

# Department of History Alumni Newsletter

SPRING 2019

## FACULTY NEWS



**ZEINAB ABUL-MAGD** led the spring 2019 Global Issues Symposium cosponsored by Oberlin's International Studies Program. The symposium hosts a number of prominent diplomats, historians, law scholars,

and political experts to cover issues of militarization of global politics, economy, and society. The Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA) selected Zeinab to serve on the committee that awards its prestigious Roger Owen Book Award for monographs on the economic history or the political economy of the region. In addition, she is writing a book chapter in Arabic about the 1919 revolution in Egypt, against the regime of the British protectorate. Instead of representing the position of the colonized in this chapter, she is writing it from the point of view of one famous colonizer: General Edmund Allenby, who led the British conquest of Jerusalem in the last stages of WWI and who later served as British high commissioner for Egypt. Lord Allenby also had a friendly relationship with Oberlin's president at the time, Henry Churchill King. Many photos documenting King's time in the Middle East may be found in the Oberlin College Archives.



**MATT BAHAR** spent much of June and July 2018 in French archives, conducting research for his second book project. With the help of an H.H. Powers Travel Grant from Oberlin, he studied manuscript holdings in the Archives nationales d'Outre-mer in Aix-en-

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## Chair's Greeting

RENEE ROMANO, ROBERT S. DANFORTH PROFESSOR OF HISTORY; PROFESSOR OF AFRICANA STUDIES; AND PROFESSOR OF COMPARATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES



**D**uring Commencement/Reunion Weekend 2018, visitors watched performances of Kurt Weill's cabaret *The Seven Deadly Sins* in the Birenbaum performance space in the Hotel at Oberlin. *Seven Deadly Sins* was the culminating project of the StudiOC learning community, Broadway via Berlin: The Political Musical Theater of Kurt Weill. The project featured college and conservatory students performing in the opera, doing backstage work, and writing program notes that placed the work in its historical context. This learning community—part of the StudiOC initiative—highlights just what makes Oberlin such a special place. StudiOC students took three classes, one taught by musicologist Jamie O'Leary, one taught by opera director Jonathan Field, and

The German Émigrés: Politics, Culture, and Exile, taught by the history department's Annemarie Sammartino.

At Oberlin, our history curriculum is enriched by these kinds of collaborations, as students get the opportunity to see exactly how and why learning about the past enriches one's understanding of the present. Our faculty are eager to experiment and to innovate. In fall 2018, Shelley Lee taught her class on the history of immigration in the United States as part of a StudiOC learning community focused on the theme of sanctuary; her class included a community engagement component in which students did research for a local immigrant rights organization. Professor Clayton Koppes has been connecting history with ongoing issues in a different way in his very popular course on the history of AIDS, which introduces students to an impressive list of guest speakers, including Oberlin alumnus Peter Staley '83, founder of Treatment Action Group and an activist with ACT UP.

History faculty members are not only inventive teachers, but also active and committed scholars whose work outside the classroom informs their teaching and mentoring of students. Two history professors have new books recently published by Oxford University Press: Matt Bahar's *Storm of the Sea: Indians and Empires in the Atlantic's Age of Sail* and Leonard Smith's *Sovereignty at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919*. Other faculty members with books this year include Shelley Lee, coeditor of *A Companion to Korean American Studies* (Brill, 2018); Pablo Mitchell, coeditor of *Beyond the Borders of the Law: Critical Legal Histories of the North American West* (University Press of Kansas, 2018); and me, coeditor of *Historians on Hamilton: How a Blockbuster Musical is Restaging America's Past* (Rutgers University Press, 2018). History faculty have been active in publishing both scholarly articles and writings aimed at a public audience in newspapers and on websites. Assistant professors Tamika Nunley and Danielle Terrazas Williams both won prestigious fellowships this year that are allowing them to work on their book manuscripts and begin new projects.

While we celebrate these new initiatives and new ideas—including those brought to us by

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## CHAIR'S GREETING, CONT.

Etana Dinka, a scholar of Ethiopian history who will be with us as the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in African history for the next two years—we also know that this is a bittersweet year. 2018-19 marks the last year of teaching for two of our most valued and longstanding department members, Clayton Koppes and David Kelley, scholars of U.S. and Chinese history, respectively. Professors Koppes and Kelley have taught generations of Oberlin students; have introduced vital new approaches to the curriculum, including environmental history, gender history, and history of sexuality; and have done esteemed service for the institution. Please look for more communications from us as we prepare to celebrate their long and illustrious teaching careers at Oberlin.

Finally, I would like to ask you, our alumni, for help. This year, we launched a new initiative to help students learn about career pathways by bringing back alums (both in person and virtually) to talk about what they have done with their Oberlin history degrees. We are also working to establish more opportunities for our students to do winter term and summer internships in history-related fields. History alums, if you would like to be part of this ongoing project or have potential internship opportunities to advertise, please let us know by contacting us at [history@oberlin.edu](mailto:history@oberlin.edu).

