



Queen's  
UNIVERSITY

History

Annual Newsletter of the Department of History

# Chronicles

Fall 2023 | Volume XIV

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Edited and reported by Daniel Woolf and Russell Arbic,  
with help from Cathy Dickison and Alex Geris

COVER IMAGE: Robert Harris, A Meeting of the School Trustees (Detail),  
1885, oil on canvas, 102.2 x 126.5 cm. Purchased 1886. National Gallery of Canada.

# Message from the Chair

**FALL 2023 | VOLUME XIV**

by **Dr. Amitava Chowdhury**  
Chair and Associate Professor,  
Department of History

**A**s I sit down to write the Chair's message for the fourteenth volume of our annual newsletter and as I approach the halfway mark of my second year as the Chair of the Department of History, I find myself conflicted about the purpose of this note. There is much to celebrate and look forward to as a department as we come out of the restrictions of the COVID years, and at the same time, there is also the creeping worry of unprecedented budgetary woes currently sweeping across the universities in the province. On a day when our individual success is tempered by the magnitude of the collective crisis, where should I find my purpose? The answer perhaps begins with recounting an incident from the recent past instead of reporting on the many activities and achievements of the past year, which you will find in the rest of these pages.

Just a few days ago, I attended our department's fall convocation party to celebrate the many successes of our most recent graduates. Unlike the very elaborate spring graduation, only a few students graduate in the fall. As a result, it was a rather low-key event with a handful of students and parents, our departmental staff, and a few faculty members. The size



**IMAGE COURTESY OF AMITAVA CHOWDHURY.**

of the gathering notwithstanding, the event was rejuvenating, and it reminded me of our core purpose to uphold the value of rigorous and wholesome education. One of the graduates, whom I had not met before, walked up to me and said, "I feel very fortunate that I chose History at Queen's. I had the most rewarding educational experience, and I feel prepared to take on what comes next." His mother chimed

in, "My son always said how easy it was to strike up a conversation with a professor and how helpful and insightful they were." His father joined in, "Look at the books they have written," and the son quipped, "Oh, that's nothing. Just go around the corner and see the other glass case." The joy, the confidence, and the promise of the young graduate and the pride in the eyes of his parents told me loud and clear that

whatever the crisis thrust and foisted on us, we must never veer away from our mission to advance and share knowledge, to support the journey in the pursuit of truth, and to stand tall when our knowledge and expertise have a bearing on the state of the world.

The success of a graduating student is embedded in the larger fabric of a rich intellectual life in the department. As has long been the tradition in the department, we strive to foster a vibrant educational environment through numerous lectures, workshops, collaborative events, and experiential learning opportunities beyond the classroom. This year was no exception. Blessed by the generous gifts from our alums and friends, we organized several initiatives to undergird the core academic activities. Various professional development and career advancement opportunities for the graduate and undergraduate students brought the community into the department and allowed our students to interact with and contribute to the world outside the classroom. The department

organized several writing retreats to create a cohesive writing community for the doctoral students to mutually support each other as they wrote their thesis chapters. The gifts from our donors also helped us to provide research travel opportunities for senior graduate students as they went far and wide to gather research data for their dissertations. It is immensely gratifying to see the students, the departmental staff, and the faculty members come together in these endeavours as if to collectively say history matters. And history matters not only in our intellectual pursuits in making sense of the world we inhabit but in a very real way, it matters in the life of the students after graduation. And that brings me to my second anecdote.

Recently, I ran into a former undergraduate student who had recently graduated from a very distinguished law school. We talked about the classes she took with me and my colleagues, the insights she gained, and the training she achieved. By the time we reached Watson Hall, for she wanted to walk

with me to my office, she said, “You know, I have become a lawyer, but I could have been anything. I could have been a writer, a journalist, a filmmaker, or I could have been a policy analyst or even a politician.” The brief conversation between Stauffer and Watson reiterated the value of a history degree, the training it imparts, the research skills it fosters, the communication skills it inculcates, and the incisive critical thinking it generates. And that brings me to my appeal to you.

To all who have this newsletter in front of you, help me in spreading this awareness. In defiance of the tired thought that humanities are from the bygone days, help me in instilling the reflection that history and the humanities hold the key to a sane and beautiful world. When all the wars have been fought, all the bridges have been built, and all the planets have been explored, we must still pursue a good life. That pursuit must begin with an ethical reflection imbued with a historical perspective. The pursuit of a good life loses its meaning without the compass of history.



**QUEEN'S HISTORY MA STUDENT JEAN-RICHARD NONONSI WALKS ACROSS THE STAGE AT FALL CONVOCATION**



**QUEEN'S NEWEST PHD RECIPIENTS PROCESS TOWARD GRANT HALL THIS FALL. DR. KATIE-MARIE MCNEIL (HISTORY) PICTURED CENTRE**

# Department Events

## DEPARTMENT SEMINAR SERIES

**September 15, 2022 | Heidi Tworek  
(University of British Columbia)**

“Information Manipulation in the Past and Present”

**September 29, 2022 | Candace Brunette-Debassige  
& Thomas Peace (Western University)**

“Revisiting University Histories: Why we need to critically engage with the specific colonial histories of our institutions”

**November 3, 2022 | Padraic Scanlan  
(University of Toronto)**

“Irish Lumpers: Appetite and Political Economy in Ireland before the Famine”

**November 24, 2022 | Nora E. Jaffary  
(Concordia University)**

“Permitting and Prohibiting Abortion in Mexico, 1871-1952”

**February 9, 2023 | Daniel McNeil  
(Queen’s University, Professor of Gender Studies  
& National Scholar Chair in Black Studies)**

“Young Soul Rebels: Then and Now”

**March 9, 2023 | David A. Wilson  
(University of Toronto)**

“State Security, Civil Liberty and the Origins of the Canadian Secret Police”

**March 16, 2023 | Amy Fedeski  
(Queen’s University, Alfred and Isabel Bader  
Postdoctoral Fellow in Jewish History)**

“All Doors Are Closed to Us: Soviet Jewish Returnees from Israel in Cold War Europe”

**March 30, 2023 | Jeffrey M. Pilcher  
(University of Toronto)**

“How Travel, Trade, and Taste Made Beer a Global Commodity”

## ARTHUR LOWER WORKSHOP IN CANADIAN HISTORY

**November 3, 2022 | Cody Groat  
(University of Western Ontario)**

“Survivors Tell Their Story: The Federal Commemoration of Residential Schools”

**February 1, 2023 | Craig Jennex  
(Toronto Metropolitan University)**

“Liberation on the Dance Floor: Rhythm and Resistance in Burgeoning Lesbian and Gay Movements”

**March 8, 2023 | Paula Hastings  
(University of Toronto Scarborough)**

“Reorienting the Map Around the Pacific: The Panama Canal and Shifting Spatial Imaginaries in Canada”

**April 3, 2023 | Helen Dewar  
(Université de Montréal)**

“New France and the Revitalization of French Maritime Commerce and Navigation in the 17th century”

## ANNUAL LECTURES

**Faculty Lecture | December 1, 2022**

“Legal pluralism, interlegality, and ‘gentlemanly jurisprudence’: grand theories of law meet the strange case of dueling in a tiny South American country” with David S. Parker (see feature below)

**Sherwood Lecture | March 2, 2023**

“Lizards, Metals, Stones, and Sands: Practical Investigations and Vernacular Knowledge Systems in Early Modern Europe” with Pamela H. Smith (Columbia University)

**Nugent Lecture | March 28, 2023**

“The Rise and Fall of the Neoliberal Order: America and the World in the Free Market Era” with Gary Gerstle (University of Cambridge) (see feature below)

## CONFERENCES

**April 6, 2023**

“Miracles and Magic in Byzantium: A Mini-Conference”, organized by Richard Greenfield

Department of History academic events are made possible through the generous support of the Bernice Nugent Bequest.

**Nugent Lecture:** “The Rise and Fall of the Neoliberal Order: America and the World in the Free Market Era” with Gary Gerstle (University of Cambridge)

**Dr. Gary Gerstle**, the Paul Mellon Professor of American History at the University of Cambridge, joined us on March 28, 2023 at the Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning for our annual Nugent Lecture, one of our most important academic events of the year.

Dr. Gerstle’s lecture, entitled “The Rise and Fall of the Neoliberal Order: America and the World in the Free Market Era,” addressed the contours of the political creed of neoliberalism and how it evolved into a worldview which continues to exert a powerful hold over the left and right today.

The annual Nugent Lecture is made possible through the generous support of the Bernice Nugent Bequest.



**DR. GARY GERSTLE DELIVERS THE NUGENT LECTURE AT THE TETT CENTRE FOR CREATIVITY AND LEARNING**

**Faculty Lecture:** “Legal pluralism, interlegality, and ‘gentlemanly jurisprudence’: grand theories of law meet the strange case of dueling in a tiny South American country” with Dr. David Parker

For the 2022 Faculty Lecture, Latin Americanist **David Parker** to bring his latest book, *The Pen, the Sword, and the Law: Dueling and Democracy in Uruguay*, into broader conversations in legal theory and legal history about what constitutes law. After introducing the field of legal pluralism and its central debate over whether governments are the sole source of law, Parker boiled that literature down to a checklist of tests to judge whether any given set of rules in a society should be deemed to qualify as law.



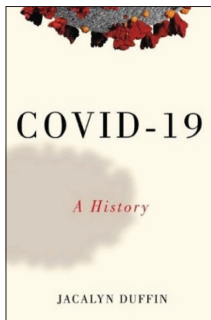
**DR. DAVID S. PARKER DELIVERS THE ANNUAL FACULTY LECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY CLUB AT QUEEN'S**

He then made the paradoxical argument that in much of nineteenth-century Europe, and well into the Twentieth Century in Latin America, the duel and its apparatus of honor codes, seconds, honor juries, and written records passed virtually every test to qualify as a system of law, even where dueling was a crime.

Dueling had its own codified statutes, dedicated authorities to interpret and enforce them, an awareness of precedent and jurisprudence, and sanctions against transgressors. Advocates believed that dueling offered a form of restorative justice that was more efficient and more satisfying than existing libel and defamation law.

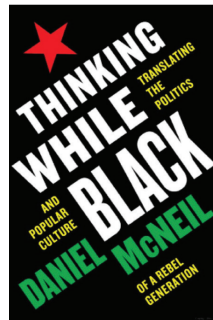
On the complex relationship between the “dueling laws” and State laws, Parker showed that governments were not only comically hesitant to enforce their laws against dueling, but they actually borrowed provisions from the dueling codes and incorporated them into formal law. This was most obvious when Uruguay legalized dueling in 1920, but Parker provided other examples as well, including from Italy and Germany.

# New Publications



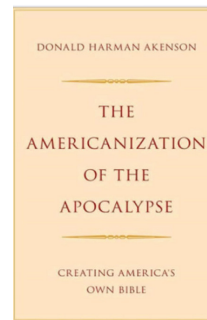
**Jacalyn Duffin,** *COVID-19: A History* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2022).

*COVID-19: A History* presents a global history of coronavirus, from its frightening emergence and relentless spread to the tests, treatments, vaccines, and the political decisions that were used to stop it.



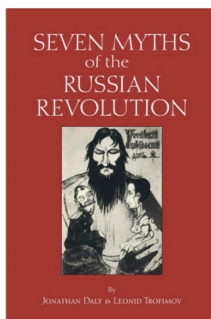
**Daniel McNeil,** *Thinking While Black: Translating the Politics and Popular Culture of a Rebel Generation* (Rutgers University Press, 2023).

Bringing together critics, intellectuals, and a generation of Black teenagers from around the globe, *Thinking While Black* sheds new light on those who fought against the racist, classist, and homophobic norms of the entertainment industry the late '70s and early '80s.



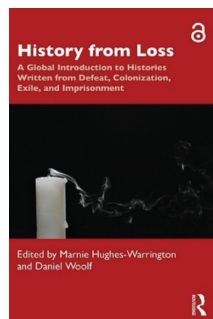
**Donald Harman Akenson,** *The Americanization of the Apocalypse: Creating America's Own Bible* (Oxford University Press, 2023).

*The Americanization of the Apocalypse* documents the creation of The Scofield Reference Bible using direct archival evidence. It examines the ways that the rise of modern American evangelicalism was actually a transnational story.



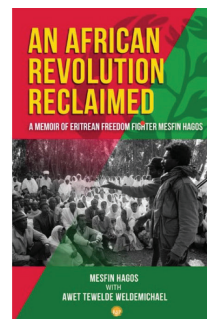
**Jonathan Daly and Leonid Trofimov,** *Seven Myths of the Russian Revolution*, Myths in History Series (Hackett Publishing, 2023).

*Seven Myths of the Russian Revolution* traces the history of major myths about the Russian Revolution to address a series of distortions and exaggerations associated with the rise of Bolshevik power.



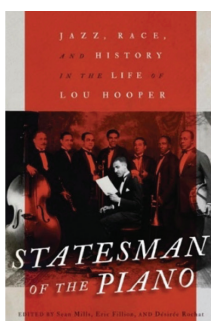
**Marnie Hughes-Warrington and Daniel Woolf,** eds., *History from Loss: A Global Introduction to Histories written from defeat, colonization, exile, and imprisonment* (Routledge, 2023).

Challenging the belief that history is written by "the winners," *History from Loss* explores how history-makers in different times and places have told their stories from places of defeat, suffering, and danger.



