage of findings that support narratives, editing them to slip into the thesis. When something turns up that is not understood or poorly explained in existing literature, dig into it and master it.

Finally, there is hard advice to accept. A McMaster friend recently gave his last lecture, a public one to students and faculty. Both of us had experienced a rejection of tenure at the first of two reviews, rejections of grant applications, papers turned down by journals, and dead end projects. Set backs are par. The truth received a standing ovation by over 300 colleagues and students. Lesson: commit to an academic career for the right reasons, because laid back it is not.



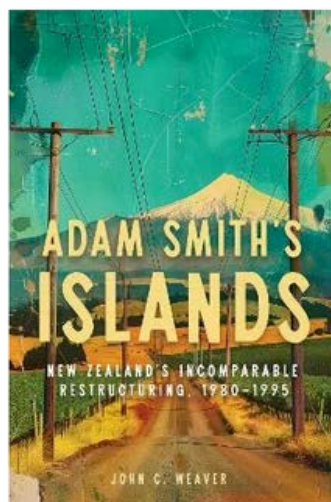
The Great Land Rush and the Making of the Modern World, 1650-1900 by John C. Weaver

Credit: McGill-Queen's University Press



Histories of Suicide: International Perspectives on Self-Destruction in the Modern World by John C. Weaver

Credit: McGill-Queen's University Press



Adam Smith's Islands: New Zealand's Incomparable Restructuring, 1980-1995 by John C. Weaver

Credit: McGill-Queen's University Press

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Q & A WITH HISTORY ALUMNA DR. PAMELA PEACOCK

An interview with Dr. Pamela Peacock, who holds a PhD from Queen's History, on her career before and since.

Chronicles: How and from where did you come to study at Queen's as a graduate student? Why Queen's?

PP: After completing an undergrad degree in History at Western and a Master's of Museum Studies at the University of Toronto, I started my PhD in History at Queen's in 2006.

I'd pretty much always been a bit of a history nerd and, after working at Fort Henry for many summers as an undergrad, I had learned that I really enjoyed engaging with people about the stories of history and 'teaching' outside of a school environment. When, to my surprise, it turned out there was such a thing as Museum Studies, it seemed like a great springboard to what I wanted to do.

Why start a PhD after Museum Studies? While my intention was to ultimately work in Museum education and interpretation, I thought more doors to curatorship might open up with a doctorate and I wanted to keep as many career options open as possible.

Why Queen's? Queen's was top of my list for a couple of reasons: obviously, a great program and a university with a recognized reputation. I had completed one year of undergrad here, so I also knew I enjoyed the campus vibe and dynamic.

Chronicles: Tell us about your time in the department. Which faculty members did you work with?

PP: I was in the doctoral program from 2006-2011 and worked with Drs. Karen Dubinsky and Caroline-Isabelle Caron, while benefitting greatly from classes with Dr. Jane Errington and Dr. Barrington Walker. My dissertation topic straddled gender history, Canadian history and public history. I also participated in the Graduate History Students' Association in several roles and helped organize the graduate conference.



Image courtesy of Pamela Peacock

Chronicles: Who were some of your classmates?

PP: There were lots of brilliant minds in the department during the 5 years I was there. Marisha Caswell, Kelly Bennett, Josh Cole and Danyal Martin, Caralee Daigle Hau, Carolyn Harris, Rob Engen and Claire Cookson Hills, Eleanor Belshaw-Hauff, Madelaine Morrison, and so many more.

Chronicles: Tell us about your life since leaving Queen's. How did your experience in our department prepare you for your professional career?

PP: Shortly after defending my thesis, I began working as the Curator at the Museum of Health Care, near Kingston General Hospital. Although I didn't have much of a background in medical history, my PhD, with its demonstrated capacity for research and writing, helped land me this job. While small (like many museums in Canada!), the museum had big goals and I was able to gain a lot of foundational experience in writing grants, creating blog posts, developing exhibits (in gallery, online and as an app) with partners, hiring summer students and working with a Board. While I wasn't overly successful with external grants while a student, the fact that I was familiar with the process helped me be quite successful on behalf of the museum. For those considering the field, grant writing is absolutely an important asset for potential employees of community museums!

My teaching experience was also very helpful. I'm sure most TAs have been in the position of needing to teach or review a topic that they are not particularly familiar with—but you do your own research, teach yourself, and find a way to communicate the key points to your students. This was a critical experience for me at the Museum of Health Care, where I had to dig into many aspects of history and material culture that were pretty new to me, attempt to distill the key elements, and craft an engaging, accurate story or narrative for the Museum visitors.