And please consider supporting our work by making a contribution to the Oberlin history department fund (follow [this link](#) and designate the gift to the history department).

Thank you!



The cast of *Seven Deadly Sins* takes a bow, including history majors Daphne Shigiel, Cole Mantell, and friends. (Photo Credit: Tanya Rosen-Jones)

## FACULTY NEWS, CONT.

Provence as well as the Bibliothèque nationale and the Archives nationales, both in Paris. His project conceptualizes shipwrecks in colonial North America as destructive and generative catastrophes around which assumptions about power and identity were questioned and remade. Matt also finalized revisions and edits on his recently released first book, *Storm of the Sea: Indians and Empires in the Atlantic's Age of Sail* (Oxford University Press, 2019).



### RISHAD CHOUDHURY

spent the summer of 2018 conducting archival research at the Maharashtra State Archives in Mumbai for his ongoing book project on the early modern Indian pilgrim-

age to Mecca. He also explored materials at the Center for Social Sciences in Calcutta for a planned future project on Muslim politics in eastern India. He presented some of the findings from this research at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Chicago in January 2019. He is currently collaborating with a number of colleagues to publish a discussion forum on anti-colonial terror and violence in British India, based on a roundtable meeting at the Annual Conference on South at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in October 2018.



**ETANA H. DINKA** has been working on a translation book project with Alessandro Triulzi and Tesema Ta'a, two senior historians of Ethiopia. The book is titled *Documents for*

*Wallagga History: 1880s to 1920s E.C.*, whose Amharic version was published by the Addis Ababa University Press in 2004. It is hoped that the English version will appear in the summer of 2019. Etana also reviewed *Insurgent Fragmentation in the Horn of Africa: Rebellion and Its Discontents*, by Michael Woldemariam for the *Journal of Northeast African Studies*.



**JIYUL KIM** is in his eighth year as a visiting faculty member. Retired from the U.S. Army after nearly 30 years, including five years teaching at the U.S. Army War College, he brings expertise in military

history. Following his past courses—History and the Formulation of U.S. National Security Strategy & Policy, Theory & History of War, and War & Civilization—he is offering a new research seminar in spring 2019, War, Military and the American Nation, which examines the role of wars and the military in the develop-

ment of the U.S. as a nation. He helped Zeinab Abul-Magd to organize the 2019 Global Issues symposium and to teach the associated mini-course. His most recent publications are book chapters on South Korea's strategic culture and on North Korea's participation in the Vietnam War. Jiylul is working on a book coauthored with Sheila Miyoshi Jager, Oberlin professor of East Asian studies, titled *The Korean War: A New History*, to be published by Cambridge University Press in 2022. In support of the book, he received two Oberlin College grants, to conduct research at the National Archives and in China and South Korea.



### CLAYTON R. KOPPES

is pursuing research on the history of HIV/AIDS in the United States, an outgrowth of his colloquium on the history of AIDS, which he's taught at Oberlin for the past three years.

With David L. Kelly of Palm Springs, Calif., Clayton presented a paper on AIDS history at the annual meeting of the Australian History Association in Canberra in July 2018. Their research took them to the Reagan and Clinton presidential libraries and to archives in San Francisco. Clayton was elected an officer of the Community Advisory Board of the Case

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Western Reserve Medical School/University Hospitals on HIV trials in Cleveland. He taught a course on the history of HIV in CWRU's Lifelong Learning program in the fall of 2018. Drawing on his work on film history, he was interviewed on camera for the documentary *Hollywood and World War II*, recently released by Florian Films and sponsored by the German/French consortium ARTE. He also reviewed Bruce Kucklick's book *The Fighting Sullivans: How Hollywood and the Military Make Heroes for the Journal of American History*. In June 2018, Clayton received the 2018 Distinguished Achievement Award from Bethel College, his alma mater, in North Newton, Kansas. He taught his last classes on December 11, 2018, thus concluding 40 years of teaching and administrative service at Oberlin.



**SHELLEY LEE** published the following articles in 2018: "Koreagate: Race, Gender, and the Return of the Yellow Peril in 1970s America" in *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies*, "Where Others

Have Failed': Korean Immigrants and the Reinvention of Entrepreneurship in 1970s and 1980s America" in the *Journal of Asian American Studies*, and "From Unwatchable Life to Consumable Spectacle: On History and the Black-Korean Conflict" in *Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas*. With Rachael Joo of Middlebury College, she edited *A Companion to Korean American Studies* (Brill) and wrote an op-ed titled, "Why Voting for Immigration Reform is Critical for Korean Americans" for *Truthout*.



**PABLO MITCHELL** returned to teaching in fall 2018. A paperback edition of his Latina/o history textbook, *Understanding Latina History: Excavating the Past, Examining the Present*, was released by

ABC/CLIO in 2017. He also coedited *Beyond the Borders of the Law: Critical Legal Histories of the North American West* (University Press of Kansas, 2018).

