



College of Letters & Science
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The Past in The Present

News for Alumni & Friends from the Department of History | 2024-2025



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- Celebrating the Careers of Laird Boswell, Suzanne Desan, and Mary Louise Roberts
- The Undergraduate Program Sees Major Growth
- Jorell Meléndez-Badillo Collaborates with Bad Bunny to Tell Puerto Rican History
- International Media Attention for Emily Callaci's *Wages for Housework*

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Cover photo: Image featured in essay by an undergraduate student enrolled in History 201: "World War I Wisconsin", Luke Christopherson. The photograph features fighter pilots who belonged to the 17th Aero Squadron. See page 17 to learn more about the History 201 essays published by the Doughboy Foundation. (Photo courtesy of: RDW Papers, Box 2, Wisconsin Veterans Museum)

Department of History Chair's Welcome

Dear friends,

This is my first opportunity to write the chair's column since beginning my tenure as chair of the Department of History in the Fall. A sincere and heartfelt thanks to my predecessor Anne Hansen for her stewardship of the Department through Covid and a whole host of other challenges. Serving as chair can be daunting, but it is a critical role and one I am excited and honored to take on.



As I sat down to write this letter, I looked back over several years worth of letters from previous chairs. And it seems that many -- if not most -- have begun with some mention of the various challenges that our Department faced over the previous year. I am sorry to report that I will not be breaking that streak in my inaugural letter. Most notably, the new Administration in Washington has unveiled a vast assortment of policy changes that will affect our work and the work and lives of our students. As this goes to press, the federal government is weighing massive cuts to a wide assortment of programs that will profoundly impact the University and by extension the Department of History. How we grapple with these changes rippling through Washington, Wisconsin, and Madison will have profound effects that will shape history as well as History (Department of) in the years and decades to come. As we all collectively look for silver linings or glimmers of hope, I want to highlight a couple that to me underscore that we are in a strong position to meet these challenges.

The first is that our students clearly appreciate the value of understanding history and are flocking to our classes in numbers not seen for half a decade [see page 13]. The students who are coming to our classes to learn about the past -- both their own and those around our world -- are learning lessons that will serve them as they build their own futures,

but also us all as they help construct the world of the future. For my colleagues and me, it is energizing and profoundly moving to work with these students as they grapple with the past as well as the future.

Second, at the same time that we have a wave of new students entering our classrooms, we also have a new generation of scholars and teachers to meet them at the door. In just the last five years, we have added 16 new assistant professors who are already making their presence felt in the classroom and around the halls of the Humanities Building (meet our newest faculty on page 2). These new professors are filling the large shoes of colleagues and friends who have long served as pillars in the field of research and inspiring teachers in the classroom. The goodbyes are difficult and generational change is never easy (see recent retirements on page 7). But our success in recruiting new faculty who are at the top of their fields makes this an exciting moment for our Department and points to a bright future for our colleagues and our students as we all collectively grapple with the resonances of the past for our present and our future.

I have learned first-hand this year that serving as chair is often a challenging job. But the difficulties of helping steer a large and dynamic department are balanced by the pleasures of meeting and learning more about our alumni and supporters who are scattered around the world. Seeing how you have used your knowledge and love of history to shape the world in which we all live has been an invigorating note of optimism that makes me excited about the future.

On Wisconsin!



History Welcomes New Faculty



Juan Fernandez
Assistant Professor of History

My work focuses on the histories of sex, gender, and ethnography in the highlands of the Philippines in the early twentieth century. My first book project, *Manly Encounters*, examines how ethnographic fieldwork conducted by the earliest generation of professional American anthropologists was intertwined with their attempts to perform (to varying degrees of success) their approximation of Indigenous Philippine masculinity. And yet the ethnographic encounter cuts both ways: my project also examines how the Indigenous peoples of northern Luzon and Mindanao made sense of their observers in their response to these anthropologists' performance of gender. Through an analysis of these anthropologists' fieldnotes, diaries, and correspondence—in addition to their published ethnographic work—I argue that there is a simultaneous, reciprocal, but nevertheless hierarchical construction of masculinity and femininity of both the anthropologist and their Indigenous subjects. This first project is part of a larger set of research questions that seek to analyze the emergence of the category of the Southeast Asian “headhunter”—in the Philippines, but also in Malaysian and Indonesian Borneo—in terms of its gendered dimensions and the almost invariable ascription of masculinity to the Indigenous peoples who once practiced it.