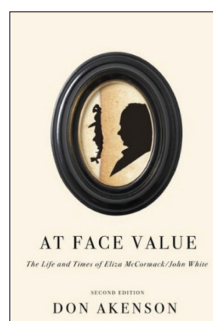
**Mesfin Hagos with Awet Tewelde Weldemichael,** *An African Revolution Reclaimed: A Memoir of Eritrean Freedom Fighter Mesfin Hagos* (Red Sea Press, 2023).

As much the story of a life as a war, *An African Revolution Reclaimed* recounts the experiences of Mesfin Hagos as he rose to prominence within the Eritrean nationalist movement.



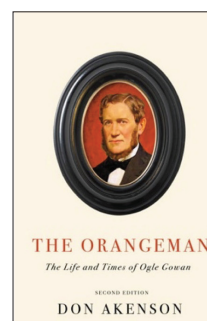
**Eric Fillion,** *Statesman of the Piano: Jazz, Race, and History in the Life of Lou Hooper* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2023).

*Statesman of the Piano* is a striking collection of primary source documents including Hooper's previously unpublished autobiography and a number of scholarly commentaries on this iconic figure of Canadian jazz.



**Donald Harman Akenson,** *At Face Value: The Life and Times of Eliza McCormack/John White*, Second Edition (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2023).

First released more than thirty years ago, *At Face Value* has become a classic novel which uses archival records to reimagine the story of nineteenth-century Parliamentarian John White as a woman named Eliza McCormack.



**Donald Harman Akenson,** *The Orangeman: The Life and Times of Ogle Gowan*, Second Edition (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2023).

The second edition of *The Orangeman* offers anew an immersive, if fictional biography of Ogle Gowan, the Irish Protestant upstart who first brought the Orange Order to central Canada.

# Faculty Profile



## AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT'S NEWEST FACULTY MEMBER, PROF. DANIEL MCNEIL

**Chronicles:** This is your first year as a full-time member of the Queen's History Department, but you've actually been at Queen's for a year or two before that as I recall.

**DM:** That's right. I joined Queen's in July 2021 as part of the Gender Studies department.

**Chronicles:** Where were you before you came to Queen's?

**DM:** I was a professor at Carleton University, but I also held visiting positions in Toronto during my time at Carleton.

**Chronicles:** How long were you at those respective places? They're not exactly next door.

**DM:** During my sabbatical, I was a visiting public humanities faculty fellow at U of T. The Jackman Humanities Institute at U of T brings

together interdisciplinary scholars to explore a different theme each year; the theme when I was there was "strange weather" and we discussed questions such as, how might the humanities contribute to the critical discourse on energy and climate, and help frame questions of environmental degradation and scientific knowledge in relation to social equity and societal futures? I was a member of the Department of History at Carleton between 2014 and 2021 and worked closely with interdisciplinary programs in Public History and Migration and Diaspora Studies.

**Chronicles:** You don't have an Ottawa accent, I notice, so you've obviously spent some time in the UK.

**DM:** Yes, I was born in Merseyside and lived there until I went to Oxford to read History. Then I received a

scholarship to do an MA in Canada.

**Chronicles:** So, where did you do your MA once you came to Canada?

**DM:** I did my MA in History and Ethnic and Pluralism Studies at the University of Toronto. When I was a student there, the core modules in the Ethnic and Pluralism Studies program were led by faculty in the Department of Sociology but the program was still very much indebted to Robert Harney's work with ethnic and diasporic communities in Toronto and the Multicultural History Society of Ontario. Anyway, I loved my time in Toronto and was fortunate to receive funding to do my PhD at UofT.

**Chronicles:** So, you've been in Canada for quite a while?

**DM:** Yes, although after I finished my PhD, I went back to England. I taught at the University of Hull and the Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation, and then at the University of Newcastle. After my first book was published in Routledge's series on the African and Black Diaspora, I also spent time in Chicago as the Ida B. Wells Visiting Professor of African and Black Diaspora Studies. So, since I arrived here in 2001, I've lived in Canada for around fifteen years.

**Chronicles:** So, you've lived in Ontario; anywhere else in Canada?

**DM:** I wouldn't say "lived", but I spent some time in the Maritimes, where I did much of the primary research for my Master's.

**Chronicles:** So, you spent time in Halifax; what did you work on there?



**DM:** I interviewed Black activists as part of my research on celebratory and prurient histories of ‘mixed-race’ individuals. I later adapted this work into my first book, *Sex and Race in the Black Atlantic*.

**Chronicles:** What are you working on now?

**DM:** I recently completed *Thinking While Black*, which explores the work and ideas of the prominent British intellectual Paul Gilroy, the notorious American journalist Armond White, and a political and cultural generation that came of age in the late 1960s and early 1970s

**Chronicles:** That’s what you presented at a seminar last year if I recall.

**DM:** Yes, *Thinking While Black* follows thinkers who were inspired by the rich and stimulating culture that emerged after the shifting of the racial architecture in North America and Europe in the mid-sixties – for example, listening to Bob Marley misappropriate the languages of the UN Declaration of Human Rights and put it into the hands of ordinary people, adapting punk’s do-it-yourself spirit, and engaging with a golden age of independent American cinema. I came across a fascinating comment by Gilroy in the course of my research about the challenges of transatlantic communication and how North American voices often drown out all the others in transatlantic exchange. When he made this point at a conference, a Canadian scholar on his panel interjected and said: “Surely you mean to say Americans, right?” And he said, “No, I mean Canadians as well”—“You’ve been selling multicultural snake oil to the world for years”! So, that’s a roundabout way of saying that my current work thinks about Gilroy’s provocative

remark about multicultural snake oil and considers migration and multiculturalism in Canada over the past half-century.

**Chronicles:** So you’ve got a really interesting disciplinary background because you’re in History now, and you started here in Gender Studies, but you’ve also got a strong background in Sociology, obviously, and you’ve done a couple of interdisciplinary conferences. Do you feel that you have a home discipline or are you more of a humanist, social-scientist—an Erasmian intellectual traveller?

**DM:** I’m very interested in the work of the musician and philosopher Lewis Gordon, who talks about the ossification of disciplines – or what he calls “disciplinary decadence.” Gordon thinks about this expansively to consider the pitfalls of disciplinary approaches saying that we have the methods to understand reality, and then excluding, marginalizing, or dismissing material that exceeds or contradicts their paradigms, methods, and models of scholarship. But his work is also helpful in guarding against the perils of, say, a sociologist rejecting other disciplines as not sociological, or a historian who asserts history as the foundation of everything. So, in addition to exploring Black politics and cultures that overflow from the containers that the modern state provides for them, I’m interested in interdisciplinary approaches – or what Gordon calls the teleological suspension of disciplinarity – and how they anticipate and struggle against charges that they’re a bit dilettantish, vogueish, or superficial.

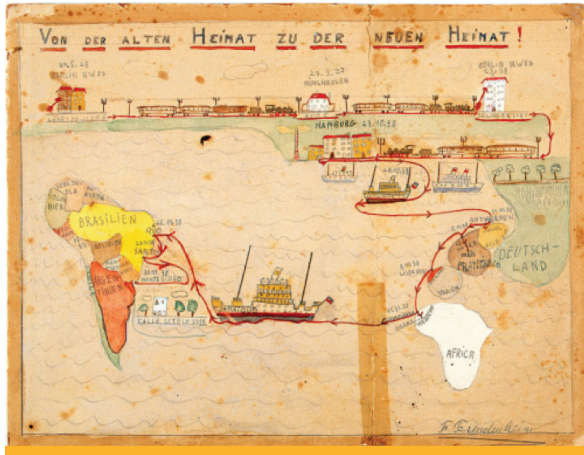
**Chronicles:** It’s true interdisciplinarity is tough to do properly; there’s a lot of what one might call “show interdisciplinarity,” but actually mastering the discourse of another

field and not just assuming that your methods are the ones that actually have to predominate is tough. I know many of us are instinctively sympathetic, but then we’ll go hear a paper and say, “She hasn’t read this,” “I didn’t hear any reference to so and so,” or “Those aren’t our categories” How do you get around that?

**DM:** I don’t know if it’s a case of getting around it as much as confronting the anxieties and concerns about interdisciplinary work with dreadful objectivity. I started by talking about where I situate myself, and one of the approaches—or one of the desires—that stimulated me a lot as a graduate student was Cultural Studies. One important figure in the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies in Birmingham, Richard Johnson, was trained as a historian. I like his essay, “What is Cultural Studies Anyway?,” and the frankness with which he acknowledges that he finds himself drawn to historical writing that combines dense description, complex explanation, and subjective – even romantic – evocation. He doesn’t try to hide that he finds most sociological descriptions thin and obvious, and much literary discourse clever but superficial. He just strives to work through these initial responses and ensure that it doesn’t prevent a more productive formulation of the relationship between abstraction and empirical work.

**Chronicles:** Tell me about your teaching: what you are teaching and your approach to it—which, I assume is informed by your outlook on relations between disciplines.

**DM:** Currently I’m teaching Black Intellectual History, and we’re thinking about how we hold different ideas in tension. For example, how do we talk about a Black intellectual tradition as a “changing same” or



**LEFT: “FROM THE OLD HOMELAND TO THE NEW HOMELAND!”  
BY FEDERICO FREUDENHEIM (1938)**

**TOP: CENTRALITE '70, THE 1970 YEARBOOK OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN (WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY, ARCHIVES OF  
LABOR AND URBAN AFFAIRS, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY)**

a “non-traditional tradition” that is complex, dynamic, and resists closed or simple repetition? We are reading thinkers such as Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells, Steve Biko, Frantz Fanon, and Angela Davis, and exploring their struggles for racial justice—or, perhaps more precisely, struggles to dismantle racial hierarchies—in conversation. That’s something that’s always been important for me in my teaching—one of the philosophies of art or approaches to art that I’ve always been intrigued by is this idea that art brings people together who wouldn’t necessarily have come together and takes them to places they might not be able to imagine on their own.

**Chronicles:** That’s a great line—are you responsible for that?

**DM:** I’m recycling a line that I first heard from a British stand-up comedian called Stewart Lee, who’s an interesting, working-class individual who passed through Oxford and thinks deeply about the ethics and aesthetics of modernity. He’s of the same political and cultural generation as the soul rebels I talk about in *Thinking While Black*, and came of age in conversation with film, Black music, and the great popular art forms of the sixties and seventies.

**Chronicles:** What is it that you like about living in Canada?

**DM:** I feel at home in Canada, and by that, I don’t mean Canada as constructed often in the public sphere—so it’s not necessarily the National Arts Centre view of Canada, not necessarily the CBC view of Canada, the *Globe and Mail* view of Canada, but rather the people I meet on public transportation; the conversations I have in Montréal, in Kingston, in St. Catharines; the nods, wry glances, etc. that I find compelling. I mean, when you asked whether I feel myself to be a humanist, you mentioned Erasmus and Renaissance humanism. I think what I find so deeply fulfilling in Canada is living and learning from what Paul Gilroy and others would call “convivial multicultures.” So I like going on streetcars in Toronto and listening to Portuguese, or playing football—soccer, sorry—with Brazilians and other folks from around the world. I often use the joke, actually, “I know I’ll have assimilated when I start saying ‘hockey’ rather than ‘ice hockey.’” I still haven’t quite got there. I still say, “ice hockey,” rather than “hockey.”

**Chronicles:** Last question, how do you like working in Kingston?

**DM:** It’s been wonderful. I mean, when you talked about being at home earlier, I feel at home when I’m close to bodies of water. Growing up, riding my bike along the waterfront and looking at the River Mersey and the Liverpool docks was something that brought me joy and peace. And I still love riding my bike around Kingston and the waterfront trail, and rereading Frederick Douglass’ reflections on what it was like to work in Baltimore and his metaphors of ships and sailing in relation to the voyage to freedom in the Black Intellectual History class. I’ve also been inspired by incredible colleagues in the Cultural Studies program, Art History, and other units at Queen’s—this term is the first time that I’m teaching a class where almost all of the students are from one department, albeit with many of the History students taking minors in other units. It’s been very interesting to think about how to cultivate journeys of intellectual discovery, spend time engaging with students’ interests, passions, previous readings, etc., and inviting them to draw some connections with a Black intellectual tradition to consider, “here’s where we can go.”

# Course Features

## HIST 241: (TOPICS IN HISTORY): KINGSTON: A CULTURAL HISTORY

By Professor Gordon Dueck

**B**ased on original research, HIST-241 is a new cultural history that focuses not on the old families and institutions of the city but on the contributions of minorities—African-Canadians and new immigrants (Jews, Greeks, and Irishmen primarily)—to the development of the entertainment industry here.

Because Kingston has always been a garrison town, the military has had an outsized impact on the city’s musical and theatrical scene. Grand events like the Royal Military College’s June Ball are recognized as having put a British stamp on the character of the city. But RMC also put on an annual blackface minstrel show, from 1881 to 1926, which shows an American influence.

Dr. Cheryl Thompson of Toronto Metropolitan University has said that blackface minstrelsy is as Canadian as hockey. Indeed, on the day in 1886 that Queen’s College and Royal Military College played the first hockey game in Kingston, women in the audience outnumbered the men—because half of the cadets were at the Rockwood hospital, attending the lunatic asylum’s minstrel show.