After several years at the Museum of Health Care, I moved to Ottawa to work as an Interpretive Planner at the Library of Parliament. By this time, I had several museum projects to draw upon when interviewing for the Library, but the project planning that went into my thesis was equally relevant. Doctoral students have to plan out the various stages of their work, identifying sources, planning research trips, coordinating meetings with other experts, writing the thing, and disseminating it. The work that goes into planning and executing a dissertation is very similar to the work that goes into planning and executing an exhibition.

Next, I spent a couple of years in Brockville, managing two historic homes for the Ontario Heritage Trust. Running different public programs—from a concert series to the holiday open house—drew upon event planning experience I had gained as part of the GHSA, helping to run orientation events, for example, and also working as part of the committee that ran the McGill-Queen's Graduate History Conference.

Chronicles: Tell us about your current position.

PP: Since 2019 I have been an Exhibitions Project Manager at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, QC. In this role, I am responsible for coordinating the team of experts, whether staff at the Museum or external contractors to ensure that exhibits are delivered on time and on budget.

The size of the exhibit can vary from a display of 1-2 cases, to a 10,000 square-foot special exhibition, to “virtual” exhibits. I help manage the scope of the project, identify key work deadlines and resource needs, and attempt to motivate the team and keep them on track. Currently, my main project is the renewal of the Canadian Children's Museum.

Chronicles: What advice do you have to offer to our current students who might be contemplating a career in public history?

PP: Public history is pretty broad and there are a lot of ways that you can find work and contribute to the field. First, I would say to think about what excites you most and do some research into that specific area, the types of jobs available, what skill sets or certifications (if any) seem to be required, etc.

Then, try to gain experience while still in school. Funding is often an issue for many museum institutions (though by no means are museums the only venues of public history!), so they usually rely on volunteers to run public programs, tours or conduct research. Many will use work-study students, if near universities or colleges, and most will apply for Young Canada Works positions for the spring-summer season. Even if an organization or institution that you are interested in doesn't have anything posted, prepare a pitch for what you would like to do for them and ask for a meeting to discuss.

Is there a public history course on offer? Sign up. Or try to find a public history angle (e.g. memory, commemoration, material culture studies...) to the research you are doing in other courses. Check out various conference line-ups to see who is doing research that piques your curiosity (or you wish you got to first!) and see if you can have a chat with them.

Don't forget that you don't necessarily need to find a job, you might be able to create your own. Leverage your expertise as a consultant, media contributor, curriculum advisor, researcher for tv/movies/fiction etc. Create a podcast, run a Jane's Walk, or find another creative way to share what you love about history to the/a public! These might not fill your pantry at the start, but if successful who knows where you might take them.

Ultimately, as I found, the experience and skills you have gained and honed at grad school are highly transferable. Don't ever forget that.





Q & A WITH HISTORY ALUMNA DR. APRAJITA SARCAR

Aprajita Sarcar is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Laureate Centre for History and Population. She works on everyday governance of the population control policies in postcolonial India. Her research brings together the historiography on global population planning, reproductive politics and urban histories of South Asia. She was awarded a PhD from the Department of History, Queen's University, Canada in 2020.

Chronicles: How and from where did you come to study at Queen's as a graduate student? Why Queen's?

AS: Back in 2013, when I was trying to identify a doctoral supervisor and a program that would offer a stipend, I came across a book titled 'Symptoms of Empire.' I contacted the author, Professor Ishita Pande. Her book was successful in bringing

the urban environment of colonial Bengal in conversation with the medicalized racialism of the empire. When we started discussing her work, I decided that I would be seeking her help, even if Queen's does not offer a space. Thankfully, it did, and I was part of the History department from 2014-2020.

Chronicles: Tell us about your time in the department. Which faculty members did you work with?

AS: I primarily worked with Prof. Pande. In the first year, I took courses with Profs Andrew Jainchill, Jeff Collins. In fact, I chose early modern Europe as a minor field, because of them! Professor Sandra den Otter was someone I often reached out to a lot in the time it took to settle in Kingston, and was part of the supervisory committee. I also worked with Prof. Aditi Sen a few times as a Teaching Assistant. But through the department seminars, and other events, I have had at least one intellectually loaded conversation with most of the faculty.

Chronicles: Who were some of your classmates and do you keep in touch?

AS: My doctoral cohort consisted of eleven of us. I remember being the oldest when I joined (at 28). I defended my thesis a few weeks before the pandemic quarantines were in place. I still remember Deanna Turner driving me to Toronto to get on one of those special Covid flights. I haven't been able to stay in touch with most of my cohort due to the sudden way I had to leave. I couldn't return for my graduation ceremony for the same reason. I did meet Heena Mistry in UK during an archival trip last year. I am more regularly in touch with Diane Whitelaw who finished quite

recently. I get regular updates of Grant Schrama's journey as a father too.