**TAMIKA NUNLEY'S** essay, "Elizabeth Keckly's Union War" appeared in *New Perspectives on the Union War*, edited by Gary W. Gallagher



and Elizabeth Varon (Fordham University Press, 2019). She also reviewed Tera Hunter's *Bound in Wedlock: Slave and Free Black Marriage in the Nineteenth Century* in *The American Journal of Legal History*.

She gave a talk titled "Let him get an eagle on his button and a musket on his shoulder': Race and the Legal Scaffolds of Honor" at Duke University in February 2019 and at the Nau Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia in March 2019.



**EMER O'DWYER** has enjoyed preparing new courses for the history department curriculum: a research seminar focused on the occupation of Japan by the Allied powers after 1945 (History 307, first offered in fall

2017) and an intermediate-level course exploring postwar Japan through the twin lenses of music and film (History 249, first offered in spring 2019). She has also enjoyed talking about researching and writing her first book, *Significant Soil: Settler Colonialism and Japan's Urban Empire in Manchuria* (Harvard Asia Center Press, 2015). In March 2018, she was invited by the Library of Congress to discuss her research process and findings on a panel sponsored by the Library's Asian Reading Room at the Association for Asian Studies Conference in Washington, D.C. In November 2018, she spoke in Paris at the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales on the topic of how Japanese repatriates who lived in Northeast China during the war responded to the changed political culture of postwar Japan. In October 2018, O'Dwyer presented a talk on her new book project on democratization in 1950s-era Japan titled "Ostracism, Boss Rule, and the Impossibility of Democracy in Rural Japan, 1948-58" at Smith College. Lastly, she continues to enjoy promoting opportunities for students interested in study abroad in Kyoto and Tokyo in particular, but outside of Japan too!

**RENEE ROMANO** spent much of the 2018-19 year talking about the musical *Hamilton*. Her coedited collection, *Historians on 'Hamilton': How a Blockbuster Musical is Restaging America's Past* (Rutgers University Press, 2018), came out in May 2019. In the succeeding five months, she,



coeditor Claire Potter, and other contributors enjoyed discussing *Hamilton* at the National Archives, the Society of Cincinnati, Wesleyan University, and the New School, among other places. She also did inter-

views about the book for several podcasts and on NPR. When not talking about *Hamilton*, Romano has been working on other projects. Her article "Something Old, Something New: Black Women, Interracial Dating, and the Black Marriage Crisis" was published in the September issue of *Differences*. She has also embarked on a new research project exploring the politics of race, memory, and commemoration in the North through a study of the figure of Dan Emmett, an Ohio-born blackface minstrel performer from the 19th century who is best known for writing *Dixie*. In the classroom, Renee has been busy teaching the department's new required methods course. She is also excited to be offering her seminar, *Repairing the Past: Readings in Historical Justice*, as a part of a StudiOC Learning Community on the forms of justice this spring.



**ARI SAMMARTINO** is cochair of Oberlin's musical studies major, in which arts and sciences students engage in the academic study of music. She taught in a course cluster on Weimar music, which culminated

in a con-college performance of Kurt Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins* and the website [go.oberlin.edu/weill](http://go.oberlin.edu/weill). Ari spent the summer 2018 writing her book *Freedomland: Co-op City and the Story of New York, 1965-1990*. This year, she completed a four-year term helping to write the AP European History curriculum and exam, which is administered to over 100,000 students annually.



**LEONARD V. SMITH'S** new book, *Sovereignty at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919*, was published in May 2018 by Oxford University Press. He was also part of an international team of six historians that coauthored *Ils ont fait la paix: la Traité de Versailles*

## FACULTY NEWS, CONT.

*vue de France et d'ailleurs* [*They Made Peace: The Treaty of Versailles Seen from France and Beyond*] published in September 2018 by Les Arènes in Paris. He also published two articles: "Vienne, Paris, Yalta: comment faire la paix?," in Bruno Cabanes, ed., *L'Histoire de la guerre, XIX<sup>ème</sup>-XX<sup>ème</sup> Siècles* (Éditions du Seuil, 2018); and "Emplotting the Witness: Henri Barbusse and Marc Bloch," in Richard Bessel and Dorothee Wierling, eds., *Inside World War I: The First World War and Its Witnesses* (Oxford University Press, 2018). Thanks to the centenary of the 1918 armistices, he had an active year giving invited lectures and invited conference presentations. Venues included the University of Kentucky, Tilburg University (Netherlands), the Instituto Storico Italo-Germanico, Trento (Italy), the University of Hong Kong, the Università delgi Studi de Padova (Italy), Yale University, the Université de Paris-Sorbonne (France), Harvard University, the University of Copenhagen (Denmark), and the University of Glasgow (Scotland). At Oberlin, he taught a new research seminar on World War II, a lecture course on Europe, 1900-1945, the Modern Europe survey, and directed the Senior Projects course.