There was not an aspect of social life in Kingston untouched by blackface minstrelsy. One could go to afternoon tea at St. Andrew’s Church to hear white women “coon shouting,” and to a youth meeting at St. George’s to watch white men impersonating

black women on stage. Alfie Pierce, the Negro mascot of the Queen’s varsity teams, sang plantation songs and danced a “cakewalk” for their amusement. The Queen’s College official songbook included as many “coon songs” as Scottish, Irish, or English ditties. When the rugby squad won its second Grey Cup in a row, Principal Bruce Taylor celebrated by leading the players in a rousing rendition of “Old Black Joe.”

White supremacy was embedded in the city’s cultural life in the nineteenth century and continued to be promulgated in the twentieth century with films like “Birth of a Nation” (1915) opening here to rapturous praise. Special discounts were given to school children so that they could see history on “written by lightning”; tickets to “Birth of a Nation” could be purchased from their schoolteachers. Ten years later, in 1925, the Ku

Klux Klan marched down Princess Street and held a rally at City Hall. The next year, the KKK were invited to participate in the Dominion Day parade, marching along with Girl Guides, church groups, and the Great War Veterans’ minstrel band. On the KKK float, a giant cross was lit up with electric bulbs.

Despite this seemingly hostile environment, Black singers, dancers, actors, and comedians were a popular draw. Most were American imports. Local African-Canadian performers, however, also made their mark but only their white counterparts are remembered. German-born Oscar Telgmann founded the Kingston Symphony Orchestra and rates an entry in the Canadian Encyclopedia. But Clarence Jones, who played with Telgmann in earlier iterations of the symphony, has been erased from local history, despite that he went on to play for the King of England (in blackface) as part of Broadway’s first all-Negro musical. So did George Hammond, originally from Hamilton; he billed himself as “The Man Who



HISTORICAL VIEW OF PRINCESS STREET AS DEPICTED ON A POSTCARD  
(QUEEN’S ARCHIVES)



### AN AD FOR GEORGE HAMMOND AND CLARENCE JONES AT LAKE ONTARIO PARK FROM 1904

Made King Edward Laugh.” Daniel Reilly, half-Irish, half-West Indian, played a command performance for King Edward in 1860 when he was still the Prince of Wales. (Reilly’s

violin conservatory/barber shop was located where Sushi Zen now stands.)

The first nickelodeon opened in Pittsburgh in 1905. By 1907, these proto-movie theatres were springing up in Kingston, owned primarily by new immigrants—Jews, Greeks, and Irishmen. Each of the five-cent venues had a piano player and a house singer, who doubled as a manager. The first house singer/manager of the first nickelodeon in Kingston was “colored comedian” George Hammond. He also owned a hotel on Ontario Street so that touring Negro musicians could be guaranteed a place to stay. Eventually Hammond would go to work for the brothers Jay and Jules Allen. They became the first Canadian movie moguls, owning the largest chain of movie theatres in North America—until Adolph Zukor of Paramount crushed them. (That’s

why the Allen Theatre at 213 Princess Street became the Capitol Theatre in 1922.)

Students will learn how soldiers, new immigrant impresarios, and African-Canadian entertainers, building on a foundation of blackface minstrelsy, worked together to create the popular culture of early twentieth century Kingston. Apart from Cheryl Thompson’s work, there are not many secondary sources on the subject of blackface in Canada. I gleaned the information above from primary sources made available by the Kingston and Frontenac Library. Using newspaper databases and city directories, as well as the Canadian Census, students will be encouraged to explore the topic on their own in research essays, walking tours, and podcasts.

## HIST 834: PUBLIC HISTORY: SKILLS AND PRAXIS

By Professor Caroline-Isabelle Caron

In the last decade or so, it has become patently apparent that history doctoral candidates in Canada face diminishing chances of securing an academic position upon completion. The Canadian Historical Association’s Committee on the Future of the History PhD’s recent report certainly brought this point home: “[...] the number of people being hired relative to the numbers completing PhDs is particularly bleak right now.” (17) We can’t afford to continue advancing graduate students solely towards a research and education career, one most are likely never to attain. Preparing our student body for a vast array of history careers outside of the Academy seems the most beneficial

tactic at the moment. A large majority of my own graduate students over the years have intentionally designed their research projects with the goal of entering the workforce as public historians or historian activists. Happily, our department’s public history undergraduate course offering was greatly expanded in recent years, thanks to Martina Hardwick’s dedicated work, but short of creating a brand new concentration within our undergraduate programme, the next logical step is to introduce a graduate seminar in the field.

This is the rationale behind HIST834: Public History: Skills and Praxis. Its main learning objective is to introduce the challenges, the variety, and the

rewards of being an academically-trained historian in the non-academic history job market. The course aims to provide graduate candidates with a good understanding of their own skillsets, and to the diversity of project types most commonly related to public history work. The emphasis is on articulating and honing graduate students’ already considerable knowledge and skills to enable them to successfully enter the public history field, be it in a history consultancy firm, as a corporate archivist, or a historian-activist, among others. A key aspect is to unpack the misconception that, outside of academia, the only valid historical careers they could hope for would be in public archives or museums.

HIST834 will be offered for the first time in the Winter term 2024. The course is divided into two

alternating components. On even weeks, discussions over key thinkers in the field will allow students to better discern their own knowledge and marketable skills, explore the ideological and ethical questions of doing public-facing history, and the inherent issues and difficulties of doing history contract work in the private and public sector. They will reflect on what type of public intellectual they are willing to be. On odd weeks, students will workshop public history project portfolios and proposals, that will be presented in December 2024 in a showcase open to the broader public. Throughout the semester, they will be practicing “selling” their projects while ensuring the quality of the historical narratives they chose to transmit. To help guide students along the way, we will be welcoming three specialist guest speakers who have considerable experience in working as academically-trained public historians: our own Martina Hardwick, Dr. Gillian I. Leitch (Executive Director of the Association of Canadian Archivists), and Dr. Sean Stoyles (Senior Research Consultant at CDCI Research Inc.).

The course hinges on the learning-by-doing principle. Students reflect on their own specialties and skills and on the ways they can be applied in their portfolio development. Their project will be geared at a community organization of their choice, such as a public institution, a private entity, or a governmental/para-governmental institution. Considerable emphasis is put on creativity and innovation in the delivery of historical information to the broader public. Students will be divided into groups to mimic conditions in the field, where task delegation and group creative work are de rigueur. The project can take the form of a mini-video documentary or docudrama, an audio or video



**FISHERMAN MONUMENT ON THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS**

podcast, a website, an exhibit, a game, etc. While students will not actually be creating the project itself (they will not actually be filming a docudrama, for example), their plan will convey all the particulars, who will be involved and in charge of what, who would need to be hired, production and/or hosting locations, related activities, audience and potential controversies, objects/images to use, publicity, and will include sample ancillary texts (for example, sample labels for an exhibit or sample text for a guided tour, etc.). Project development is divided into four components to facilitate gradual skill acquisition and evaluation.

As this is a 12-week seminar, we cannot hope to do everything that a full Public History graduate programme would. This is, for the most part, an introductory course after all. Notably, we cannot hope to teach graduate students how to put together a full project budget or financial plan beyond generalities. This choice is not without justification,

however, since any institution or company students are likely to work for will have their own rules, procedures and forms for project budgeting. Similarly, the particulars of governmental funding differ greatly from one municipality or province to the next, let alone between different federal allocation programmes.

The greatest quality public and public-facing historians can hope to attain is flexibility, nimbleness, in methodology and approach. No matter how well prepared or skilled, a public historian must learn to adapt to each of their work situations and projects. Creativity and lateral thinking, and a willingness to fulfill the specific requirements of each project, will be as essential to our graduates as their subject specialization is in their graduate research. It is my goal that HIST834 will allow our graduates to see historical work in a broader and creative way, opening up their career potential, and that they will continue to be academically-trained historians after leaving our ivory tower.

# Experiential Learning

## ANOTHER EXCITING YEAR OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

by Jenn Lucas, Program Manager, Strategic Planning & Curricular Initiatives; and Course Instructor, HIST 212 Experiential Learning in Historical Practice

Students in the Department of History have had an exciting year full of experiential learning opportunities to expand their knowledge of history and apply their historical skills beyond the classroom. Each year dozens of undergraduate students study abroad in several countries as part of the Queen's student exchange programs. This year, the Department of History launched a program called History Summer Plus. During the 6-week summer term, a group of History students traveled to Bader College at Herstmonceux in East Sussex to study history in a fifteenth-century castle. Students enrolled in courses about castles and kingdoms in Medieval Europe, *Sex and Death in the Middle Ages*, and conducted independent archival research under the supervision of Dr Claire Kennan (please see Dr Kennan's separate article on experiential learning at the Castle in this issue of *Chronicles*).

The summer term on main campus was just as exciting for those students who decided to continue their studies in Kingston. Professor Scott Berthelette offered his Principal's Impact Course, "The Geography, History, and Ecology of Anishinaabewaki: Anishinaabeg in the Great Lakes Basin, 1000ce-1867". The course prioritized a place-based experiential learning

which involved an Indigenous Walking Tour of Kingston, a visit to Kingston's Lower Burial Ground at St. Paul's Anglican Church, the Great Lakes Museum, Bellevue House National Historic Site, the Queen's University Archives, and the W.D. Jordan Rare Books & Special Collections. To learn more about this exciting course, please see Professor Berthelette's reflection piece published on the Department's website in recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Like Professor Berthelette, many instructors in the Department of History work with local organizations to offer students exciting experiential learning opportunities. Professor Norman Vorano (Art History and Art Conservation), Professor Amitava Chowdhury, and Katie-Marie McNeil jointly offered an interdisciplinary

course that offered students a rare opportunity to use specialized 3D laser imaging technology to digitally document a National Historic Site, the Kingston Penitentiary. Students studied the history of Kingston's prisons and traced how Canada's oldest—and most notorious—prison has been transforming into a tourist site. This course benefited from guest lectures from instructors in both departments and acts as a model in collaborative teaching for departments across campus. These course-specific experiential learning opportunities are made possible by generous donations to the History Department Trust Fund. Stay tuned for more exciting courses, including Professor Aditi Sen's Principal's Impact Course, "In Health and Sickness: How Pandemics Shaped the History of the World".

Our dedicated internship course (HIST 212) is growing! We offer dedicated internships with over 40 local, national, and international organizations throughout the fall and winter terms. If you work with

**"I gained so many skills that I plan to carry with me for the rest of my life, in both the workplace and in day to day life. I would highly recommend!"**

*- Marissa Little*

**"HIST 212 was an amazing opportunity to earn 'real-world' experience in history based occupations. Before beginning my position with the City of Kingston Heritage Services, I had not fully understood the potential of a history degree."**

*- Rehleigh Giesl-Butler*

**"HIST 212 was my favourite course because it helped prepare me for my future, and I made so many wonderful memories interning at Servicewomen's Salute!"**

*- Katharine Kanters*



**HISTORY  
DEPARTMENT  
STAFF MEMBERS  
TAKING  
THE TROLLEY  
BUS TOUR IN  
CONNECTION  
WITH PROFESSOR  
SCOTT  
BERTHELETTE'S  
COURSE**

an organization that could offer an enriching in-person, hybrid, or remote educational experience for an undergraduate intern, please reach out to me by email (jenn.lucas@queensu.ca)! The article below by Katharine Kanters highlights one of our newest internship opportunities with Servicewomen's Salute. Each internship is unique

and allows students to tailor their internship experience to their individual interests and professional development goals. Visit the HIST 212 website to learn more about our partners and please consider supporting them by visiting the museums, signing up for their newsletters, and/or following them on social media.

The year 2023 has undoubtedly been marked by a thriving season of experiential learning, and we remain committed to providing enriching and profound educational experiences for our students.

This program has been a highlight of my University career thus far! If you are considering applying, do it!

## **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AT THE CASTLE**

by Dr. Claire Kennan, Senior Lecturer in History & Research Coordinator, Bader College

**B**ader College at the Herstmonceux Castle Estate is the UK campus of Queen's University, offering unique experiential learning opportunities for History students. Part fifteenth-century crenelated manor house, part twentieth-century medieval-inspired reconstruction, the "castle" remains an active heritage destination as well as a place of study in the East Sussex countryside. During my time at the castle, I have developed three History courses which utilized the castle itself and nearby museums, archives and heritage sites, to ensure that experiential learning was at the centre of students' time in Herstmonceux.

Hidden Lives in the Archives (HIST 402) provided students with the opportunity to develop their archival research skills and to explore the history of archives--and of their construction and access to them--across the UK. Students focussed on issues relating to race, gender, sexuality, class and (dis)ability across the archive sector and the stories which can so often be hidden from view. Each week students looked at a different type of archive from the very local (the Castle's own archive), to the national (The National Archives, London), grass roots community archives (Black Cultural Archives) and born-digital archives (the Young Historians Project. Students used

archival databases to find records relating to each week's theme, culminating in the creation of their very own digital archive which was built using open-source software. Students also went on two trips to visit an actual archive *in situ*. Each trip involved a behind-the-scenes tour and a document-handling workshop. Archives visited as part of the course included The Keep where students explored the Mass Observation Collection, the Wiener Holocaust Library where students saw family records and methods of subversive communication, the London Metropolitan Archives to investigate how black communities lived and worked during the Tudor period (1485-1603) and the National Archives to explore the 1921 census.