Chronicles: Tell us about your life since leaving Queen's. How did your experience in our department prepare you for your professional career?

AS: Since defending my thesis in January 2020, life has been quite chaotic. My initial plan was to go back to Delhi and find myself a cushy academic position there. I had been accepted into a postdoctoral research position which started in July 2020. However, thanks to the pandemic, my life didn't quite pan out as I imagined. I found myself in Sydney, as a postdoctoral fellow in the Laureate Centre for History and Population at the University of New South Wales from 2022. I am currently still working here till the contract finishes in June 2026.

My years at Queen's have been crucial in building my knowledge and depth of historiography of two fields: South Asia and Global History. I was able to identify my interest in reproductive politics within these two clusters. However, my readings in the two clusters went beyond my immediate research interest. I remember the intense discussions in the coursework years on positionality, liberalism and postcolonial frameworks. These discussions certainly helped me become confident in my interventions in any forum.

Chronicles: Tell us about your current position.

AS: I am a postdoctoral fellow in a research unit funded by the Australian Research Council. It is a four-year project on the global entanglements of population demography and history. In fact, the

person leading the project, Professor Alison Bashford is someone whose work I came across only in my doctoral years. Who knew that reading and engaging with her book *Global Populations* for my qualifying exams would land me a job with her! Even as the position is research-focused, I often get asked to present my work and teach in undergraduate courses. My years as a Teaching Fellow have given me enough ammunition to work with, as I still rely on the syllabus I created in that time. My years as a postdoctoral researcher are direct outcomes of the thesis. Since defending it in 2020, I have published three peer-reviewed articles drawn from it. My book manuscript, titled *Mythical Families: Urban Aesthetics of the Small Family Norm in Postcolonial Delhi*, is under contract with Manchester University Press. In many ways, the thesis has been feeding my life in three continents and countless new adventures, during and after my doctoral years

Chronicles: What advice do you have to offer to our current students who might be contemplating a career in history?

AS: Read those books in the course work years. If you must skim, do so with enough notes to revisit. You may never know which research theme will get you your future employment. It is not enough to see yourself as a prospective faculty member in a university. Think of yourself as an independent researcher and writer. Get as much teaching experience as possible. Send out as many cold emails as you can to people you want to engage with. Every professor in the world is waiting for someone to read that one quirky article that they have written, and would love to discuss it with you.

Try and volunteer in the Graduate Associations. My years as a GHSA rep were fun, and helped me gain skills in organizing academic events. Those bake sales for the Association are worth your time and effort!

I also spent the last two years at Queen's as a Writing Consultant in university's Student Academic Success Services (SASS). Working with students on their essays and other assignments helped me to improve my chapter drafts. Met many senior writing consultants, like Valerie Ashford, who helped me improve academic writing skills. I regularly call her and update her with my academic anxieties across time zones.

Chronicles: Tell us more about life in Kingston and the larger Queen's community.

AS: Queen's helped me access a rather safe and well managed life in Kingston. Living in close proximity to the university meant I had regular access to the libraries. I could attend the writing workshops organized by the Graduate School. I remember friends setting up writing dates in which we could draft our ideas, share them and work on them. None of my chapters would have been in a state of completion without this academic community. Lean on your cohort to form this community.

As such life in Kingston was quiet. But the winters could get really alienating, especially if you are an international student. I reached out to friends I made in and outside the department. In fact, Valerie Martin, who finished some years before me, got me into running, a hobby I could build on here in Sydney. Taylor Currie's Halloween parties were the high points of Fall term! Heena's curries helped me through several depressive nights!



I look back at my years in Queens as exceptionally productive: not just for the academic work, but also, in terms of self-growth. Being able to move countries and start life while discussing ideas and concepts coherently, are things I could not have fathomed as possible.



GIVING BACK: QUEEN'S ALUMNUS AND DONOR PETER EDWARDS

Peter Edwards studied Economics and Industrial Relations at Queen's and has recently retired following a successful career in human resources and labour relations. A lifelong enthusiast for history, he has become a generous benefactor of the Queen's Department of History.

Chronicles: Tell us about your time at Queen's and your career since?

PE: The tale of thousands of others. I started in the only co-ed residence at the time Morris Hall, then moved to the student ghetto. I completed an undergraduate in economics and politics and a Master's in Industrial Relations. I was fortunate to have really great, personable, committed professors. Queen's was a fantastic experience for me. From a career perspective, my first job required accepting a position before they would tell me where it was located. Trusting in my word that I would follow through. Risky but likely pivotal in my career path. Since then, I have worked the classic Canadian career: pulp and paper, brewing (Labatt/Interbrew) and as VP Human Resources and Labour Relations for Canada's two major railways CN and CP, for each of their turn arounds. I have lived in five provinces. From towns hard to find on a map to Canada's largest city.