**CHRIS STOLARSKI** presented a conference paper at the Association of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies entitled "Visual Evidence, Written Truth: Prosecuting Crime in the Late-Imperial Illustrated Press," which examined how editors in Russia narrated police procedures in magazines, using photography and accompanying texts to prosecute murder, terrorism, and even

frontline atrocities on behalf of the reading public. His essay "Marketing the Socialist Experiment: Photojournalism and the Soviet Union in the Interwar Years," which explored the relationship between Marxist theory and socialist photographic practices in the 1920s and 1930s, will be published in an edited collection entitled *Capitalism and the Camera* (eds. Kevin Coleman and Daniel James) with Duke University Press later in 2019. Another article, on Soviet print and advertising culture, will also appear in 2019 in a collection entitled *Media and Communication from Lenin to Stalin (1917-1941)* (eds. Kirill Postoutenko, Alexey Tikhomirov & Dmitri Zakharine) for Palgrave Macmillan. In the summer of 2019, Stolarski will travel to Russia and Finland on a Powers Travel Grant to finish up his research and to acquire image rights for his book manuscript, "The Performance of Modern Life: Press Photography and Public Identity in Russia, 1900-1924."



**DANIELLE TERRAZAS WILLIAMS** conducted research in the summer of 2018 at the Jesuit Archives in Rome, Italy, examining 16th- and 17th-century sources on African-descended people's experiences in New Spain. She also went to the Spanish colonial archives in Seville, Spain, to locate 16th-century administrative records for the port of Veracruz. Since August 2018, Terrazas Williams has been spending her pre-tenure leave as a long-term research fellow at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, California. While in residence at the Huntington, she gave two public talks on piracy, at UC Irvine and at Whittier College.

She also attended the American Historical Association's Annual Conference in Chicago to discuss the biographical turn in Afro-Mexican Studies. Additionally, she completed her manuscript "The Capital of Free Women: Race, Legitimacy, and Economic Development in Colonial Veracruz," which challenges traditional narratives of racial hierarchies and gendered mobility by focusing on elite African-descended women and their experiences in Mexico's understudied period from 1580 to 1730. She presented her research at UCLA in February 2019 and UC Riverside in March 2019. She also gave a talk on "Teaching Race in the Renaissance" at the annual Renaissance Conference of Southern California in March 2019.



**ELLEN WURTZEL** is currently director of the Jewish Studies Program. She continued her research on bath houses in late-medieval France with a summer 2018 trip to the National Archives in Paris. She presented her findings at the annual conference for the Society for Sixteenth-Century Studies in November 2018. At Oberlin, she taught the introduction to medieval and early modern Europe, the senior honors seminar, a research seminar on gender, and a contemporary Israeli arts course. In 2019-20, she will teach the new historical methods course, as well as a new StudiOC course called *The Productive Past: Innovation in Early Modern History*. This course will be linked to a creative writing course with Emily Barton and a somatics course in the dance department with Holly Handman-Lopez.

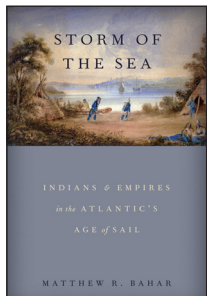
## THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Programming and student research grants in the Department of History rely significantly on contributions from alumni and friends. Gifts of every amount facilitate the growth and vitality of the study of history at Oberlin for majors and students throughout the college. We hope you can make such a contribution. The following URL allows you to do so directly and online: [www.oberlin.edu/giving](http://www.oberlin.edu/giving). When you reach this page, click "Donate." When asked to "choose a designation," please scroll to "Other" and type History Department in the box underneath. Thank

you for your support. Your generous contributions enable us to sponsor events on and off campus, benefiting the entire Oberlin community.

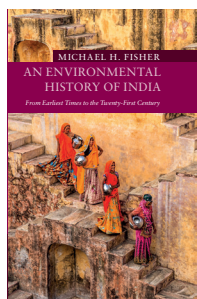
Also, to continue receiving this newsletter and other communications from Oberlin, please be sure to update your email address (and other information) with Oberlin via the Alumni Association's TAPPAN Network at <https://alumni.oberlin.edu>. Registration is free and takes only a moment. Please direct questions to [alumni@oberlin.edu](mailto:alumni@oberlin.edu) or call the Office of Alumni Relations at (440) 775-8692.