My second project, tentatively titled “The Anatomy of a Hoax,” examines the history of the supposed anthropological “discovery” in the 1970s of the Tasaday

in the southern Philippines. The Tasaday, with their attributed “gentleness” and “pacifism” were glommed onto by local and international media, and the Marcos regime in the Philippines, as an authentic representation of an autochthonic Filipino identity untainted by colonial accretions, but also anthropologically as a universalistic exemplar of basic human nature found in a supposed “Stone Age.” From its beginnings as a cause célèbre and media frenzy in 1971, to its unraveling as a supposed hoax fifteen years later, this history of the Tasaday controversy gives us a view into the contentions between popular and professional anthropology, fantasies of “primitive” sexuality, and the recurrent and enduring tropes that structure the ethnographic imagination and the histories of anthropology in the Philippines and the United States.

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Mallory Hope
Assistant Professor of History

I am an economic historian of Early Modern Europe, with a focus on the history of France. My body of work explores how pre-industrial societies coped with uncertainty and with the insecurity of property and resources.

Early maritime insurance markets are the unlikely point of entry into these questions in my current book project, titled *Underwriting Risk: Trade, War, Insurance, and Legal Institutions in Eighteenth-Century France and Its Empire*.

The book starts with an archaic financial instrument, the marine insurance contract, which was an essential buttress for global trade in the early modern era, but it goes on to interrogate and to model quantitative reasoning during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The central question that motivates the book is, how did actors in early modern insurance markets translate the variegated risks that ships and cargo were exposed to at sea into a single number, an insurance premium? This project draws upon new and extensive archival sources: over 4,000 maritime insurance records from three French port cities (Marseille, Bordeaux, and Nantes), as well as Admiralty Court records, Chamber of Commerce minutes, and business letters.

In 2023–2024, I held a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard’s Center for History and Economics, where I began researching a second project, which continues to explore risk within the new frame of agricultural production and rural economic life. This project focuses on the management and conservation of strategic resources, forests and water resources, in the French Empire of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It will capture both the politics of securing such resources, and the concrete techniques and popular ways of knowing that were available at the time to ensure forests’ and other natural endowments’ viability in future generations.

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Yang Li
Assistant Professor of History

As a scientist–turned–historian, I specialize in the history of science, medicine, and technology in modern China.

My first book project, tentatively titled *Biopolitical Socialism: Antibiosis, Scientific Capital, and China’s Cold War Rationality, 1949–90*, demonstrates how biotechnology played a central role in transforming the peasant–based Chinese Communist Party into a thriving modern industrial regime. The book provides fresh insights into China’s political and social transformations through the lens of science, medicine, and technology. Drawing upon a broad range of primary sources—including provincial and municipal archives, gazetteers, newspapers, magazines, scientific publications, industrial documents, barefoot doctor journals, memoirs, and oral histories—it charts the rise of the pharmaceutical industry in China and its profound domestic and global impacts.

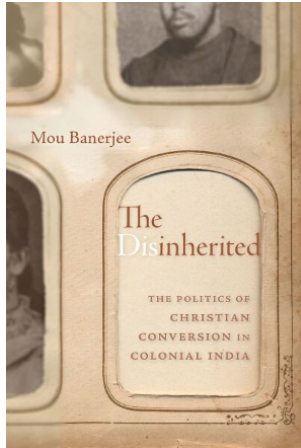
This book is part of an ongoing effort to use China as the method to reflect on the globalization of modern science. I propose a new theory of “Scientific Capital,” which serves as a useful framework for situating socialist science vis-à-vis capitalist science. This theory challenges essentialized views of scientific development in socialist states and provides a starting point for bridging the history of science with broader political and economic discussions of socialism and capitalism across various disciplines, including history, sociology, economics, and political science.