Conquest, Catastrophe & Climate Change: Medieval Britain c. 1000 – 1400 (HIST 241) focussed on



**HIST 402 (HIDDEN LIVES IN THE ARCHIVES) STUDENTS AT THE KEEP GETTING READY TO UNCOVER SOCIAL HISTORY TRENDS THROUGH THE MASS OBSERVATION ARCHIVE.**

the period of history between the Norman Conquest and the Black Death, two key moments which shaped the Britain we know today. As part of this course students explored topics ranging from the development of the Angevin Empire to the expulsion of the Jews in 1290, the making of a martyr with Thomas Becket's murder and the Great Revolt of 1381. Each week students engaged with primary sources (in translation) including chroniclers' contemporary accounts of events, legal documents, administrative records and hagiographies. In addition to working with primary source materials, students also engaged with three specific experiential learning opportunities. The first of these was a trip to nearby Battle Abbey which was built, allegedly, on the site of the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Students had a guided walking tour of the site and visited the exhibition, comparing the primary source materials they had

used in class with the stories being told by English Heritage. The second trip was to Canterbury Cathedral, the site of the murder of Thomas Becket in 1170. Students had a tour of the Cathedral, seeing at first-hand architectural developments from the Romanesque to the Gothic. They also spent time in the Cathedral Archives looking at artifacts and documents relating to Becket's life, death and commemoration throughout history. Finally, students tried their hand at making their very own plague remedies using medieval recipes and natural ingredients sourced from the Castle Estate. Throughout the course, students were encouraged to put themselves in the shoes of the people they were studying. How did these political, social and cultural developments affect the lives of men and women of all classes, from peasants through to the nobility? How did they negotiate political uncertainty, religious intolerance, a vibrant

but precarious economy, bouts of plague, the demands of lords, and the burdens and benefits of a royal government?

Sex and Death in the Middle Ages (HIST 402) encouraged students to consider how sex and death affected medieval societies from a variety of perspectives through the close examination of primary source material including legal cases, medical texts, liturgy, literature, art and archaeology. Issues of gender, sexuality and space were central to discussions along with the themes of violence, mortality and disease. Students also considered how sex and death have shaped modern misconceptions regarding the medieval era using original source material to challenge the use and abuse of the 'medieval' in video games, TV shows and film. In week one of the course students had a film screening (complete with popcorn) of the 2021 Ridley Scott film *The Last*





**HIST 241 (CONQUEST, CLIMATE CHANGE & CATASTROPHE: BRITAIN C. 1000 - 1400) STUDENTS AT BATTLE ABBEY EXPLORING THE ALLEGED SITE OF THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS. PHOTO: C. KENNAN**



**HIST 402 (HIDDEN LIVES IN THE ARCHIVES) STUDENTS GAINING HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY DOCUMENTS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, LONDON. PHOTO: C. KENNAN**

Duel. Based on a true story from fourteenth-century France, the film offered students the opportunity to consider the themes of sex and death and medievalism in the twenty-first century by comparing Ridley Scott’s portrayal with original primary source materials from Froissart’s *Chroniques* and Eric Jager’s 2004 book: *The Last Duel: A True Story of Crime, Scandal, and Trial by Combat*. In particular, they considered issues of historical accuracy, the fetishization of ‘the

medieval’ and both historical and contemporary views on women’s bodies and ownership. Students were also given the chance to explore the Wellcome Collection and Library in London as part of their midterm Trip. The Wellcome Collection houses some of the earliest surviving medieval manuscripts relating to health and medicine. The collection focuses on the social history of health and medicine and therefore allowed to students to engage with the human

experience of health in the Middle Ages.

The rich medieval heritage of East Sussex and South-East England more broadly provided plenty of opportunities to immerse students in the history they were studying. This historically-rich landscape also inspired students to think about how our history is managed, cared for, and told, ultimately encouraging them to become not only ‘historians’ but more actively engaged global citizens.

## **CARRYING THE TORCH: MY INTERNSHIP AT SERVICEWOMEN’S SALUTE**

By: Katharine Kanters  
History Undergraduate Student and HIST 212 Intern  
(Winter 2023)

**T**o you from failing hands we throw/ the torch; be yours to hold it high” is the most impactful line from John McCrae’s “In Flanders Fields.” This poem had such a profound impact on me that ever since I heard it I have been actively trying to carry

the torch of remembrance by sharing veterans’ stories. Servicewomen’s Salute was the perfect internship for me because nobody works harder at sharing veterans’ stories than Servicewomen’s Salute’s founder Rosemary Park. Ms. Park was my supervisor at Servicewomen’s



**Katharine honouring veterans in Dieppe, France**



**KATHARINE & VETERANS AT EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY DIEPPE RAID COMMEMORATION**



**ROSEMARY PARK SPEAKING AT SERVICEWOMEN ASPIRE AND INSPIRE EVENT**

*Servicewomen Aspire and Inspire Event*

October 12-14 2023  
in Ottawa, Ontario

**REGISTRATION OPENS IN JUNE!**



**Inviting servicewomen, women veterans, and supporters to three exciting days!**

- Learning Workshops
- Meet and Greets, Music
- Digital Story Recordings
- Community Expo
- Art and History Exhibitions
- Formal Reception and Dinner
- Women Warriors Healing Garden,
- Fall Rhapsody, Pepper Pod Tours



**GRAPHIC KATHARINE DESIGNED**

Salute. I was first introduced to Ms. Park by military historian Professor Allan English, and upon meeting her I instantly knew I wanted her to mentor me through the HIST 212 course.

Ms. Park created Servicewomen's Salute to support servicewomen and showcase their contributions to the Canadian Armed Forces. While interning with Ms. Park I had several incredible professional development opportunities. The first was researching servicewomen's military contributions from pre-colonization to the present day. For 138 years, Canadian women have performed military service whenever called upon, in whatever roles allowed, in whatever conditions demanded, anywhere in the world. However, military women have been described as "an invisible force" because their contributions are rarely studied by military historians and shared with Canadian students. Therefore, as part of my internship, I designed a timeline that showcased key events that impacted servicewomen and the numerous contributions

servicewomen have made to the Canadian Armed Forces throughout history. This timeline was shared at the Servicewomen Aspire and Inspire Event.

In addition to developing my research skills, Ms. Park presented me with the opportunity to try my hand at graphic design. Because many jobs in the history and heritage sector require their employees to have graphic design skills, she recognized that I needed to learn how to create effective graphics. Therefore, I designed the flyers that we posted on Servicewomen's Salute's social media to encourage servicewomen to attend the Servicewomen Aspire and Inspire Event. Because of my graphic design experience, I now can present information in a concise manner and know how to use colour schemes to make my designs eye-catching.

While I enjoyed developing my research and graphic design skills, my favorite part of my internship was interviewing servicewomen. Because Ms. Park and I wanted to understand servicewomen's

lived experiences, I was tasked with organizing Zoom interviews with veterans from across Canada and developing the questions which we would ask the veterans. Meeting with the servicewomen was absolutely incredible. During these meetings, I heard stories of how servicewomen faced sexism with courage, determination, and resilience. These women not only bravely served despite the CAF leadership's discrimination against them; they also paved the way for future generations of servicewomen.

I constantly promote the internship program to history students because in addition to developing skills that make me a competitive applicant for future jobs, I now have a mentor. Even though my internship has ended, I am still in contact with Rosemary Park. She sends me updates about Servicewomen's Salute and shares future career opportunities with me. HIST 212 provides students with the once in a lifetime opportunity to test drive a future career and build a supportive network of people in the history and heritage sector.

# Student Research Awards

## DILLON CHICOSKI RECEIVES SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Over the summer of 2023, I was fortunate enough to receive an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF), which provided funding and an opportunity to engage in research under the supervision of Professor Amitava Chowdhury. The subject of my research was the perception of the British colonies in Britain between 1830 and 1870. Specifically, I was focused on the trend wherein the perception of the colonies shifted from optimistic to pessimistic during that period. In practice, the research involved reading thousands of contemporary newspapers accessed through the British Newspaper Archive and thousands of entries in the Hansard of the United Kingdom's House of Commons Parliamentary Papers. The research itself was, however, only one part of the overall experience. I met with Professor Chowdhury weekly as our schedules permitted; the USSRF did not just offer the opportunity to perform research, it also offered an opportunity to directly learn from and receive guidance from one of the History department's professors. Although the USSRF project officially concluded in August, I remain interested in the subject and continue my research into it as part of an independent research paper through HIST 514.

## ARIANNE ETTEHADIEH WINS THE RIVARD-PRENDERGAST STUDENTSHIP AWARD

History 515 is a full-year length course requiring students to propose and then write a short thesis of about 50 pages; it offers upper-year undergraduate students a unique opportunity. Established to fund a research studentship in the Department of History, that will offer upper-year undergraduate students a unique opportunity for intellectual and professional growth outside of the classroom. Thanks to the generosity of Catherine Rivard and Alan Prendergast, the Department of History is able to award a studentship to the proposal judged the most outstanding among those submitted by our fourth year students. This year's winner, Arianne Ettehadieh, describes her project and how she developed it below.

I am thrilled to have received the Rivard-Prendergast Studentship Award for my HIST 515 thesis proposal at Queen's University. My thesis is entitled, "Recognizing Indigenous History in the Eastern Townships: The Historical and Settler Colonial Erasure of the Abenaki First Nations and their Territoriality in Southeastern Quebec."

My fascination with this topic began in 2021 as I learned about Indigenous history in Professor Scott Berthelette's core seminar course, The Indigenous History of North America. One of the first things we covered in this class was the correct use of land acknowledgements



**ARIANNE ETTEHADIEH STANDS OUTSIDE THE MUSÉE DE ABÉNAKIS IN ODENAK, NOVEMBER 2023**

when recognizing Indigenous land, people, and history.

At the same time, I was also involved in discussions with the Georgeville Historical Association concerning the presence of the Abenaki First Nation in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. During my discussions with the society, I noticed that we were determining Abenaki presence based on a colonial perspective, rather than considering what the Abenaki themselves would have recognized as their own land. In addition to this, I also found that material explicitly showing the presence of the Abenaki in the area was hard to find. With the support of Professor Berthelette, I took this challenge as the inspiration for my

final project in his seminar course. My conclusions helped counter colonial claims that ignored the Abenaki's ancestral heritage to the Eastern Townships, while also re-framing ideas surrounding land ownership, property rights, and boundaries.

My HIST 515 thesis is now a natural outgrowth from the earlier research I conducted on this topic. My goal is to use the time granted by the HIST 515 course, under the guidance of my supervisor Professor Berthelette, to dig more deeply into archival sources, primary published sources, archaeological reports, and secondary sources to explore further my working hypothesis that the Eastern Townships are the ancestral territory of the Abenaki First Nation. I am particularly looking forward to visiting Odanak, an Abenaki community on the bank of the Saint-François River. This is the home of the Musée Abenaki, where I hope to increase my knowledge of the Abenaki and their history in Quebec. I feel very fortunate and grateful to have won this award and privileged to work alongside expert historians such as Professor Berthelette, who has supported and believed in me since we initially discussed the Abenaki and their presence in the Eastern Townships in 2021.

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### **HARRISON DRESSLER RECEIVES QUEEN'S PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP FELLOWSHIP**

This year, Harrison Dressler became one of only three Masters students at Queen's to be selected as a fellow as part of the university's Public Scholarship Program (QPSP). This new initiative offers eight graduate students a \$5,000 fellowship,

monthly workshops, and additional training under faculty mentors to promote socially engaged and community-oriented scholarship. Dressler will take part in a series of collaborative events meant to refine his background in media training, leadership, project management, and knowledge dissemination through traditional and alternative channels.

When asked about this landmark achievement, Dressler relayed that he was most excited to work alongside mentors Dr. Lee Airton, Dr. Heather Aldersey, and Dr. Wendy Craig, as well as a group of fellow graduate students with a mutual interest in public-facing research. These sorts of scholarly communities are important, he said, because of our society's lack of public intellectuals. He's hoping to use the QPSP's mentorship program as a sounding board for his research as he plans to distribute his findings in newspapers and other short-form publications across the province.

Harrison, a second year Masters student studying under Dr. Lisa Pasolli, is using the fellowship to continue his study of the Ontario Institute for the Blind (OIB) between 1872-1917. His thesis examines the history of institutionalization by using first-hand accounts and oral testimony to trace the experiences of students across space and time. In doing so, he hopes to help advance the field of disability history and pave the way for a new perspective on the province's treatment of the visually impaired.

Last year—Harrison's first at Queen's following his completion of an Honours degree in History and Political Science at the University of New Brunswick—he found himself among another select group of students, as one of just three MA students in the department to have his research supported by a Canada



**HARRISON DRESSLER**

Graduate Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Being able to move from one prestigious award to another speaks to the exceptional rigour he brings to field of study and his attention to pressing social issues. Harrison followed up his first year of graduate study with a summer at the Archives of Ontario, broadening his source base. His hope is to continue to connect this academic work with a burgeoning public discourse on institutions like the OIB.

Queen's University sees Public Scholarship fellows like Harrison as creating a positive impact on a local, national, and global scale through their work to exchange, create, and apply knowledge, in collaboration with community partners. By supporting advocacy-based research oriented toward the public good, the program hopes to foster the development of employable skills that reach beyond the academic arena.