Chronicles: From an earlier conversation, I gather that you and a group of friends routinely travel to interesting historic regions, and that you do a fair bit of homework before you go. Tell us about a couple of these.

PE: Most of these trips are with friends that I first met when I was twelve years old. We all have an enduring passion for history. The trips are all history, all day, every day. And everyone must come ready. We select the location a year in advance and then each of us begins an in-depth study of what went on, where and why. You have to come equipped to fully participate or the other members of the group will out you

pretty quickly.

We have been to most of the Canadian battlefields in Europe. Some of these explorations have occurred 8 days at a time over a number of years.

We have followed the path of the Canadian Army from Operation Husky (the invasion of Sicily) and up the entire length of Italy. The scale of exploration meant that it had to be split over a number of years. We have intensively covered the liberation of the Netherlands as well. In cases we have spent significantly longer in the areas than the troops actually did.



Above: Peter Edwards, second from left, on one of his historical expeditions, in Biggin Hill, outside London, England. Peter flew an MT-818, which he describes as "a one-of-a-kind trainer. It was the first and only of its mark and was only converted after the war. Prior to that there were no Spitfire trainers. Pilots studied a small handbook, took a briefing and did a blindfolded instrument test."

I was also part of a group that explored the battlefields and history of USSR/ Russia. The key areas were Moscow, St Petersburg (Leningrad) and Volgograd (Stalingrad) but the history from the early Czars and Czarinas was also covered in incredible depth.

A poignant moment was in the formerly secret, Bunker 42, deep underground in Moscow. It was a control and missile launch centre during the Cold War and was central in the Cuban Missile Crisis. Having been to the NORAD Command Centre and seen their huge missile and bomber tracking map that was focused on the USSR, it was sobering to see the Soviet version surrounded by nuclear equipped Western countries. Perspective.

Chronicles: A current topic of interest in the education sector and elsewhere is artificial intelligence. I know you have views of where it should and shouldn't be used, especially in educational settings.

PE: The first question I ever asked ChatGPT was on the day of its public launch. Tell me about the Mary Rose.

It correctly said it was the flagship of Henry the VIII's fleet. It sunk in view of him and that about 400 lives were lost. Good so far but it also said it was on its maiden voyage. A very, very popular and Titanic like myth but not true. It had been a ship in his navy for 34 years when it sunk. A fact that could easily be obtained from the Mary Rose Museum where its remains are displayed. It lacked the ability to rank the quality of the source.

It's fixed this particular example but the hallucination rates are still far too high to sole source. False citations have just cost one of the big consulting firms a pot of money in

Australia. The customer figured it out. Numerous lawyers have also been taken to task by judges over AI generated case citations.

An even bigger concern is the impact on critical thinking skills that is already evident and there is a cost to this.

A recent study in Poland has found that cancerous polyp detection rates using AI are lower than prior to the addition of AI assistance. The reliance on AI seems to have caused a deterioration in healthcare professionals skill set.

In addition, discovery is figuring out what are the right questions to ask. There is no model for that yet. It will get better and it can be a very useful tool but it does not replace deep thinking. Yes deep thinking is hard. It's supposed to be. In the academic environment you hear anecdotal tales of students having complete papers done by AI. What a loss to the student. It's like sending someone else to the gym to workout for you.

Chronicles: You read a great deal of non-fiction. What are some recent history titles you've especially enjoyed?

PE: *The River Battles* by Mark Zuehlke. A history of the Canadian Army in Northern Italy and its particularly brutal and lesser known battles. I had the privilege of running into the author at Juno Beach on the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. I was forward enough to tell him it was my favourite of what he has written-not the one he was signing that day. Fortunately, it was also his.

The Declassification Engine by Mathew Connelly. It comes out of the Columbia University History Lab. It is perhaps not a pursuit history book but it raises some interesting

questions about the future of history, given an increasing tendency to classify many government documents as "secret". The first few chapters are somewhat startling in using recently declassified pre WW2 relations between the US and Japan. At 560 pages, it can be a bit of a slog sometimes.

The One Device. No longer in print. It is an amazing summation of all the things that had to happen in history to get to the iPhone. A device category that has undoubtedly changed the world, not always for the better. To most people, the box in their hands may as well be magic. This is the how it got there. Not an academic study, but a pretty good history of how we got where we are today. Sometimes history can just be a good read !

Other ones without details. "Cassino '44", "The Battle for Arnhem","Finest Hour: The Battle of Britain". "Foreign" Affairs has good shorter pieces and often suggests some pretty good reads.