In addition to the book, I am developing a digital archive of Chinese pharmaceutical factories and mapping the dynamics of biotech development during and after the Cold War.

My second project, tentatively titled *Anxious Waves, Intimate Resonance*, continues to explore biopolitics and socialist governmentality, this time through ultrasound technology. The Chinese state’s One Child Policy (1979–2015) intersected with the global proliferation of medical ultrasonic devices, giving rise to new forms of surveillance and a unique moral economy surrounding ultrasound. This research will highlight how ordinary people, particularly women, navigated, resisted, and leveraged this intimate medical technology under new forms of biopolitical governance. This project also provides a global perspective on pressing issues such as abortion and reproductive rights.

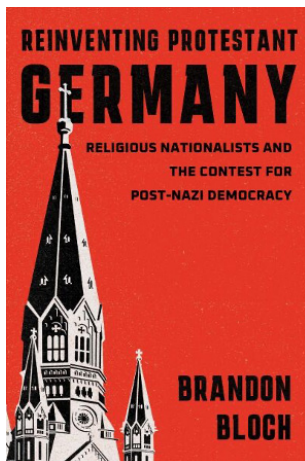
Faculty and Staff News

Simon Balto's article, "Racial Framing: Blackface Criminals in America," was published in *Journal of American History*, a leading journal in the field of US History.



Mou Banerjee's monograph, *The Disinherited: The Politics of Christian Conversion in Colonial India*, was published by Harvard University Press. An essay outlining her Nonviolence Project was published in the American Historical Association's January 2025 edition of *Perspectives on History*. The Nonviolence Project is an online repository of nonviolent protests across global history (<https://thenonviolenceproject.wisc.edu/>).

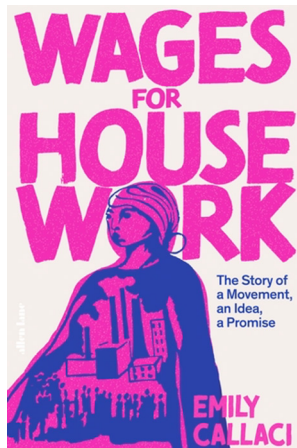
Brandon Bloch's first book, *Reinventing Protestant Germany: Religious Nationalists and the Contest for Post-Nazi Democracy*, is forthcoming in 2025



with Harvard University Press. The book explores how Protestant church leaders, pastors, and lay intellectuals shaped postwar West Germany's earliest movements for human rights, following a legacy of compromise under National Socialism.

Ashley Brown gave a talk about her first book, *Serving Herself: The Life and Times of Althea Gibson*, at the World Golf Hall of Fame. She also shared a panel with tennis players Leslie Allen and Katrina Adams at the United States Tennis Association in an event commemorating the 75th anniversary of Althea Gibson's debut at the USTA's National Championships, the forerunner of today's US Open. Brown published "The Odd Couple: Althea Gibson and Alice Marble, Forest Hills, 1950" in *Sports Through the Lens: Essays on 25 Iconic Photographs*, published by University of Texas Press. She was also awarded the Shapiro Book Prize from the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. (See page 18 to read more about the recognition for *Serving Herself*)

Emily Callaci's book, *Wages for Housework: The Story of a Movement, an Idea, a Promise*, was published by Penguin. (See page 23)



Joseph Dennis's historical methods class spent two weeks researching the history of ice hockey in early-twentieth century China. He presented their findings to a delegation of coaches and players from Heilongjiang Province, China, which is the sister province of Wisconsin. The visit to Madison and Milwaukee was sponsored by the US State Department's sports diplomacy program. Dennis also published articles in Chinese and Korean journals on his Books in China digital humanities project, and forthcoming in summer of 2025, has a chapter in *Knowing an Empire: Imperial Science in Early Modern Chinese and Spanish Empires*. He also has contributed to a translation of the diaries of early-seventeenth century traveler Xu Xiake.

John Hall was named a senior non-resident fellow for the Global and National Security Institute at the University of South Florida. He was also appointed director of UW's Officer Education Program, which encompasses each of the University's ROTC programs.