# Journals & Conferences

## THE HISTORY OF *LIVING HISTORIES*

By Jonah Grienke, Executive Editor

The history of *Living Histories: A Past Studies Journal* is alive and growing longer, as the journal is entering its third production round for 2023-2024. Established and supported by the Department of History in 2021, *Living Histories* aims to publish high quality undergraduate work, drawing from Queen's University and other institutions in the English-speaking world.

The story of began two years ago, with the first editorial team being selected in the fall of 2021. Sam Russell, Executive Editor of the inaugural issue remembers creating the vision of connecting past to present as an offshoot of his own thoughts as an undergraduate. Russell notes that "When I was reading papers for history class, I would occasionally ask myself after reading, ok, so what? How is this paper applicable to our present day?" and realized that by mandating that connection it would encourage "explicit connection between past and present or future, which requires creativity, and an awareness of how temporal boundaries can become flexible". The 2022 issue furthered this mandate by featuring diverse submissions, including a Foucauldian analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a critique of the hit musical *Hamilton*. It also fielded interdisciplinary approaches to the history of urban planning in Toronto, Indigeneity as represented

in film, and the phenomena of para-social mourning seen through a lens of media studies. The vision of an interdisciplinary approach which connected past to present continued into the second production round, which began in the fall of 2022.

Reagan Feld, Executive Editor of the 2023 issue of *Living Histories* maintained continuity from the previous year. The editorial team was selected in September of 2022, and began working to face the struggles of a new year. Feld writes that "The biggest struggle was getting people to submit... since the journal is younger when compared to other history journals, people are wary about the legitimacy of *Living Histories*". One way in which the editorial team cemented the legitimacy and continuity of the journal was by placing emphasis on the past-to-present connection. It remained the major standard which submissions had to adhere to, making the journal itself unique and maintaining the niche which the publication is meant to fill. The 2023 issue of *Living Histories* presented a range of topics, including papers on homosexuality in the early Nazi movement and its effect on modern Germany, the influence of Jesuit education on Indigenous cultures, and the intersectional activism of the Third World Women's Alliance. Feld notes that "it was a really interesting publication to put together because nothing was quite the same". The past shapes our world today, and

the journal serves as a space to highlight the History department's mission of finding deep insights into the roots of the contemporary world – and adds to it by connecting these roots to the present.

*Living Histories'* third issue, slated for publication in Spring 2023 will maintain the vision of connecting past to present. By drawing upon the journal's two years of established practices and outreach methods, this production round will reach into the greater English-speaking world beyond North America. Continuity is important, and maintaining the vision of the journal will further cement the legacy of *Living Histories* as an academic publication. The history of *Living Histories* is a part of the greater academic project at Queen's University, one which is ever evolving and changing. Submissions close February 2nd, 2024, and the current editorial team looks forward to creating an outstanding third publication.

Special thanks to faculty advisor Professor David Parker and previous editors Sam Russell, Reagan Feld, and Annie Dowd for their contributions to this article.





HEATHER POUSSARD (LEFT), ALEXANDER PEACOCK (MIDDLE), AND ALEX MARTINBOROUGH (RIGHT) PRESENT

## QUEEN'S HISTORY GRAD STUDENTS DOMINATE PROGRAM AT HALIFAX CONFERENCE

A large delegation of Queen's MA and PhD students went to Halifax in mid-October to attend the Northeast Conference on British Studies, a regional division of the North American Conference on British Studies. Papers and their presenters included:

"In these two weeks we will all create history": The Use of History at the 1998 Australian Constitutional Convention  
*Heather Poussard*

Responsible Government, Imperial Obligations, and the Politics of Intercolonial Comparisons  
*Alex Martinborough*

At Home in the Colonies? Domestic Spaces and Material Culture in the Late-Eighteenth-Century British Atlantic  
*Elyse Bell*

Crafting Love: British Women's Gift Exchange, 1830-1870  
*Michaela Cardo*

"If We Plant by Composition": Anglo-Arawak Relations and Roman Law in Guianan Colonization, 1609-1630  
*Joe Borsato*

The Codpiece With A Charm: Coffee and Demographic Anxiety in 1670s England  
*Amelia Rosch*

"Amongst the Howlings of Wild Beasts": Wilderness Worlds and Animal Agency in Eighteenth-Century British Travelogues of North America  
*Alexander Peacock*

"Another Candidate for Royal Audience": Gender, Rights of Access, and Queen Victoria's Stalkers in the Media, 1837-1840  
*Rachel Hamilton*

When Wall Street met Water Street: Political Economy, The Newfoundland Railway Company, and Newfoundland's dance with United States Capital in the late-Nineteenth Century  
*Scott Eaton*

In addition, Professor Amitava Chowdhury, who was unable to attend owing to responsibilities in Kingston, nonetheless had his paper Anti-indenture as Antislavery: The Trope of Slavery in Britain and the British Empire read on his behalf; Professor Daniel Woolf delivered one of two keynote addresses, entitled Experiences of Defeat: Loss, Exile, and Dissent as Themes in British Historiography. Several former students also presented or attended including Dr. David White (PhD 2022) and Dr. Johanna Strong (BA 2017, MA 2019, PhD University of Winchester 2022).

# Faculty News

## Congratulations to Dr. Laila Haidarali, Dr. Andrew Jainchill, and Victoria Cosby, winners of the 2021-2022 Department of History Teaching Awards!

The first of her two teaching awards in 2021-2022, **Dr. Laila Haidarali** was selected for the 2022 Departmental Award for Excellence in Teaching on the strength of nominations by students in both HIST 473: Black Women in Modern US History (Fall 2021) and HIST 400-002: The Harlem Renaissance (Winter 2022). One of her students wrote that “I have never had a more caring, compassionate, and kind professor than this professor in my entire undergraduate experience. The element that stands out most from their teaching style is the attentiveness and validation of people’s thoughts and ideas.” Her students also wrote that Dr. Haidarali “fostered an inclusive space for growth and creativity” that encouraged all of her students to feel comfortable speaking each week.

**Dr. Andrew Jainchill** also received the 2022 Departmental Award for Excellence in Teaching after being nominated by his students in HIST 106: The Making of Modern Europe (Fall 2021). Dr. Jainchill’s students wrote that they had “an amazing time” in his class and that he was an “awesome prof.” Students felt that Dr. Jainchill was “genuinely happy to teach,” and created an engaging class environment in which he expanded on course materials in ways that made the course more enriching.



**Victoria Cosby** was nominated for the department’s teaching fellow Award for Teaching Excellence by her students in HIST 104: Pre-Confederation Canada: A History of the Present (Fall 2021) and HIST 401: Topics in Canadian History: Marginalized Voices in Canadian History (Winter 2022). Her students wrote that she was “absolutely amazing” and “extremely compassionate, intelligent, knowledgeable, and accommodating.” One student wrote that Victoria’s teaching “helped me learn more about myself and encouraged me to think critically about Canadian history.”

Her students also praised her teaching style, explaining how she was “able to make such important topics accessible” and how she was “able to make everyone feel welcome and comfortable even when discussing uncomfortable topics.”

Congratulations to Dr. Haidarali, Dr. Jainchill, and Victoria!

## Stauffer Library’s first floor is renamed the Daniel R. Woolf.

This past February, the main floor of Joseph S. Stauffer Library was renamed in honour of Principal Emeritus—and current Queen’s History professor—Daniel Woolf

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(ArtSci '80). The Daniel R. Woolf Gallery recognizes Dr. Woolf's ten-year term as Queen's twentieth Principal during which he oversaw the largest fundraising campaign in the university's history and the construction or revitalization of several campus landmarks including the new medical building, two new residences, Mitchell Hall, the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts, the extension to the Smith School of Business, Mitchell Hall, and Richardson Stadium.

### **Jeff Brison wins Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision**

Jeffrey Brison received the 2022 Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision (AEGSS) from the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs. This award recognizes graduate supervisors who demonstrate outstanding excellence in advising, monitoring, and mentoring graduate students and who inspire students to push scholarly boundaries and pursue their career and academic goals.

A group of his current and former graduate students nominated Dr. Brison on the basis of his excellent mentorship and multifaceted engagement with graduate students. The nomination letters speak to his compassion, enthusiasm, and intellectual generosity, as well as the effort he puts into nurturing these interpersonal relationships through teaching, supervision, and professional development opportunities. During his time at Queen's, Dr. Brison has formally supervised an impressive total of 45 students across the departments of History, Art History, and Education and in the Cultural Studies Program, where he currently serves as co-director.

### **Laila Haidarali receives the Undergraduate Student Alliance's Teaching Excellence Award**

In addition to receiving the department's annual teaching award, Laila Haidarali was also awarded the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance's Teaching Excellence Award this past year, which recognizes educators who excel at unlocking the potential of Ontario's young people. Laila was nominated by her undergraduate students who stressed her clear commitment to reinvigorating their love of learning and her resolution in the face of challenges in their letters of support. Her grading schemes and seminar formats offered her students many ways to succeed in the classroom, and students also noted her willingness to help them outside of the classroom.

### **Amy Fedeski received the Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Young Scholars Award**

Amy Fedeski received the Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Young Scholars Award for Scholarly Excellence in Research of the Jewish Experience.

The Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Young Scholars Awards are given to two junior scholars from all fields of study who have completed an exceptional Master's thesis and are currently writing a PhD dissertation, or have recently completed a PhD thesis all of which are related to the Jewish experience. Amy recently completed her PhD at the University of Virginia and is currently the Bader Postdoctoral Fellow in Jewish History at Queen's University.

The award provided funds for a three-month research stay at the University of Vienna, during which time Amy conducted archival

research for her project on 20th century Soviet Jewish migrants.

### **Eric Fillion awarded Promoting Student Inquiry Award**

Eric Fillion received the Promoting Student Inquiry Award, one of the Principal's Teaching and Learning Awards, for his work with the ASCX 400 Course Team in partnership with Queen's University Libraries. Eric, the current Buchanan Postdoctoral Fellow in Canadian History, served as one of six faculty mentors from Arts & Science departments on the interdisciplinary instructional team for ASCX 400: Interdisciplinary Client-Based Project last fall.

Students from the Faculty of Arts and Science worked with world-renowned Canadian photographer Edward Burtynsky to help realize his new public art piece titled *Standing Whale*, a true-to-size, re-imagining of a blue whale skeleton. *Standing Whale* aims to bring awareness to the impacts that humans have on the planet.

### **Aditi Sen awarded Principal's Impact Course Award**

Aditi Sen received a Principal's Impact Course award for her proposed upper-year seminar course, "How Pandemics Shaped the History of the World." The proposed course brings together global historical analyses on past pandemics, community engagement in the Kingston area, and experiential learning opportunities in local museums and archives, to weave an innovative and insightful understanding of the role the pandemics have played in shaping our contemporary society and the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). While examining the Black Death, smallpox, cholera, typhoid, malaria, polio, the Spanish flu, tuberculosis, and syphilis,



students will learn about historical themes including the evolution of hospitals, sanitation movements, and the rise of patent medicines and the opiates industry.

Queen's Principal's Impact Courses initiative financially supports the development of new courses that integrate teaching and research, enhance inquiry-based learning, and strengthen local and global community connections.

**Scott Berthelette wins Mary Alice and Philip Boucher Book Prize**

Scott Berthelette's *Heirs of an Ambivalent Empire: French-Indigenous Relations and the Rise of the Métis in the Hudson Bay Watershed* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2022) won the 2023 Mary Alice and Philip Boucher Book Prize.

The award adjudication committee wrote that *Heirs of an Ambivalent Empire* was a "deeply researched study" that "provocatively moves the needle back on historians' consideration of the [M]étis community, anchoring this history in seventeenth-century narratives rather than in the more familiar mid-to-late nineteenth century."

The Boucher Prize recognizes the best book on the French colonial experience from the sixteenth century to 1815. It is awarded in honour of long-time members and active supporters of the French Colonial Historical Society, Mary Alice and Philip Boucher.

**Jane Errington honoured with Distinguished Service Award**

Professor Jane Errington was honoured with a 2023 Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her outstanding service to Queen's University.

Since joining the department in 1996, Professor Errington has taught courses and conducted research on questions of identity and the creation and development of settler societies in colonial North America. She is the recipient of many awards and honours, including an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from RMC, the Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision at Queen's, and the Albert B. Corey Prize for her book *The Lion, the Eagle and Upper Canada* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1985).

Created by the University Council in 1974, the Distinguished Service Awards recognize individuals who have made Queen's a better place through their contributions.

**Jacalyn Duffin awarded the Jason A. Hannah Medal by the Royal Society of Canada**

Professor Emerita Jacalyn Duffin has been awarded the 2023 Jason A. Hannah Medal by the Royal Society of Canada for her book, *Stanley's Dream: The Medical Expedition to Easter Island* (MQUP, 2019). This is the third time Dr. Duffin has been honoured with this medal (previously 2009; 2001).

*Stanley's Dream* explores the 1964-65 expedition of an international team of 38 scientists and assistants led by Montreal physician Stanley Skoryna to Rapa Nui (Easter Island) to conduct an unprecedented survey of its biosphere. Based on archival papers, diaries, photographs, and interviews with seventeen members of the original team, her work sets the expedition in its global context within the early days of ecological research and the understudied International Biological Program.