I think it is also incredibly important to track emerging history. ***Empire of AI*** by Karen Hao is a first run at how we got to where we are in the ChatGPT world of AI. Again, in 25 years the take may be more refined and contextual but with some things you can't afford to wait to understand.

Chronicles: I noted in our earlier conversation that you are fount of information on certain details of history that aren't widely known. Can you give us one?

PE: It is common knowledge that the Canadian beach at Normandy was named Juno. Originally it had been named Jellyfish. The British landing zones were Swordfish and Goldfish.

However, a directive had been promulgated that forbid silly names where men were going to die. Thus the names were shortened but Jelly was even sillier so Wing Commander Michael Dawnay suggested Juno, his wife's first name. It was adopted by Churchill as Juno was also the mythical daughter of Saturn and mother of Mars. History does not record how Juno Dawnay felt about this honour. I can't resist one more. We commonly accept that there were 5 Allied beaches at Normandy. Yet there was actually a 6th called Band. The maps were marked, the commandos on ships off shore but it was never initiated. I'll leave it to readers to discover the "why".

Chronicles: Peter, you've been a generous supporter of the Queen's History Department, and other history-related causes. But unlike many of our donors, you weren't a history student as an undergraduate. What prompted your interest in supporting the study of history, and our department in particular?

History was embedded in practically every course I took in politics, economics, industrial relations and even computing science. It is pretty difficult to understand where we are if we don't know where we have come from.

In my Master's (MIR) degree, Dr Pradeep Kumar made statistics a mandatory course. There was a lot of howling and complaining by a number of students about this requirement.

Over our careers we found out why it was so essential.

I am starting to think, we should have a mandatory course in history.

The ability to understand the perspectives of others, the difference and relationship between history and

propaganda and the critical thinking that supports these processes is a diminishing resource in our world. We are poorer for it. To be an effective citizen you need these tools.

Chronicles: What is your gift to the department being used to support?

PE: The primary focus of the donation is the Global History Initiative. It is a broader way of looking at history. When most people look at the world, they see countries like France, Italy, Germany and others and think they have been around in their current form for a long time. The reality is, they, and most nations as currently constituted are quite new on the scene. Understanding history requires going beyond the limits defined by the analysis and narrative defined by a nation state. It is a unique approach and I'd like to thank Laura Costello of Queen's Advancement for bringing us together.

Chronicles: What's the biggest misconception about history that you think people have?

PE: That history is somehow just about the past. Faulkner noted "The past is never dead. It's not even past." What we all are today is the summation of all these different strands of history. Our attitudes, beliefs, prejudices all come from our past and are the architects of our future. History is a critical element to understanding perspectives.

Chronicles: You do some writing and consulting now you have retired from your full-time career. What are you working on now?

Most of my work is directed towards projects, investing and limited consulting that I think will improve the world directly or provide funding for Shirley and Bruce Edwards Better World Fund. This sponsors environmental, educational and various philanthropic efforts.

It makes me sound nicer than I probably am! I have been very fortunate to be in a position to help. My time to do my bit so to speak.

I also publish 3-4 times yearly a lengthy analytical paper, Ei2, describing the thinking of the editors on a range of issues that are an intersection of science, business, technology, investing etc. This has been going on for about 9 years. By design, it is not widely distributed. We are pretty proud of its long time, influential readership and also its expansion now to a younger cohort.

Chronicles: Any parting words of advice for our students? About putting their history education to use in post-university life, for instance?

PE: How individuals think, groups and nations react are absolutely driven by their experiences-real or perceived. Your history education drives a way of critical thinking and analysis that will really serve you well.

My labour history course was key in shaping my understanding of the labour movement, how, and why it started and the good, the bad and the ugly since then. It made me better at understanding all the groups that I interacted with. Some think that I may have had some success at it. I will leave it to others and time to judge. I do know that there are students sitting in a Queen's History class today that are going to do amazing things with not only what they learn but how they think about it. I am looking forward to seeing the good things they can do with it.

**HISTORY ALUMNA BA
(HONS) '78 AND PHD '85.
KERRY M. ABEL
PUBLISHES NEW BOOK**

Kerry M. Abel is an award-winning historian and retired Carleton University professor whose work has significantly shaped Canadian history. Kerry Abel has taught history for many years at Carleton (and formerly at the University of Manitoba and Queen's) with an emphasis on the history of northern Canada and its Indigenous peoples. Prior to her university career, she worked as a public historian for the government of Manitoba.

Her books, *Drum Songs* and *Changing Places*, examine Indigenous histories, settler communities, and the intersections of culture and place. A former member of the Canadian Historical Association and the Champlain Society, she has received major national honours, including the Clio Prize, the J.J. Talman Award, and the Floyd S. Chalmers Award.