April Haynes published her article, "The Other Women's Rights Movement: 'Streetwalkers,' Habeas Corpus, and Anticarceral Activism in New York City, 1830-1860," in *Gender & History's* special issue, "Engendering Carcerality." She discussed her work in the American Society of Legal History's "Making Connections: New Works in Legal History" series.

Francine Hirsch was featured as an expert on Netflix's documentary series, *Hitler and the Nazis: Evil on Trial*, which explores the horrors of the Third Reich and the Nuremberg trials.

Faculty and Staff News

Patrick Iber has been on sabbatical this year, during which he finished his next book, which is about the social science of poverty and the Ford Foundation in Cold War Latin America. The research has taken him from Amsterdam to São Paulo and many other places besides. The book will be published in 2026.

Stephen Kantrowitz will receive an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Southern Denmark in fall 2025.

Devin Kennedy published his article, “Silent Partners: Indirect Investment and Financialization in the United States, 1950–1975,” in the *Journal of American History*.

Judd Kinzley spent 2023–24 in Munich, Germany at Ludwig Maximilian University working with a cross-disciplinary research group focused on globalization and de-globalization. His co-edited volume on the history of US–China relations *Uneasy Allies: Sino–American Relations at the Grassroots, 1937–1949* was published by Cambridge University Press. He is now finishing up a book on the resonances of US trade with China during World War II and the early Cold War that is titled *The Crowning of the Resource Kings: Chinese Businessmen, World War II, and the Economic Foundations of the American Cold War Order, 1936–1963*. He gave a number of talks on the book project to audiences in Germany, England, France, and Taiwan. Since returning from Germany this fall, Judd has been serving the Department as Associate Chair.

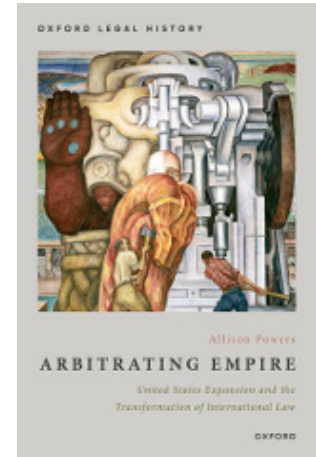
Elizabeth Lapina co-edited with Jessalynn Bird *The Crusades and Nature: Natural and Supernatural Environments in the Middle Ages*, a collection of

essays published by Palgrave Macmillan. The collection explores the intersection of crusader studies and studies of nature. The volume addresses encounters with, responses to, and representations of a broad variety of phenomena: celestial objects and events; familiar and unfamiliar fauna and flora; seascapes and landscapes; the elements and the seasons; etc. Her article, “Celestial Phenomena of 1097/1098 in the Chronicles of the First Crusade,” was published in *Viator: Medieval and Renaissance Studies*. And her second monograph, *Depicting the Holy War: Crusader Imagery in Medieval French and English Murals*, was published by Penn State University Press spring 2025.

Michael Martoccio was awarded an NEH Fellowship to work on his new book project, currently titled *Leviathan for Sale: The Market for City–States in Renaissance Italy*.

Jorell Meléndez–Badillo’s book, *Puerto Rico: A National History*, was named a finalist for the prestigious 2025 National PROSE Award in North American/U.S. History. Upon its release in April 2024, *Puerto Rico* debuted at #8 on the History best-sellers list in the United States. The book was also published in Spanish as *Puerto Rico: historia de una nación*, with both editions becoming best-sellers in bookstores across the United States and Puerto Rico. The book was well-received by different publics and gave him the opportunity to collaborate with global music icon Bad Bunny on his latest album *DeBí Tirar Más FoTOS*. (See page 16)

Gregg Mitman was one of four faculty across UW–Madison honored with the Hildale Award in recognition of his contributions to teaching, research, and service.



Allison Powers Useche published her first monograph, *Arbitrating Empire: United States Expansion and the Transformation of International Law*, with Oxford University Press. Her article “Defining Dispossession: Arbitration and the Transformation of Sovereign Debt” was published in *Diplomatic History*. She received a 2025 Fall Research Competition Award to conduct archival work for two new projects: *Making the World Dangerous for Capital* and *Who Shall Become the Debtor: Speculative Legal Theory in the Americas*. Her teaching was recognized through the History Department’s Dorothy and Hsin–Nung Yao Award, a University Housing Honored Instructor Award, and an L&S Honors College Student shout-out.