# NEW BOOKS FROM OBERLIN HISTORY FACULTY



**MATTHEW BAHAR**  
**Storm of the Sea:  
 Indians and  
 Empires in the  
 Age of Sail**  
 NEW YORK: OXFORD  
 UNIVERSITY PRESS,  
 2019

Bahar shows how a confederacy of American Indians appropriated sailing technology in their ambitions for political and economic ascendancy during the colonial period. From their earliest encounters with seaborne strangers in the 16th century to the end of the Seven Years' War in 1763, scattered bands of Native hunter-gatherers across northeastern North America came together to undertake an immense political project. Their campaign of sea and shore, emboldened by a revolutionary technology, brought wealth, honor, and power to their confederacy while alienating colonial neighbors and thwarting English and French imperialism. Afloat, Indian hunter-warriors commanded fleets of sailing ships and coordinated punitive and plundering assaults on the heart of England's Atlantic economy. Ashore, Indian diplomats engaged in shrewd transatlantic negotiations with imperial officials of French Acadia and New England. Wabanaki communities had long looked to the sea for opportunities. By the Atlantic's Age of Sail, the People of the Dawn were mobilizing it to achieve a Native dominion governed by its sovereign masters and enriched by its profitable and compliant tributaries.

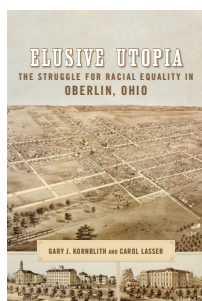


**MICHAEL FISHER**  
**An Environmental  
 History of India: From  
 Earliest Times to the  
 Twenty-First Century**  
 NEW APPROACHES TO  
 ASIAN HISTORY SERIES,  
 CAMBRIDGE: CAMBRIDGE  
 UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2018

The Indian subcontinent (presently primarily the nations of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh) stands as one of the world's regions that is richest and deepest in its environmental history. The major world religions of Buddhism and Hinduism emerged there, as did the deeply non-violent Jain religion. South Asia has also had substantial Muslim and Christian communities. Each of these traditions and communi-

ties has historically expressed and implemented its own distinctive relationships with the environment. Further, India's complex political history, including some of the world's earliest empires and longest-standing regional states, also displays a range of efforts and means of affecting the material world.

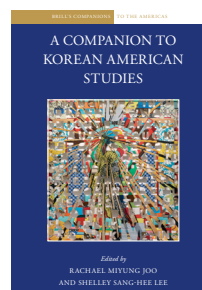
Today's nations of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are particularly vulnerable to climate change, which has resulted far less from their actions than from those of the long-developed and long-polluting West. Further, these relatively new nations, but ancient societies, are causing—and having to suffer the consequences of—severe degradation of their material, faunal, and floral environments. As developing economies, they require vast and increasing resources and the scope to increase their carbon emissions. Yet sea-level rise, increasing temperatures, and extreme weather events all will especially affect their 1.5 billion citizens. Only by engaging all parts of their diverse societies and incorporating their several cultural traditions will these nations adapt and become more resilient against today's environmental changes and challenges.



**GARY KORNBLITH  
 AND CAROL LASSER**  
**Elusive Utopia: The  
 Struggle for Racial  
 Equality in Oberlin,  
 Ohio**  
 BATON ROUGE: LOUISIANA  
 STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS,  
 2018

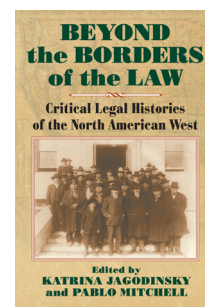
Founded as a utopian experiment in 1833, Oberlin embraced radical racial egalitarianism in its formative years. By the eve of the Civil War, when one of every five Oberlinians was black, the community modeled progressive racial relations that, while imperfect, shone as strikingly more advanced than in either the American South or North. Yet while emancipation and the passage of the Civil War amendments seemed to promise progress toward racial equality, Oberlin's residents of color fell increasingly behind their white peers economically in the years after the war. Moreover, leaders of the white-dominated temperance movement conflated class, color, and respectability, resulting in stigmatization of black residents. Over time, many white Oberlinians came to view black poverty as the result of personal failings, practiced residential segrega-

tion, endorsed racially differentiated education in public schools, and excluded people of color from local government. By 1920, Oberlin's racial utopian vision had dissipated, leaving the community to join the racist mainstream of American society.



**SHELLEY SANG-HEE  
 LEE AND RACHEL  
 MIYUNG JOO, EDS.**  
**A Companion to  
 Korean American  
 Studies**  
 LEIDEN, NETHERLANDS:  
 BRILL, 2018

The book is an interdisciplinary volume with 27 state-of-the-field essays on subjects from the history of migration to representation in popular culture and media.