The Hannah medal is awarded for an important publication within the last

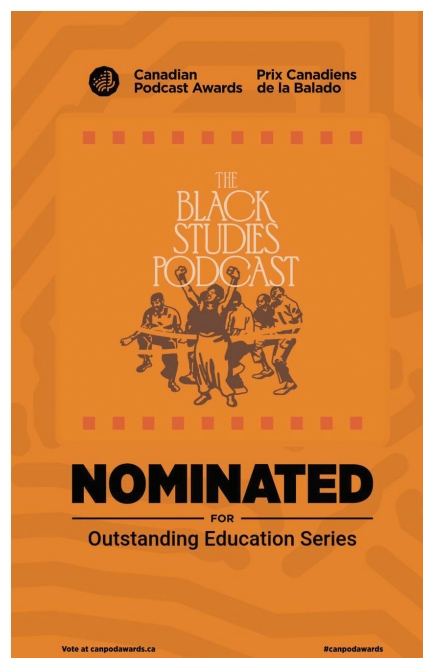
five years in the history of medicine and is named after Queen's alumnus Dr. Jason A. Hannah (Class of 1928) who founded Canada's first physician-sponsored, private provider of health insurance.

**Daniel McNeil's podcast nominated for "Outstanding Education Series".**

*The Black Studies Podcast*, executive produced by Daniel McNeil, was nominated for "Outstanding Education Series" by the Canadian Podcast Awards.

The podcast brings together scholars, activists and artists to discuss creative and collaborative knowledge-making to participate in conversations about intellectual work and new forms of belonging in a variety of settings. In addition, it promotes interdisciplinary and intergenerational communication inspired by creative and enthusiastic social visions of Black life, livingness and culture.

The Canadian Podcast Awards highlight Canadian talent and diversity in podcasting and are determined on the basis of popular vote. This was their fifth year awarding in the category of "Outstanding Education Series."



# Undergraduate News

## DEPARTMENT STUDENT COUNCIL (DSC): REFLECTING ON 2022-2023

By: Katharine Kanters & Melanie Escobar, Co-Presidents

The History Department Student Council (DSC) represents all undergraduate history students at Queen's. The role of the history DSC is to provide history students with opportunities and events that will help them grow academically, professionally, and personally. The DSC also organizes events for students to come together as a community and have fun during the academic year. Last year's 2022-2023 co-presidents were Isobel Gibson and Dillion Chicoski. We appreciated the work that Isobel and Dillion put into supporting the history department and students.

The 2022-2023 academic year was the first year fully in-person since COVID, allowing the DSC to host more lively and fun events. The prior co-presidents attended several events during the year, such as Fall Preview and Majors Nights, and hosted a History Movie Night in the first semester. Other teams in the DSC, such as the Blog Team consisting of Ethan Chan and Isra Henson, created several fantastic articles. For example, "Lying About History" and "Historians and Propaganda" encouraged readers to think critically and "The Sixties Scoop" revealed the importance of listening to Indigenous voices. During the academic year, the Marketing team, consisting of Hannah Purches,

Sofia Tosello, Zoe Brown, and Owen Violi, created multiple fun designs for the History DSC Instagram account, keeping history students updated and informed throughout the year.

Melanie and Katharine will continue the DSC's legacy of supporting students by hosting events that build a supportive community for history students. For example, in 2023, the DSC Events team has already taken history students on a tour of Kingston Penitentiary, invited students to write postcards to veterans for a Remembrance Day event, and is hosting a trivia night where history students make new friends with people who love history as much as they do. The 2023-2024 DSC is honoured to represent history students and continue to build community within the department this year and in the years ahead.



2023-2024 HISTORY DEPARTMENT STUDENT COUNCIL PENITENTIARY EVENT

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS!

### Convocating Student Awards:

Medal in History: **Alexandra Paul**

The Helena M. Child Prize: **Autumn Zavitz**

The Frederick W. Gibson Prize in Canadian History: **Annie Dowd**

The Michael R.G. Harris Memorial Prize in Naval and Military History: **Alexia Platt**

The Michael R.G. Harris Memorial Scholarship in History: **Anna Thoburn**

The Andrew Haydon Prize in Colonial History: **Aleksandra Ujejska**

The Arthur M. Keppel-Jones Essay Prize: **Alexander Wodzicki**

The Alexander MacLachlan Peace Prize: **Victor Drazilov**

The Grattan O'Leary Prize in Canadian History: **Nate Malhis**

John Sherwood Memorial Prize: **Amanda Hacker**

The Osborne Studd Book Prize in History: **Elisabeth Pinto**

Thomas M. Walsh, M.A., Memorial Prize In History: **Isobel Gibson.**

### Returning Student Awards:

Rivard-Prendergast Studentship Award: **Arianne Ettehadieh**  
"Recognizing Indigenous History in the Eastern Townships: The Historical and Settler Colonial Erasure of the Abenaki First Nations and their Territoriality in Southeastern Quebec."

Department of History's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Indigeneity Project Award: **Joelle Lepage & Samuel Schonfeld**

The Arts 1909/1909 Arts Scholarship in History: **Jasmine Hosseininejad**

The James Henry Bocking Memorial Scholarship: **Wennie Chen**

Catherine Brown Scholarship in History: **Kai Siallagan**

Kathryn Dawson Scholarship: Marianne **Chaundry-Smart**

The David Alexander Scholarship in History: **Sheana Tchebotaryov**

Arthur and Evelyn Lower Scholarship: **Suzanne Dupras, Haley Allen, Massimo Recupero & Vivian Zhang**

The W.B. Munro Scholarship in History: **Sheana Tchebotaryov**

The Sarah Murray Scholarship: **Jocelyn Carr**

Alice Pierce Waddington Scholarship in History: **Anthea Day**

### Jocelyn Carr receives "Junior Nobel Prize" in History

Jocelyn Carr was selected as the Regional Winner (US & Canada) in History as part of the 2023 Global Undergraduate Awards for her work entitled "My poems are indelicate. But so is life.": Langston Hughes's Misalignment with the Dominant Harlem Renaissance Agenda."

The Global Undergraduate Awards, often dubbed the "Junior Nobel Prize," received submissions from more than 2,800 undergraduate students across 409 institutions this year and provide individual winners such as Jocelyn with a certificate of recognition as well as the publication of their work, with access to an established alumni network, and with an opportunity to present their work at the Undergraduate Awards Global Summit in Dublin.

Regional Winner



History

## Jocelyn Carr

"My poems are indelicate. But so is life.": Langston Hughes's Misalignment with the Dominant Harlem Renaissance Agenda



# Graduate News

## **FOCUSING ON WELLNESS AND CAMARADERIE: GHSА 2022 - 2023 IN REVIEW**

By Heather Poussard  
President, Graduate History Students' Association (GHSА)

**T**he GHSА approached the winter of 2022 with the themes of wellness and camaraderie. Event highlights include a mental health support workshop, a yoga class, and an end-of-term celebration at the Grad Club.

In August, the GHSА was back to welcome incoming MA and PhD students. We organized a variety of social gatherings as part of orientation for new students. At the end of September, the GHSА hosted our annual Beers with Profs event. It was great to catch up with graduate students in all levels of the program and see the profs out of the classroom! Also in September, the GHSА held elections to complement the skeleton crew executive operating through the summer – we are back at full strength and excited about what we will accomplish this year!

The GHSА has been busy planning events for grad students to socialize. In October, we organized a ghost tour of Queen's campus with the Haunted Walk of Kingston. We lucked out with a dark and foggy evening, perfect for sharing ghost stories. Attendees were particularly excited to be joined by the Celestial Seasonings Sleepytime Tea bear! We also have our holiday party at the Screening Room and many more events for 2024 in the works.

This fall, our Treasurer, Michaela Sapielak, organized a Queen's History

sweater sale to fundraise for the GHSА. Grad students, undergrads, staff, and faculty will be comfy and cozy this winter, and I anticipate some regular – though maybe unintentional – outfit matching come January!

We also teamed up with the department to host a heritage and public history career panel

in November. Our Professional Development Rep, Kat MacDonald, with the support of the department will continue to organize PD events in the winter term, including social media and resume writing workshops.

In addition to holding social and professional events, the GHSА continues to be the voice of graduate students in the department and prioritizes advocating on their behalf. If you want to get in touch with the GHSА, you can email us at [GHSА@queensu.ca](mailto:GHSА@queensu.ca).



**JAKE BREADMAN, 2ND YEAR PHD STUDENT, AS THE BELOVED CELESTIAL SEASONINGS SLEEPYTIME TEA BEAR MASCOT ON THE HAUNTED WALK OF QUEEN'S CAMPUS TOUR.]**

## Congratulations to our recent Doctoral Graduates!

**Dr. Katie-Marie McNeill**, “Prisoner Aid Beyond Borders: A Transnational History of Prisoner Aid Societies in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, 1930-1970.” September 2023. Co-Supervisors: Dr. Karen Dubinsky and Dr. Jeff Brison.

**Dr. Sean Marrs**, “L’oeuil incommodé: Police Surveillance in Eighteenth-Century Paris.” May 2023. Supervisor: Dr. Andrew Jainchill.

**Dr. Paul Gebhardt**, “Gregory Palamas and Demetrios Kydones on God, Knowledge, and Humanity at the End of Byzantium.” January 2023. Supervisor: Dr. Richard Greenfield.

**Dr. Bingru Yue**, “From Wetland Wilderness to Ecological Model: Reclamations of Chongming Island, Shanghai, from 1950 to 2020.” January 2023. Supervisor: Dr. Emily Hill.

**Dr. David White**, “The Matter of Britain: How the Tudors Adapted British Historic Tradition to Legitimise their Dynasty.” December 2022. Supervisor: Dr. Daniel Woolf.

### Claire Litt wins Dissertation Prize

**Claire Litt** is the 2022-23 recipient of the Department’s PhD Dissertation Prize for her dissertation, “La Gioie Della Vita: The Gemstones, Health, and Beauty of Medici Women,” in which she analyzes the use of gemstones in the life of the Grand Duchess Christine of Lorraine (1565-1637) and her female family members in Florence at the end of sixteenth century and the early decades of the seventeenth.

In his nomination letter, supervisor Dr. Anthony d’Elia described Claire’s work as “a brilliant piece of scholarship”

and commended its originality, importance, and exceptional use of unstudied archival sources in Florence. “Claire’s skills at archival research and paleography in sixteenth-century Italian documents are enviable and unusual,” he wrote, lauding her ability to decipher, transcribe, and translate a vast number of difficult-to-read sources. Another member of Claire’s examining committee added that her dissertation was possibly the very best thesis he had seen in more than 30 years and, like the gemstones that it focuses on, it comprised “a rich, sparkling, attractive, polished, multi-faceted piece of work presented in a near flawless setting.”

Today, Claire is continuing her research as a postdoctoral fellow at the Science History Institute in Philadelphia as part of a project entitled “Real and Synthetic Stones as Materia Medica in Late Renaissance Medical Alchemy.”

### Shaelyn Ryan and Josh Weisenberg-Vincent co-recipients of MA Thesis Prize

This year’s MA Thesis Prize was awarded to two graduate students, **Shaelyn Ryan** and **Josh Weisenberg-Vincent**, for their outstanding research. Shaelyn’s thesis, “Missing Parts: A Critical Analysis of Amputees and Disability History in Three Canadian Archives and Museums,” examined how conceptions of disability have been constructed and presented in The Middleville and District Museum, the Museum of Health Care at Kingston, and Library and Archives Canada. This study was completed under the supervision of Dr. Steven Maynard and provided valuable experience for Shaelyn in her new role as Assistant Curator of the Medical Artifact Collection at Western University in London, Ontario.

Josh’s thesis, meanwhile, was supervised by Dr. Amitava Chowdhury and is entitled “The evils of slavery cannot be mitigated: The Amelioration and Emancipation of Slavery in the British Empire, 1785-1865.” Within, Josh illustrates that efforts at improving the conditions of enslaved peoples (i.e. amelioration) stalled, postponed, and often blocked the general movement towards emancipation in the British Empire during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. At present, Josh is continuing his research as a doctoral student at Queen’s.

### Joe Borsato receives Huntington Library Fellowship

PhD Candidate **Joe Borsato** has received a prestigious Huntington Library Fellowship. This fellowship provides a short-term grant for Joe to conduct research at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, during the 2023-24 academic year.

Joe’s SSHRC-supported doctoral project investigates the “discourses of intrusion,” or the legal justifications for the English occupation of Indigenous spaces in the Atlantic world, including in Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin Island), Tsenacommacah (Virginia), K’taqamkuk (Newfoundland), Güiri noko (the Orinoco delta), and Mhumhain (Munster). His project examines foundations of international law at a time of early Indigenous-English contact in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries and



is supervised by Jeffrey Collins and Scott Berthelette.

### **Iryna Skubii named the inaugural Mykola Zerov Fellow at the University of Melbourne**

PhD Candidate **Iryna Skubii** has been appointed as the first Mykola Zerov Fellow in Ukrainian Studies at the University of Melbourne. The research position, which has a 3-year term, was created in partnership with the Association of Ukrainians in Victoria (AUV) and is named after the famed Ukrainian poet Mykola Zerov.

Dr. Skubii, who holds a Ph.D.-equivalent degree from Ukraine's V.N. Karazin National University, will use her time in Australia to continue her research into consumption practices, environment factors, and materiality during Ukrainian famines of the twentieth century especially insofar as they remain a part of diasporic memory. In particular, her focus on the role of material objects and ecological factors in the Holodomor of 1932-33 and this famine's place in Ukrainian memory holds a special interest to the university's School of Historical and Philosophical Studies and Research Initiative on Post-Soviet Space.