Marla Ramírez received the UW–Madison Award for Mentoring Undergraduates in Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities.

Lucas Richert, an affiliate of the History Department in the school of pharmacy, has created a new digital library that focuses on pharmacy and pharmaceuticals with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The collection includes a wide range of print materials, manu–

Faculty and Staff News

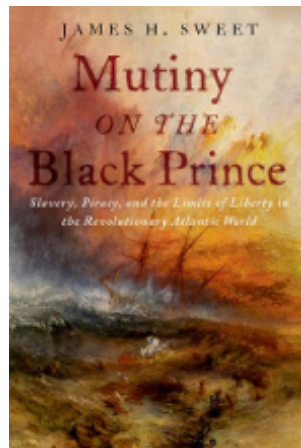
scripts, and artifacts from the jointly held collections of the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy and the School of Pharmacy. Library items reflected the long and diverse history of community pharmacy and pharmaceutical manufacturing in the US. The collections can be accessed by researchers all over the world, bringing them to new and wider audiences.

Mitra Sharafi, an affiliate of the History Department primarily based in the Law School, was awarded the 2023 Indian Law Review Best Article Prize for her article “Indian Constitutionalism, the Rule of Law, and Parsi Legal Culture.”

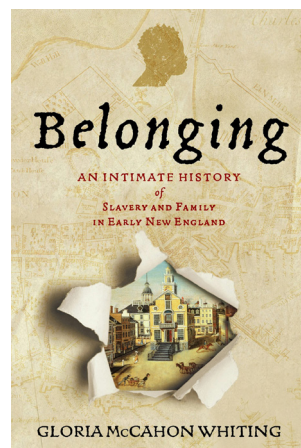
Daniel Stolz was a resident fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities in fall 2024. He spent the semester working on the manuscript for his book, *The Long Debt: The Ottoman Loans and Economic Governance in the Twentieth Century*. Stolz was on sabbatical in spring 2025, and during this time continued his work on the book project while also developing a new History 201 course, on archives of Middle East History in Madison. He recently co-wrote an essay entitled “Science, Institutions, Genres, Materials.” The work was published in the *Cambridge Companion to Ottoman History*.

Jim Sweet’s monograph, *Mutiny on the Black Prince: Slavery, Piracy, and the Limits of Liberty in the Revolutionary Atlantic World* was published by Oxford University Press.

Sarah Thal’s article, “Chivalry without Women: The Way of the Samurai and Swinton’s World History in 1890s Japan,” was published in the June 2024 issue of the *American Historical Review*.



Lee Palmer Wandel’s monograph, *The Reformation of Liturgy: Matter and Time Reconceived*, will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2025. During the spring 2025 semester, she taught in the UW in Florence program, and in fall 2025 and will be a Visiting Professor at Aarhus University in Denmark in the Fall 2025.



Gloria McCahon Whiting launched a public-facing digital humanities project on slavery, liberty, and the American Revolution in July 2024. The project, titled “Freedom Seekers: Stories of Black Liberation in the American Revolutionary Era and Beyond,” can be found at <http://www.freedom-seekers.org>. In August of

2024, Gloria published her first book: *Belonging: An Intimate History of Slavery and Family in Early New England*. It has received the Francis Richardson Keller-Sierra Prize from the Western Association of Women Historians for the best historical monograph published in 2024.

Louise Young recently gave a lecture at Portland State University on “The Prewar Origins of Japan’s Middle Class Myth”. The talk is from a book-in-progress that tracks the reorganization of social hierarchies in Japan from the 19th century to the early 20th. Young’s essay, “The Breakdown of Democracy in 1930s Japan,” was published in Oxford University Press’s *When Democracy Breaks: Studies in Democratic Erosion and Collapse from Ancient Athens to the Present*. Young also gave several presentations on “The Stretched Out Decolonization of Japan in Asia,” part of a new project on deimperialization and postwar Japan.