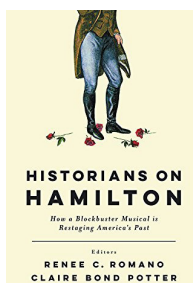


**PABLO MITCHELL  
 AND KATRINA  
 JAGODINSKY, EDS.**  
**Beyond the Borders of  
 the Law: Critical Legal  
 Histories of the North  
 American West**  
 LAWRENCE: UNIVERSITY  
 PRESS OF KANSAS, 2018

These essays combine the concepts and insights of critical legal studies and western/borderlands history to demonstrate how profoundly the North American West has been and continues to be a site of contradictory, overlapping, and overreaching legal structures and practices. The authors take up topics and time periods that include Native history, the U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico borders, regions from Texas to Alaska and Montana to California. They adopt a chronology that stretches from the mid-19th century to the near present. From water rights to women's rights, from immigrant to indigenous histories, from disputes over coal deposits to child custody, these essays chronicle the ways in which marginalized westerners have leveraged and resisted the law to define their own rights and legacies. The essays show how the concept of legal borderlands proves a remarkably useful framework for finally bringing a measure of clarity to a region characterized by lawful disorder and contradiction.

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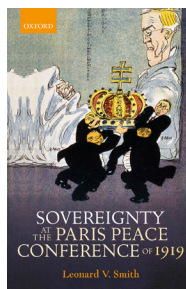
## BOOKS FROM HISTORY FACULTY, CONT.



**RENEE C. ROMANO  
AND CLAIRE BOND  
POTTER, EDS.**  
**Historians on Hamilton:  
How a Blockbuster  
Musical is Restaging  
America's Past**  
NEW BRUNSWICK: RUTGERS  
UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2018

America has gone *Hamilton* crazy. Since it opened in 2015, Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical about founding father Alexander Hamilton has become a cultural, political, and historical phenomenon, resonating with the American public in ways unlike any other musical in American history. This edited collection brings together historians from a wide range of fields to explore and help explain the *Hamilton* phenomenon. These historians explore what it all might mean for our understanding of America's history. The contributors examine what the musical got right, what it got wrong, and why it matters. Does *Hamilton's* hip-hop take on the Founding Fathers misrepresent our nation's past or offer a bold positive vision for our nation's future? Can a musical so unabashedly contemporary and deliberately anachronistic still communicate historical truths about American culture and politics? Is *Hamilton*

as revolutionary as its creators and many commentators claim? And what lessons does *Hamilton's* success offer us about how to communicate the past in ways that engage young people and bring history alive for them?



**LEONARD V. SMITH**  
**Sovereignty at the  
Paris Peace  
Conference of 1919**  
OXFORD: OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2018

The centenary of the end of the Great War calls for thinking about that horrific conflict and its aftermath in new ways. We have known for a very long time that the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 "failed," in the sense that it did not prevent World War II. *Sovereignty at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919* poses a different question—what historically specific international system did the conference create? The book does so through a broad investigation of sovereignty—political rule both among states and within them. Larger-than-life personalities such as Woodrow Wilson, David Lloyd George, and Georges Clemenceau figure in the book.

But it focuses less on them than on the issues they and the governments they led grappled with for months on end. As the peace conference struggled to reconcile old and new ideas of what states were, the Paris Peace Conference cobbled together a new international order.



**LEONARD V. SMITH,  
SERGE BERSTEIN  
(DIRECTOR), JOHN  
KEIGER, SERGIO  
ROMANO, TOSHIO  
TAKEMOTO, GERD  
KRUMEICH**  
**Ils ont fait la paix: la  
Traité de Versailles vu  
de France et d'ailleurs**

**[They Made Peace: The Treaty of Versailles  
Viewed from France and Beyond]**  
PARIS: LES ARÈNES, 2018

Six historians writing for general readers of French explore the negotiations in Paris from the points of view of their individual countries. They explain how the peacemakers arrived at a treaty that was at once innovative in its desire to find a means of abolishing war and archaic in the conditions it imposed on the defeated.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

**WHITMAN BARRETT '13** worked after graduation as a tutor for middle school students in Milwaukee through City Year (an AmeriCorps program.) In 2016, he received a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Whitman is currently in his third year as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Togo, where he works primarily on reforestation and sustainable agriculture projects.

**ANNA BAUMAN '17** interned at the NPR show *On Point* out of WBUR in Boston. Now as an associate producer, she builds hour-long, live shows on everything from the latest change in President Trump's cabinet, to California wildfires, to *The Simpsons*. The show's rapid schedule, two hours a day, Monday through Friday, keeps Anna on her toes and using her history major every day.

**NOAH BERLATSKY '93** received an MA in history from the University of Chicago. He then tried to be a poet, but failed. Now he is a freelance writer and has published criticism and commentary in the *Atlantic*, the *Washington Post*, the *LA Times*, *Pacific Standard*, and other venues. The research skills he learned at Oberlin still come in handy though; his book on the original Wonder Woman comics, *Wonder Woman: Bondage and Feminism in the Marston/Peter Comics*, was published in 2015 by Rutgers University Press. He lives in Chicago with his wife, his 14-year-old son, a medium-sized Siamese cat, and a really ridiculously large greyhound.