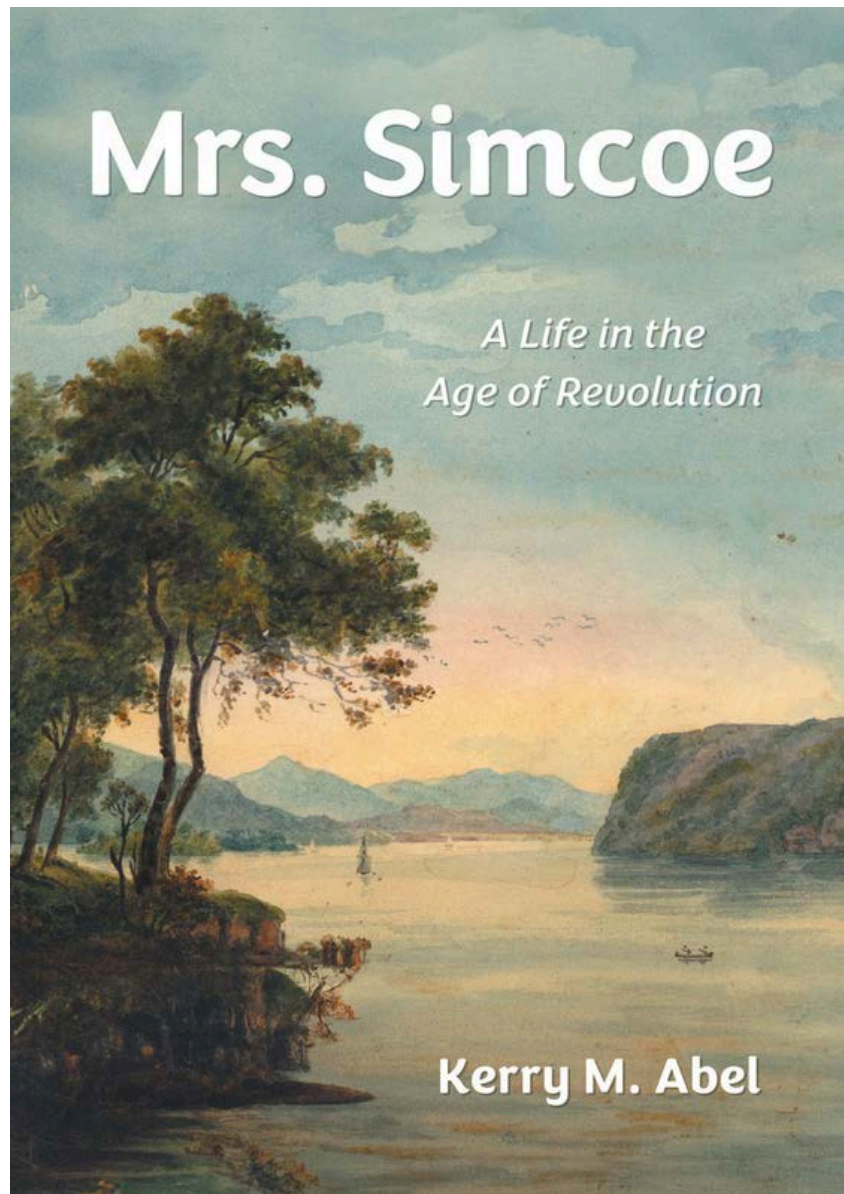
In *Mrs. Simcoe: A Life in the Age of Revolution*, Abel brings together key themes of gender, empire, religion, and social change, to offer a fresh, inclusive portrait of an under appreciated historical figure.

Born into war and orphaned at birth, Elizabeth Postuma Gwillim Simcoe lived through some of the most dramatic upheavals of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. From the genteel world of the English landed gentry to rugged colonial Canada, she bore witness to political, industrial and personal revolutions. *Mrs. Simcoe: A Life in the Age of Revolution* traces the impressive journey of a woman whose private life intersected with public change.