### **Chris Greencorn wins Student Paper Prize**

PhD student **Chris Greencorn** was awarded the Canadian Society for

Traditional Music's Student Paper Prize. His paper, delivered during a joint conference of Canadian music research societies at Université Laval, was entitled "‘I doubt if they were unusual’: Race and Place in Helen Creighton's 1967 African Nova Scotian Recording Project."

Chris's doctoral project at Queen's focuses on racialization in the work of Canadian women folk music collectors from the immediate postwar to the 1971 official multiculturalism policy and is being supervised by Dr. Lisa Pasolli. This year, Chris is a D.W. Stewart Graduate Fellow and the Roger Graham Fellow in Modern Canadian History. He was the Arthur & Evelyn Lower Graduate Fellow in Canadian History and a Duncan & Urllla Carmichael Fellow in 2022-23.



### **Graduate News Continued**

**Karen Lilja Loftsdottir** presents at the Icelandic Festival in Gimli, Manitoba

PhD Candidate **Karen Lilja Loftsdottir** presented her paper, "Iceland and Canada in the Second World War: A Social History of the Canadian Occupation of Iceland, 1940-1945," on August 6th at the Icelandic Festival in Gimli, Manitoba, which thousands of people attend each year. The festival has a rich history amongst Icelandic Canadians and has been held in Manitoba since the year 1890.

Karen is a second year PhD student and is researching the social history

of the Canadian involvement in the Allied occupation of Iceland in the Second World War under the supervision of Dr. Allan English.



### **Prolific Year for Queen's History Graduate Students**

This past year, the graduate students of the Queen's History department have combined to publish more than a dozen pieces on their research interests. These have ranged from newspaper editorials and major blog posts to four articles in peer-reviewed academic journals, as listed below:

(In order of publication)

**Jake Breadman**, "Calories and Culture: Food, Drink, and the British Army in Early Nineteenth Century Upper Canada," *Ontario History* 115, no. 1 (Spring 2023).

**Margaret O'Riordan Ross**, "'Your Town Is Rotten': Prostitution, Profit, and the Governing of Vice in Kingston, Ontario, 1860s-1920s," *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 32, no. 2 (May 2023).

**Iryna Skubii**, "Food Waste and Survival in Times of the Soviet Famines in Ukraine," *Journal of Contemporary History* (July 2023).

**Alexander Peacock & Scott Berthelette**, "Joseph Smith's Journal of a Journey Inland from York Factory, 1756-57." *The New American Antiquarian* (Fall 2023).

# Alumni News

## Claire Litt receives postdoctoral fellowship at the History of Science Institute

**Dr. Claire Litt** (Ph.D. 2022) has received a postdoctoral fellowship at the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry at the Science History Institute, a nonprofit organization in Philadelphia that focuses on the history of chemistry, engineering, and life sciences. During her fellowship, Claire is conducting research on the alchemical production of medicinal stones (such as Goa stones, lab-made Bezoar stones) and the rationale behind their perceived efficacy between the late fifteenth and early eighteenth centuries. This project is an extension of her dissertation, “Le Gioie Della Vita: The Gemstones, Health, and Beauty of the Medici Women,” which examines the Medici women’s use of natural gemstones for health and beauty purposes during the period of the Florentine Grand Duchy. Her ground-breaking study was completed under the joint supervision of Dr. Anthony D’Elia and Dr. Una D’Elia (Art History) and received the department’s dissertation prize (see above).

## Peter Rayls accepts position as a civilian historian with the U.S. Air Force

**Dr. Peter Rayls** (Ph.D. 2022) began serving as a staff historian with the United States Air Force at the Ramstein Air Base in the Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany in June 2023. Prior to beginning his PhD at Queen’s under the

supervision of Dr. Allan English, Peter amassed three and a half years’ experience teaching in secondary schools and thirteen years in the United States Army. His dissertation examined the personal relationships between Canadian and American air force officers during the early Cold War and how those relationships shaped the creation of the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) and its early operations. In October 2023, he published a co-edited volume entitled *On the Wings of War and Peace: The RCAF during the Early Cold War* with University of Toronto Press.

## Steven Barrow begins a position as a Clinical Research Coordinator

**Steven Barrow** (Ph.D. 2021) started in his role as a Clinical Research Coordinator in Midwifery/Obstetrics & Gynecology as part of McMaster University’s Health Sciences program. During his time at Queen’s, he received the Society of Graduate Students’ Leadership, Innovation, and Community Engagement Award and worked briefly as a Sexual Health Coordinator for HIV/Aids Regional Services.

## David A. Wilson and Matthew Barrett recognized by the 2022 C.P. Stacey Award

The most recent book from **David A. Wilson** (Ph.D. 1983), entitled *Canadian Spy Story: Irish Revolutionaries and the Secret Police*, has received the 2022 C.P. Stacey Award for the best

scholarly work in Canadian military history. David presented some of his research to the Queen’s History department as part of the 2022-2023 Seminar Series back in March.

In addition, *Scandalous Conduct: Canadian Officer Courts Martial, 1914-45*, the first monograph by **Matthew Barrett** (Ph.D. 2019), received an honourable mention for the award. Published through UBC Press in November 2022, *Scandalous Conduct* is based on Matthew’s Ph.D. dissertation completed under Dr. Allan English and is just the latest in a series of academic honours that Matthew has received in connection with his doctoral research.

## Shaelyn Ryan and Ashlyn Gregory began positions in the heritage sector

**Shaelyn Ryan** (M.A. 2023) and **Ashlyn Gregory** (M.A. 2023) have both secured new positions related to historical research in the heritage sector. Shaelyn is now working as an Assistant Curator of the Medical Artifact Collection housed in the Department of History at Western University (see above). Ashlyn has started as a Collections Intern at the Frontenac County Schools Museum. Both received departmental awards during their time at Queen’s, with Shaelyn winning the M.A. Thesis Prize and Ashlyn receiving the Andrew Haydon Prize in Colonial History.

## More Alumni News

**Zozan Pehlivan** (Ph.D. 2016) has

had her first monograph, *The Political Ecology of Violence: Peasants and Pastoralists in the Last Ottoman Century*, accepted for publication through the Cambridge University Press. It is set to appear in the spring of 2024, during which time Pehlivan will be continuing her Mellon Fellowship at the Newberry Library in Chicago, where she is working on her second book, “Empires of Sedentarization: How Americans and Ottomans Conquered Grasslands”.

**Carolyn Harris** (Ph.D. 2012) has published four co-edited volumes as part of Palgrave Macmillan’s *Queenship and Power* series, all centred on power, influence and dynasty amongst royal consorts between the Norman and Windsor eras. In addition, she has been interviewed by the *New York Times*, *TIME* Magazine, NBC News, the *Washington Post*, *Vanity Fair*, BBC World Service, *The Telegraph*, *The Times*, CBC News, CTV News, *Le Devoir*, *The National Post*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The Toronto Star*, CP24, and the Canadian Press on the topic of King Charles’s coronation and reign.

**Stuart Henderson** (Ph.D. 2008) won four film and television awards this year for two of his documentary series, *The Climate Baby Dilemma* and *We’re All Gonna Die* (Even Jay Baruchel). The latter, a docuseries hosted by the eponymous Canadian actor, explores a series of apocalyptic outcomes and received four Canadian Screen Awards this year including “Best Factual Series.”

**Sean Mills** (Ph.D. 2007) has published a co-edited book with current Queen’s Buchanan Postdoctoral Fellow and Adjunct Professor Eric Fillion entitled

*Statesman of the Piano: Jazz, Race, and History in the Life of Lou Hooper* through McGill-Queen’s University Press.

**Krista Kesselring** (Ph.D. 2000) has been elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. The Royal Society praised Kesselring’s innovative approach to the disciplines of legal, social, and political history, as well as the “creativity, range, and scrupulosity of her research.” At present, Krista is Professor of History and Department Chair at Dalhousie University alongside fellow Queen’s History alumni Gary Kynoch, Will Langford, Kassandra Luciuk, Todd McCallum, Justin Robert, and Michael Bjorge. Her latest book, *Marriage, Separation, and Divorce in England, 1500-1700*, was co-authored with Maritime colleague Tim Stretton and published by Oxford University Press in 2022.

**Aidan Forth** (M.A. 2006) has a second book in press and forthcoming through University of Toronto Press entitled *Camps: A Global History of Mass Confinement*. Forth’s first book, *Barbed-Wire Imperialism: Britain’s Empire of Camps, 1876-1903* (University of California Press, 2017) won both the Canadian Historical Association’s Wallace K. Ferguson Prize in 2019 and the North American Conference of British Studies’ Stansky Book Prize in 2018.

**Iain Moore** (B.A.H. 2004) co-wrote his first screenplay with award-winning director Garth Davis (*Lion*, *Top of the Lake*) for a film adaptation of his second fiction book, *Foe*. The film, which stars Saoirse Ronan (*Lady Bird*, *Little Women*) and premiered at

the 2023 New York Film Festival. In addition, Iain’s third novel, *We Spread*, was shortlisted for the 2023 Governor General’s Award in English-language fiction.

**Sinead Tuite** (B.A.H. 1998) has been named Director General of the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canadian equivalent of the U.S. Government’s Centres for Disease Control (CDC) and an organization which played a leading role in Canada’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Alumni News Continued

**Catharine Anne Wilson** (Ph.D. 1989) received the 2022-23 J.J. Talman Award for *Being Neighbours: Cooperative Work and Rural Culture, 1830-1960* (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2022), recognized by the Ontario Historical Society as the best book on Ontario’s social, economic, political, or cultural history.

**Sara Buder** (B.A.H. 2020), having completed her J.D. at Queen’s earlier this year, began a new job as a Judicial Law Clerk at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

**Tegwyn Hughes** (B.A.H. 2020) joined the Provincial Government of British Columbia as a Public Affairs Officer within the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

**Lindsay Moore Geros** (B.A. 1997) started a new appointment as Deputy Director for Iran at Global Affairs Canada as part of the federal public service in Ottawa.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS



## Q&A WITH HISTORY ALUMNUS JULIAN (HEE MIN) YANG, PHD 2020

Julian (Hee Min) Yang completed his PhD at Queen's in December 2020.

**Chronicles:** Tell us about your life.

**JY:** Hello, I am Julian. I picked this name because I was born in the month of July, then I didn't know I share it with the famous apostate. My birth name is Hee Min. I immigrated

to Canada from South Korea in 2002. As the eldest child, I worked at my parent's convenience store for almost ten years until I went to Queen's. I also briefly served in the Canadian Navy as well. After completing my

degree and dragging myself through the mud during the Covid-19 crisis, I finally received an offer in 2022 from Kangwon National University (a.k.a. KNU) in Korea, which is one of the top ten national flagship universities. I am now a tenure-track assistant professor at its Department of History.

**Chronicles:** What's it like to work at KNU?

**JY:** Kangwon is the most northern province of Korea. It's like the North from Game of Thrones, or Scotland. The difference is that we've got Kim in the North and no Wall.

Other than the locale, everything else is great! Here, I cover ancient and medieval history of the West. I think my mission in Korea is to create an ecosystem for medieval and Byzantine studies. Once I finish my government-funded research project (2025) and translating the Life of Lazaros of Mount Galesion in Korean (2026-2027), I plan to write introductory handbooks and sourcebooks on Byzantine history in Korean.

**Chronicles:** Tell us how and from where you came to Queen's as a PhD student.

**JY:** I went to Brock University to do my BA because it was 10 minutes away from my parent's store. Then, a professor there told me that I should study Asian History for my MA because I am Korean-Canadian. Another professor told me that the problem with Canada's education system is that it encourages everyone to pursue further studies. So, I left my family for the first time in my life and

went to Queen's, because Professor Greenfield encouraged and guided me to follow my passion. I wanted to study magic and demonology under his guidance; but sadly (though my parents were happy that I finally came to the 'good' side), the latter changed to studying hagiography, a genre of literature in medieval Byzantium that discusses the lives and acts of saints.

**Chronicles:** How was your time at Queen's?

**JY:** I got there in 2013 for my MA. I originally wanted to work on magic with Professor Greenfield; but he counselled me to pursue a different direction. In 2015, I was going to apply to the University of California, Berkeley to study magic for my PhD, then Professor Greenfield told me to work on it with him. Then afterwards, he counselled me not to! He also counselled me to rewrite my PhD thesis three times! My last semester at Queen's was just full of grit, nicotine, and caffeine. But the outcome was (and still is) my pride and joy. I still look up to Professor Greenfield as the beacon of my life (but I always joke about him being a very rigorous drill sergeant!).

**Chronicles:** How did our program differ from your previous degree studies?

**JY:** The teaching fellowship and preliminary exam format. Not many universities prepare their students to teach courses as a part of their PhD program. It's easy to overlook the importance of 'teaching' as young intellectual apprentices; but Queen's taught me to take it seriously. The experience that Queen's offered prepared me to take on teaching duties when the time came.

**Chronicles:** Did you find a particular area that most interested you?

**JY:** Religious history and literature. I especially find the medieval Greek romances fascinating. They were written after the fall of Constantinople in 1204 to the crusaders. I find it intriguing that the conquered romanticized their conquerors in novelistic stories.