**GABE BROWN '16** was accepted into the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations 2018 Summer Internship Program in Washington, D.C. The 10-week program combines full-time

work experiences with a parallel academic seminar and site-visits to institutions of federal government, national security, and diplomatic policymaking that focus on relations between the U.S. and the Arab world. Gabe is interning with AMIDEAST, an educational nonprofit that facilitates intercultural exchanges between the U.S. and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). He is assisting the organization in running the Fulbright Foreign Student program, through which Fulbright grantees from the MENA region study at American universities. This internship program offered him the chance to foster educational opportunities for international students, deepen his expertise of the Arab Gulf region, and practice his Arabic!

**MAIA BROWN '10** has been teaching in the field of early childhood education in Seattle for the last seven years and was planning to leave the

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## ALUMNI UPDATES, CONT.

preschool world in the winter of 2018-19 to explore possibilities in museum education. While beginning to be a part of conversations in contemporary museum pedagogy and decolonizing museum spaces, she is continuing to write and make art: images in charcoal ([mbsquare.wordpress.com](http://mbsquare.wordpress.com)), *lider* in Yiddish with a band called Brivele ([brivele.com](http://brivele.com)), and a children's magazine called *Kloom* ([kloomzine.wordpress.com](http://kloomzine.wordpress.com)).

**CHRISTOPHER R. BROWNING '67** retired in May 2014 after 25 years of teaching history at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, and 15 years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Over his career he wrote eight books on the Holocaust and Nazi Germany, three of which received the National Jewish Book Award in the Holocaust category. Most notably, a 25th anniversary edition of *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* was published in 2017 by HarperCollins. Since retirement he has enjoyed several short teaching opportunities at Monash and Melbourne Universities in Australia and the occasional opportunity to write for the *New York Review of Books*. His most interesting

experiences have involved serving as a historical expert witness in several "Holocaust denial" trials, including David Irving's libel suit against Deborah Lipstadt in London in 2000. In 2006 he became a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 2013 he received an honorary doctorate from Oberlin College.

**JULIA IRWIN '04** received her PhD in history from Yale University in 2009 and is now an associate professor of history at the University of South Florida in Tampa. A specialist in 20th century U.S. international history, her research focuses on the history of U.S. foreign aid and global humanitarianism. She published her first book, *Making the World Safe: The American Red Cross and a Nation's Humanitarian Awakening*, with Oxford University Press in 2013. Since that time, concurrent with the centennial of the First World War, she has published widely on humanitarian responses to that conflict. Over the years, research and conferences have taken her to France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, and the United Kingdom, as well as many cities and towns throughout the United States and Canada. She is now writing her second book,

*Catastrophic Diplomacy: A History of U.S. Responses to Global Natural Disaster*, while teaching courses on the U.S. and the World, Global History, and (among her favorite subjects) the History of Food and Drink.

**HALDOR MERCADO '12** was inspired by his history classes at Oberlin to pursue a master's degree awarded in 2013 in modern European history and politics at University College, London. He also worked in Prague, Dublin, and Vienna at the Department of State and UN High Commissioner for Refugees before returning to the United States to attend Georgetown Law School in 2016. While at Georgetown, he has focused his academic and professional interests on international law and national security, leading him to spend his summers in The Hague at the Appeals Section of the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and in Washington at the Department of Defense. Following graduation in May 2019, he will clerk at the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

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## EMERITUS FACULTY UPDATES

**MARCIA COLISH** gave a paper in June 2018, "The Eucharist in Early Franciscan Tradition," at a conference, "The Summa Halensis: Teaching and Context," at All Souls College, Oxford. This is part of a series of conferences organized by Dr. Lydia Schumacher of University College London, who holds a multi-year grant from the European Research Commission for a project on early Franciscan scholasticism. ("Early" means before 1250). She back-to-backed this visit to Oxford with a tour of Wales, a part of the UK she had never previously visited. She found out where and why Edward I built the castles that were instrumental in his conquest of Wales in the late 13th c., and why the Welsh were a push-over (divided inheritance, in-fighting, and no navy, inter alia). In September 2018, she served as a member of a visiting committee that did an external review of the Faculty of Religious Studies at the University of Groningen in the

Netherlands, followed by a good weekend revisiting friends and a performance of *The Magic Flute* at the Amsterdam opera house. Her most recent publication is: "Error as Acting against Conscience in Bernard of Clairvaux's *De gratia et libero arbitrio*," in *Irrtum-Error-Erreur*, ed. Andreas Speer and Maxime Mauriège (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2018), 543-54. This paper was based on a paper she gave at the conference of the same name held in Cologne in 2016. She continues to guest lecture at Yale University during the fall term.