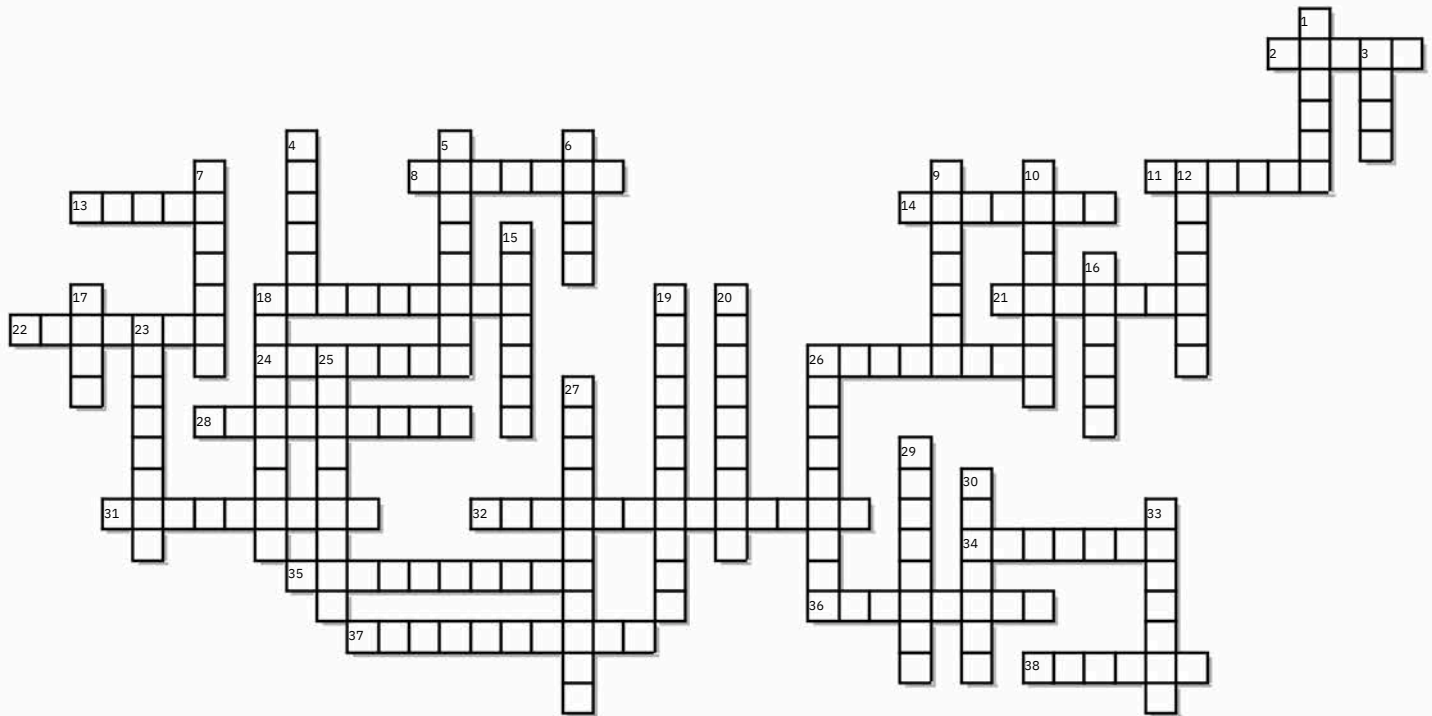
As wife to John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, Elizabeth documented colonial life in words and watercolours, offering an intimate lens on empire, gender, and cultural change.

Abel draws on rich archival sources to bring Elizabeth's world to life, exploring how one woman negotiated faith, family, and identity in an age of empire and social transformation.

This is a compelling read for history lovers, readers of women's biography and British history, and anyone interested in pre-confederation Canadian history. Mrs. Simcoe reveals the hidden influence of a woman who shaped and was shaped by her times.