**Chronicles:** Who were some of your favourite courses and instructors?

**JY:** I am almost tempted to do this in the Emmy's style; but I will save it for now. I would like to thank Professor Greenfield for being the lighthouse during my dark days. I am deeply grateful to Professor Emily Hill for guiding and helping me to not give up. I also send my many thanks to Professor Adnan Husain, Professor Ted Christou (Faculty of Education), Professor Nancy van Deusen, and Professor Andrew Jainchill. And most importantly, I thank Ms. Cathy Dickison. I would not have survived my grad life without her!

**Chronicles:** What did you do right after graduating from Queen's with your PhD?

**JY:** It was painful. Just to survive and pay the rent and student loans, I worked as a nighttime worker at the Loblaws for minimum wage, as a part time online tutor, as a cleaner, as a washer at restaurants, and so on. My dream came true when I landed on the current position... But the road to getting here was challenging.

**Chronicles:** Tell us about your current research, what it does, and what you do for it.

**JY:** I am interested in investigating the authorial making of sanctity in religious literature and the use of religious-themed stories as entertainment. Currently, I am working on a research project funded by the National Research Foundation of Korea on

examining the transmission of popular literature from medieval Islamic world to Byzantium. Once this is done, I plan to translate Professor Greenfield's book on the life of Lazaros of Mount Galesion into Korean. I am looking forward to introducing to Koreans the legacy of my mentor from across the ocean in Kingston.

**Chronicles:** If willing, tell us a bit about your personal interests, family, hobbies etc.

**JY:** Le Sserafim nowadays. It is a K-Pop band with three Koreans and two Japanese. So, to defend myself, this band symbolizes the convivencia of the eastern Asian world! The best part of living in Korea is that I can have access to K-POP, E-Sports, and street foods so easily. It's great that I don't have to drive four hours to Korean Town in Toronto just to do some Karaoke. But I do miss Blackberry-flavoured Somersby, Grecos, and the Ali Baba Kebob house now and then.

**Chronicles:** Anything you would like to add?

**JY:** There is a saying in Korean that goes "a frog never remembers when it was a tadpole." Although we historians study the past of humanity, we often forget whence we came and how hard we had to work to arrive at where we are. Let's always remember to thank our family, teachers, and friends on our journey to success. Mine was just full of slings and arrows of outrageous fortune; but that hard journey made me grateful and resilient. I'm sure yours will be also hard; but it will be rewarding at the end as long as you stay tough like a two-dollar steak.



### Q&A WITH HISTORY ALUMNA JASMINE ELLIOTT

Jasmine Elliott completed her BA in 2020 and her MA in 2021 at Queen's. She is currently working as a historical researcher at Know History.

**Chronicles:** Tell us how and from where you came to Queen's as a student.

**JE:** While exploring undergraduate programs during my latter years of high school, I quickly settled on Queen's as my top choice. Given its standing as a leading university predicated on academic excellence, student success, extracurricular opportunity, and program- and course-diversity, in addition to my many childhood memories visiting campus while my older sister, Michaela, attended, I was overjoyed to receive my acceptance into the class of 2020.

**Chronicles:** Did you find a particular area that most interested you?

**JE:** Given my keen interest in history in high school, it was a natural route to pursue in my undergraduate studies. While I had initially intended to minor in History, after enrolling in the 100-level introductory history course, The Making of the Modern

World, which made clear the breadth of explorable avenues in this field of study, I decided to declare History as my major while minoring in English Literature and pursuing a Certificate in Law.

The opportunity to produce an extended research essay through the Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship with the guidance and encouragement of Professor Nancy van Deusen enabled me to hone my interests in female mystical theology in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Spain and Latin America, which served as a solid foundation for my study of gender, and market and convent economies in a colonial Latin American context in graduate school.

**Chronicles:** Who were some of your favourite courses and instructors?

**JE:** The diversity of fascinating and challenging undergraduate and graduate courses offered by the

History Department, namely New World Societies and The Historical Imagination, taught by Professor Nancy van Deusen, The History of Humanitarianism, taught by Professor Sandra den Otter, Imperial and Postcolonial History, taught by Professor Ishita Pande, and Black Women in U.S. History and Race and Gender in U.S. History, taught by Professor Laila Haidarali, enabled me to pursue disparate areas of interest while discovering new ones. Not only did my interests converge in these courses, but I found confidence, validation, and – above all – my voice as a history student.

**Chronicles:** Why did you make the decision to stay at Queen's for your MA?

**JE:** My impetus to pursue graduate studies at Queen's was to work under Professor van Deusen. She was not only instrumental to my completion of the U.S.S.R.F. and maturation in terms of research and analysis, but fostered my self-confidence at a time when I truly needed it and enabled me to find value in my work.

With the research foundation I had laid following the U.S.S.R.F., I was able to refine my understanding of my projected area of study – with the close guidance and support of Professor van Deusen – over the remainder of my undergraduate studies in preparation of an M.A.

**Chronicles:** Did you find much difference between your MA and BA programs? Of what things should an undergraduate contemplating going on to graduate school be aware, and consider?

**JE:** My experience as a graduate student vastly differed from my preceding four years at Queen's, given that I completed the entirety of

my M.A. remotely in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Aside from the obvious differences associated with a virtual seminar setting, I saw many advantages to pursuing graduate studies, including: smaller class sizes; more opportunities to receive personalized feedback and counsel from professors; greater discretion in choice of course assignments; the ability to work closely with my graduate supervisor, Professor van Deusen; and the opportunity to work with a number of fascinating and complex primary sources in completion of a Master's Cognate Essay.

While pursuing my M.A. certainly necessitated a greater workload and a more intensive course of study, I can say confidently that I experienced the greatest degree of growth in terms of my analytical, writing, research, and communication skills during this period. The greatest piece of advice I can offer undergraduate students contemplating graduate school is to meet with members of faculty and foster student-professorial relations. Maintaining an open mind and being willing to adjust one's plans as professorial expertise offers new

insights into one's projected area of study is an asset.

**Chronicles:** Tell us about Know History, what it does, and what you do for it.

**JE:** For more than a decade, Know History has provided invaluable historical services to museums, Indigenous organizations, non-profits, government bodies, filmmakers, and individuals alike to aid in the investigation, documentation, and presentation of the innumerable historical narratives that constitute our multifaceted and multicultural national past. As one of many historical researchers at Know History, I have gained professional experience in many areas: identifying, collecting, and digitizing materials at historical archives; conducting in-depth research using many different primary and secondary sources; navigating historical databases; identifying efficient research methodologies and means of data organization; and importantly, being part of an organization whose overarching mission and philosophy I profoundly align with – to “discover history's impact on the present and future.”

**Chronicles:** In what ways have your History degrees been useful in your work life?

**JE:** My time as an undergraduate and later graduate history student equipped me with the analytical, critical-thinking, and logical-reasoning skills that professional research positions with entities like Know History require. The study and writing of history are, inherently, ever-changing. The need to question, deconstruct, dismantle, and re-narrativize, amongst others, is ongoing, and one of the many reasons why the work of the History Department is so important.

My B.A. and M.A. not only paved the way for my work on behalf of Know History, but have also enabled my pursuit of other interests – including legal studies, teaching, or advancing my current position in the form of a PhD. Whatever my future holds, I am certain that the trajectory of my postgraduate endeavours will have been set by the remarkable opportunity I had to study history at Queen's.



The Alumni Archives is a podcast produced by Queen's History. In each episode, a department alumnus discusses their career path from university onward highlighting the twists and turns of their chosen career, the importance of adaptability, of following the strengths and passions developed through studying history, and of course, their best memories of Queen's. Last year, the Alumni Archives produced nine new episodes. These episodes featured communication professionals, freelance writers, consultants, entrepreneurs, lawyers, and leaders of think tanks. We extend our deepest thanks to those who have participated!

If you would like to be featured on the podcast and share your story with current students, please contact Jenn Lucas at [jenn.lucas@queensu.ca](mailto:jenn.lucas@queensu.ca). Alumni are also encouraged to add their story to our Alumni Stories on the department website: [www.queensu.ca/history/about/alumni/share-your-story](http://www.queensu.ca/history/about/alumni/share-your-story). Please keep in touch!



### Q&A WITH HISTORY ALUMNA MARCELLINE RIDDELL

Marcelline Riddell completed a BAH in History and Political Studies at Queen's between 1983 and 1987.

**Chronicles:** How did you come to Queen's as a student in the early 80's?

**MR:** Parental and external influence primarily. My mother is a Queen's alumna and my father played football for, and graduated from, McGill. My high school was also heavily staffed with teachers who were Queen's alumni, and its school teams were Gaels, so I was immersed in all things Queen's from an early age. My mother reminds me and my adult children of my youthful arrogance in this regard recounting how I submitted but one university application – to Queen's - despite two others being free at the time.

My mother's story in considerably

more interesting than mine and I guess that's why Queen's holds a special place in my heart. (Her parents were Polish and Ukrainian immigrants who came to Canada and worked hard all their lives raising a family. My grandmother (Baba) grew pretty much all their food and made most of their clothes. My grandfather (Didi) worked at an automotive sector plant. She tells a story of having only one toy - a carpet sweeper - in her life. When a high school teacher suggested she apply to university, rather than go to work at the local automotive factory, it changed the trajectory of her, and subsequently, our family's life. She tells a tale of one of her physics professors singling out the handful of women in his class and

advising them that the only thing they needed to learn was why the dishwasher goes down the drain in one direction, rather than the other. She graduated with a math degree and spent much of her life teaching engineering and architectural technology in Ontario's community college system.

**Chronicles:** How did teaching/learning differ from today?

**MR:** Obviously technology has revolutionized teaching and learning since then. We worked from hand-written notes and as my handwriting was, and is, appallingly poor, I paid professional typists to make my essays legible. Online learning has made it easier to access all kinds of education, but I believe personal interaction in classroom settings continues to have value, garnering more open and robust discussion, thereby enhancing learning outcomes and probably the teaching experience as well.

**Chronicles:** Favourite courses and instructors?

**MR:** Professor Catherine Brown's section of History 121 (Intellectual Origins of the Contemporary World) was one of the most important and scary courses I have ever taken. I was woefully unprepared for the subject matter and rigorous discussion. I spent two weeks trying to figure out what "Renée sauce" was. Finally, the light bulb came on and I could move on to actually learning about the Renaissance! I still have the double volume blue text and know this class helped inform my studies in both history and politics.

**Chronicles:** What did you do right after graduation?

**MR:** I backpacked around Europe and Africa for six months, immersing myself in the cultures and places I had only read about previously. When I returned, I applied for positions at public opinion polling firms and in the public sector. My interest in polling was sparked at Queen's as one of my politics professors had just co-authored a book on the practice in Canada. He advised that working in polling was a way to make good money. Well, it was great work experience, but he failed to mention that you needed to own the firm to reap real monetary benefits. After two years in market research, I landed a policy internship with the Ontario government where I worked on interesting economic development and regulatory affairs files for many years.

**Chronicles:** What career roles have you undertaken?

**MR:** Mainly in the public sector in policy development and communications roles. I also lived and worked offshore for a couple of years when my children were young. I started a public relations agency there and had many private sector and not for profit organization clients.

**Chronicles:** What's been the utility of a history degree in your career and life?

**MR:** I think the pursuit of history studies allows us to learn how individuals and communities behaved at particular points in time. This insight can then be applied to guide our current behaviour and help mitigate issues. It is also useful in providing background as to why things are the way they are, and we can therefore better understand some of the impediments to

change. Basic skills developed through the study of history such as research, information assessment and analysis, critical thinking, and concise writing are all valuable regardless of one's age or stage.

Certainly my qualitative and quantitative analysis abilities, developed during my history studies, have served me well assessing the merits of regulatory regimes and developing new public policy programs.

**Chronicles:** Tell us about your personal interests, family, hobbies?

**MR:** I enjoy being active. I ski and enjoy horseback riding when I can. I like driving fast cars at high speed too. During my time at Queen's, my father bought a "mid-life crisis car", a late-model Porsche 911, Turbo Carrera. Any excuse to drive it, he'd pick me up for the holidays and then have me pilot it home while schooling me on the ins and outs of playing chicken with other drivers and the police. I also like watching great and not so great television, from political intrigue and gory crime dramas to anything new and stylish currently streaming. I'm a loud and currently mostly disappointed Blue Jays fan. My older daughter played competitive fast pitch, so travelling up and down the eastern seaboard

to softball tournaments in small towns here and in the US consumed much of our vacation time for a few years.

I have two young adult daughters and I enjoy spending time with them and gleaning their insights to help me keep my perspectives current. I'm a voracious, if not particularly discerning reader, so I read whatever my daughter curates for me. I also volunteer for local candidates in municipal and provincial election campaigns. I recently became part owner of a race-horse, so learning about the care, costs and career of this beast is something new and interesting. I also owned purebred show dogs over the course of almost 20 years, and while my last dog died last year, my kids are insistent that he was not my last Vizsla. I've enjoyed sleeping in a bit lately.

**Chronicles:** Advice for history graduates?

**MR:** Seek out people and positions that interest you and where your input is valued and considered. These may not appear in a straight line upwards, but don't pass up an opportunity to try something new. Often the road less travelled is one that makes all the difference – at least according to [Robert] Frost.





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## History

### 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, honoraria for guest speakers in our classrooms, 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](mailto:history.chair@queensu.ca)

[www.queensu.ca/history/](http://www.queensu.ca/history/)

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