**CAROL LASSER** has been researching Alethia Cousins Fleming (1876-1973), an African-American Clevelander active in woman suffrage and Republican party politics in the 1920s and 1930s. She published a biographical sketch of Fleming in the Black Woman Suffragists Database, part of the online publication edited by Kathryn K. Sklar and Thomas Dublin,

*Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000*. She also coauthored, with Natalia Shevin'17, Sarah Minion'17, archivist Ken Grossi, and Alexia Hudson-Ward, Azariah Smith Root Director of Libraries at Oberlin College, "[How a Digital Collaboration at Oberlin College Between Archivists, Faculty, Students and Librarians Found Its Muse in Mary Church Terrell](#)," which appeared in the January 2019 issue of the online *Journal of Interactive Technology*.

**GARY KORNBLITH** delivered a paper in the spring of 2018 at his alma mater, Amherst College, entitled "Fulfilling the Founders' Purpose: The Religious Careers of Early Amherst College Graduates." A revised version of the paper will be published in *Amherst in the World*, a volume scheduled to appear in 2021 to mark the bicentennial of the founding of the college. Gary also turned his attention to the

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## EMERITUS FACULTY UPDATES, CONT.

history of Oberlin College, developing a local walking tour with archivist Ken Grossi. Using smartphone technology, the tour focuses on the college's first century and can be downloaded for free onto iPhones and Android devices with the izi.TRAVEL app. In November 2018, he was elected president of the Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries, and he encourages everyone to join the organization. For information on what the Friends do and how to become a member, please go to <http://www2.oberlin.edu/library/friends/>.

**SHULAMIT MAGNUS** continues to teach in the Rothberg International School of Hebrew University in Jerusalem, most recently offering a popular course on "Theory and Practice of Feminist Judaism." Students hail from many countries, religions, and cultures, making discussions particularly interesting. She is active in several legal and political causes regarding women's rights and the protection of

public space from theocratic initiatives and is a plaintiff on this issue in several court cases, including a case before the Supreme Court of Israel. She is also at work on two new research projects: relating the emergence of Jewish women's writing into the public sphere at the end of the 19th century and the role of culturally prominent Jewish men in this development; and gendered responses to Jewish modernity, in particular, attempts to repress women's traditional religious rituals in the name of "modernity" and a striving for Jewish social acceptance in majority societies.

**STEVE VOLK** continues to serve as the co-director of the GLCA's Consortium on Teaching and Learning, writing articles, organizing webinars, and coordinating teaching and learning work among the GLCA's 13 campuses. In 2018, he published an article in *NACLA's Report on the Americas* looking back at the election of Salvador Allende in Chile nearly 50 years ago.

An essay on the current immigration crisis ("Trump v. Immigrants: You Can Keep Your Huddled Masses!"), which will soon appear in *The Volunteer* (Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives quarterly publication). He organized and chaired a session for the January 2019 annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges & Universities on community engaged learning, spoke to the Oberlin Club in Los Angeles on the "speech issues" which are roiling college campuses, and continued his work as an immigration advocate, taking depositions from detainees at the Eastern Ohio Correctional Center, writing op-eds, completing more training on specific aspects of immigration law, and preparing as an expert witness. In September 2018, he hiked 300-plus miles on the Camino de Santiago, between St Jean Pied de Port (France) and León (Spain), thereby completing the full Camino (500 miles) which he began in 2017.

## HISTORY DEPARTMENT FACULTY AND STAFF

**Renee Romano**, *Chair and Robert S. Danforth Professor of History, Professor of Africana Studies, and Comparative American Studies*

**Zeinab Abul-Magd**, *Associate Professor of History*

**Matthew R. Bahar**, *Associate Professor of History*

**Marcia L. Colish**, *Frederick B. Artz Professor of History, Emerita*

**Etana Dinka**, *Visiting Assistant Professor of History and Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow*

**Michael H. Fisher**, *Robert S. Danforth Professor of History, Emeritus*

**Heather Hogan**, *Emerita Professor of History*

**David Kelley**, *Associate Professor of History and East Asian Studies*

**Jiyul Kim**, *Visiting Assistant Professor of History*

**Clayton Koppes**, *Professor of History*

**Gary Kornlith**, *Emeritus Professor of History*

**Carol Lasser**, *Emerita Professor of History*

**Shelley Lee**, *Associate Professor of Comparative American Studies and*

*History*

**Shulamit S. Magnus**, *Emerita Professor of History and Jewish Studies*

**Pablo Mitchell**, *Professor of History and Comparative American Studies*

**Tamika Nunley**, *Assistant Professor of History*

**Emer O'Dwyer**, *Associate Professor of History and East Asian Studies*

**Annemarie (Ari) Sammartino**, *Professor of History*

**Leonard V. Smith**, *Frederick B. Artz Professor of History*

**Christopher Stolarski**, *Visiting Assistant Professor of History*

**Danielle Terrazas Williams**, *Assistant Professor of History*

**Steven Volk**, *Emeritus Professor of History*

**Ellen Wurtzel**, *Associate Professor of History*

**Jennifer Drop**, *Administrative Assistant*