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In staff news, the Department welcomed **Jim Graettinger** (UW History ‘09) to the Undergraduate Advising team. Jim helps students with academic planning, study abroad, and connects students to resources related to academic support services, student activities, and more.

UW-Madison History Professors Emeriti

The Department of History congratulates these retired professors on receiving Emeritus status.

2023-2024



**Suzanne
Desan**

Historian of Early Modern Europe, with a focus on Early Modern France and the French Revolution.



**David
McDonald**

Historian of Imperial Russia (1649-1917), with a focus on social, intellectual, political, and diplomatic histories.



**Lynn
Nyhart**

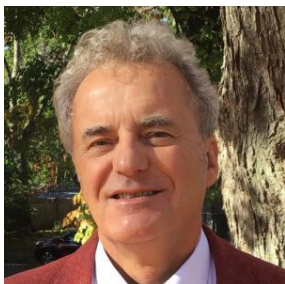
Historian of Biology in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, mainly in Europe.



**Mary Lou
Roberts**

Historian of Women and Gender, France, and the Second World War.

2024-2025



**Laird
Boswell**

Historian of Modern Europe, especially France, in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



**Marc
Kleijwegt**

Historian of the Ancient World, with a focus on social history, the ancient novel, and the Greco-Roman world.



**Gregg
Mitman**

Historian of Environmental History, History of Science, Medical History, and Visual Culture of Science and Medicine.



**Brenda Gayle
Plummer**

Historian of African American History, U.S. in the twentieth century, Caribbean History, and the History of U.S. Foreign Relations.



**Lee Palmer
Wandel**

Historian of Early Modern Europe (1492-1648), with a focus on the History of Christianity.

“Here Are the People: The Scholarly Empathy of Laird Boswell, Suzanne Desan, and Mary Louise Roberts”

by Jim Coons ('14)

For nearly 40 years, the History Department at UW–Madison has cultivated what we might call a Wisconsin School of French History, due in large part to the scholarly contributions and mentorship of Suzanne Desan, Laird Boswell, and Mary Louise Roberts. As advisors and scholars, they have not only trained 32 doctoral students but have also authored seminal works that are considered classics in their fields. Beyond academia, their influence has also extended through dynamic teaching, public lectures, media appearances, and international initiatives in the US and Europe.

Over a weekend in September 2024, the “Big Three” convened with current and former doctoral students to celebrate the impact of their combined 93 years at UW–Madison. The conference featured academic and non-academic presentations about French and European history, showcasing the diversity of alumni’s career paths and intellectual contributions. The event was testimony to Boswell’s, Desan’s, and Roberts’ far-reaching contributions to teaching and service. The following is a reflection from Jim Coons, who graduated in 2014 with a degree in French History, and attended the September event.



Participants of the Wisconsin School of French History Meeting, September 2024. (Photo by Arrowstar Photography)

Laird Boswell, Suzanne Desan, and Mary Louise Roberts have always placed people at the center of their scholarship. To celebrate their careers and retirements, a celebration was held in September 2024. A comment from Franca Barricelli, one of Suzanne’s first PhD students, encapsulated this focus. She recalled the central question Suzanne had posed about her transnational, multi-disciplinary dissertation project: “Where are the people?” At first glance, little would unite dozens of presentations and discussions spanning from the Wars of Religion to the 2024 election; careers ranging from an Alaskan ecological guide to Independent School administrators; and teachers in classrooms from Hong Kong to Berkeley. Nevertheless, the coherence of the Wisconsin School of French History was immediately apparent in the dedication to authentically understanding the people the “Big Three” touched – whether historical subjects, students, or colleagues. Such empathy was the animating force of three distinguished

careers and became the implicit theme of this memorable meeting.

Laird, Suzanne, and Lou made their ideas not only clear, but attractive, magnetic, and captivating, often with strategic use of humor. Attendees had obviously internalized this trait, as the meeting itself was shot through with comedy. The weekend hosted plenty of good-natured laughter at the productive frictions of life in seminars, archives, and dissertating. From Laird’s wry prods to make clear “Who cares?” about your argument, to Suzanne’s creative vulgarity on the squash court, to Lou’s description of weak analysis of a great research topic as a “licked cookie” that kept others from more fully digesting it – the joy of studying history at Madison was a centerpiece throughout the weekend.