Test your Historical Knowledge! a crossword for Queen's historians



ACROSS

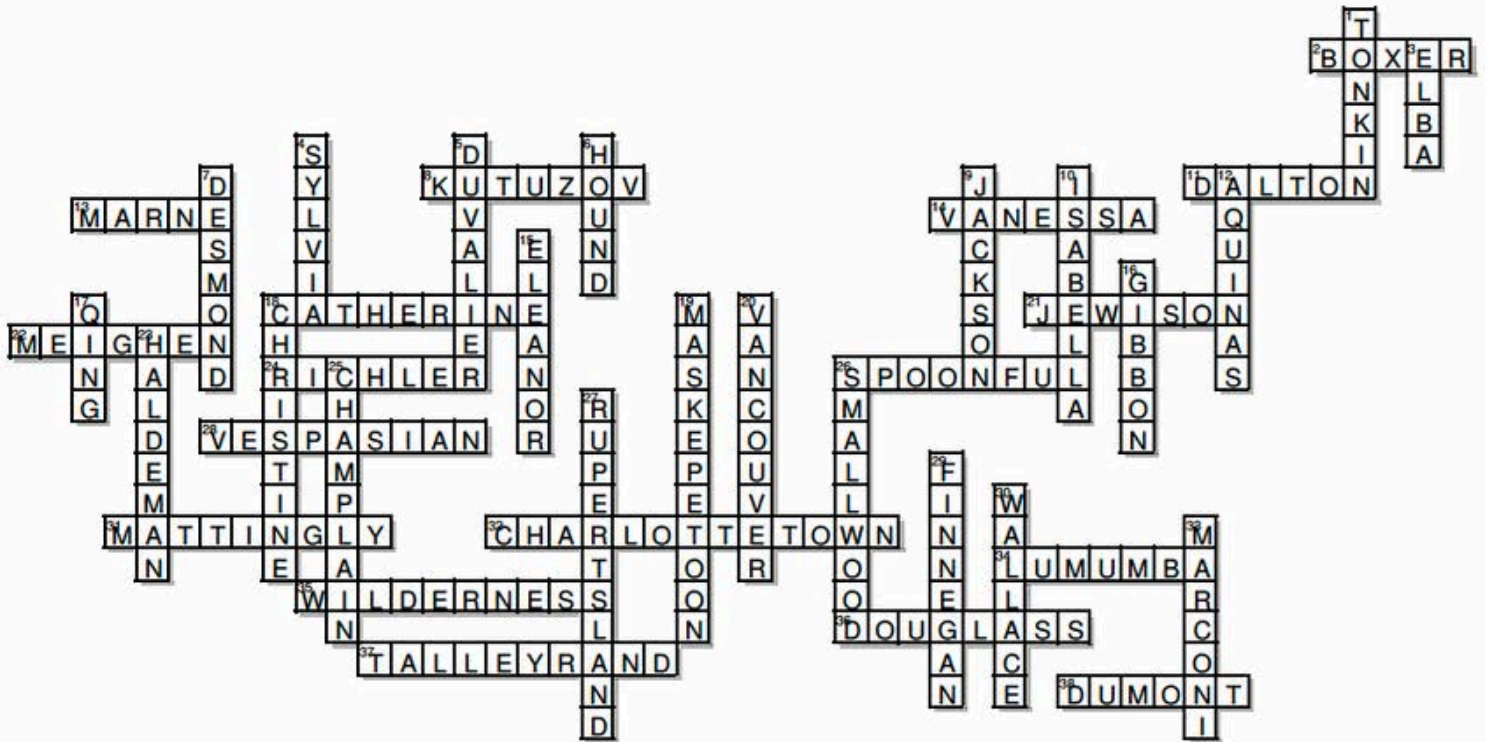
2. Chinese rebellion 1899-1901
8. Russian general, opponent of Napoleon at Borodino
11. Third 007 actor
13. Major 1914 World War I battle
14. Virginia's artist sister
18. The great, Russian empress
21. Canadian-born director Norman
22. 9th PM of Canada
24. Duddy Kravitz's creator
26. Chez Piggy's founder's former rock band-2nd word
28. First Flavian dynasty Roman emperor
31. Surname of Apollo astronaut Ken and Baseball Don
32. Site of 1864 conference and Mulroney accord
34. Congolese leader assassinated 1961
35. Deadly US civil war battle May 1864
36. Asked what July 4th meant to an enslaved person
37. Napoleonic era diplomat and former bishop
38. Riel's associate in 1885

DOWN

1. Gulf of? Resolution justifying Vietnam escalation
3. Napoleon's first exile was here
4. Sang 4 Strong Winds with husband Ian
5. Haitian dictator Papa Doc
6. Quadruped of Baskerville family
7. Arrested in NS movie theatre, now on our money
9. 7th president of USA
10. Ferdinand's queen c 1492
12. Leading scholastic theologian Thomas
15. wife of FDR and England's Henry II
16. Historian wrote about decline of Rome
17. Last imperial dynasty of China
18. De Pizan, late medieval female court writer
19. Murdered 19th C Cree leader
20. 18th cent Naval officer, explorer of west coast Canada
23. Watergate conspirator, Nixon's chief
25. French explorer in early 17th cent.
26. 1st Premier of Newfoundland post-confederation
27. Territory given by charter to Hudson's Bay Co
29. Mr Dressup's dog
30. Martyred Scottish resistance fighter c 1300
33. Wireless inventor



Test your Historical Knowledge! a crossword for Queen's historians





Thank you for your support!

We are grateful to have supportive alumni and friends who are inspired to make a difference at Queen's. Over the past year, contributions to the History Trust Fund have enabled us to enrich the learning experience of our undergraduate and graduate students. These contributions have funded research travel trips to the archives for our senior doctoral students, career panels for our undergraduate and graduate students and honoraria for guest speakers in our classrooms. They provided support for educational experiences abroad, enabled students to participate in field trips to local heritage sites, funded several writing retreats for upper-year PhD students, and supported various other student initiatives. We have also benefitted tremendously from alumni and donor gifts that support post-doctoral fellowships, studentships, speaker series, scholarships and research projects for our students. We thank you for your support!

Department of History, Queen's University
49 Bader Lane, Watson Hall 212 Kingston, ON
K7L 3N6 (613) 533-2150
history.chair@queensu.ca
www.queensu.ca/history_