Much of students’ positive experience stemmed from their sense that they could genuinely pursue whatever

interests they discovered in the sources. For my own part, Suzanne resolutely refused to even suggest that I focus on the Revolution or the eighteenth century once I seemed wrapped up in scurrilous 17th century mazarinade tracts. Others, like Alice Kwok, even got a push toward the outer limits of their ideas. In a prospectus defense for her project on Revolution-era emigrés, Lou had pointed out, “I don’t think this is weird enough for you.” (Kwok wound up studying French interest in Norse culture and symbolism in the nineteenth century.) Their unfaltering commitment to the varied, sometimes unconventional interests of their students showed in the incredible range of topics they oversaw, and in the wide-ranging careers that their students have pursued since graduating. And yet, for all the differences in context and methodology, the presenters were united by the fundamental impulse to find the humanity in the object of research, and to connect with the interests and concerns of the audience.

For all their radical acceptance of students’ interests, of course Lou, Laird, and Suzanne were never pushovers or too soft. Even beyond their boundary-pushing scholarship, they posed direct challenges to others’ assumptions. Lou’s casual mention to a classroom full of ROTC cadets that military service is not the only honorable way to serve one’s country stands out, though examples abound. Everyone seemed to have memories of the Big Three assigning powerful, difficult readings even to survey-level undergrads, or pushing for excellence in writing

from students, colleagues, and even each other. Lou has, thankfully, forgiven Laird for the five single-spaced pages of feedback on her manuscript, including the comment that “let’s face it, this chapter doesn’t really have an argument.” The sum of these stories revealed an inflexible demand for independent work and bootstrapping achievement. Suzanne, Lou, and Laird’s challenges always came packaged with the sense that you were absolutely capable of excellence – whatever that looked like in each instance – and that they would help you get there.

Beyond the outpouring of affection for the Big Three, the sense of camaraderie and heartfelt friendship was palpable among everyone present during the sessions, in chance conversations, and in the generosity and warmth of the evening receptions. At the same time, it is rare that this kind of celebration of three prolific, trailblazing careers would focus so little on the books and articles of the scholars themselves – indeed, discussion of their prizewinning research was notable by its near-total absence from the weekend. Rather, we celebrated what they gave, and what they meant to those they taught. As Lou put it succinctly in closing the final day, “You are all my life’s work.” Just as their research and teaching were driven by real care for the people they worked to understand, their empathy for students and colleagues shone throughout this event and stands as the measure of their contributions.



Left to Right: Professors Suzanne Desan, Laird Boswell, and Mary Lou Roberts. (Photo by Todd Brown / UW Media Solutions)



Undergraduate Students at UW-Madison Commencement, May 2025.
(Photo by Althea Dotzour / UW-Madison)

2024 Undergraduate Students Awards

Jonah Altmann, David McDonald Prize

Axell Boomer, Civil Resistance Prize, William K. Fitch Scholarship

Isabella Collazo, William F. Allen Prize

Celeste Deale, William A. Brown Writing Prize for Black History

Brian Deisher, Alfred Erich Senn Prize

Julia Donaldson, Paul J. Schrag Prize

Chloe Foor, LGBTQ+ History Prize, Outstanding Service Award

Maddie Glerum, Willard L. Huson Scholarship

Amanda Grant, Farha Tahir Award in African History

Michael Hepfinger, John De Novo Prize

Laura Hyde, Digital & Public History Prize

Ethan Isselmann, Baensch Prize, John Sharpless Scholarship

Tony Jing, Alice D. Mortenson Russian History Award

Emily Johnson, Goldberg Scholarship in History

Rae Kalscheuer, Outstanding Service Award

Zoë Klett, William F. Allen Prize

Zoe Kukla, Orson S. Morse History Scholarship

KJ LeFave, Andrew Bergman Prize

Claudia Liverseed, American Indian History Prize

Houye Lyu, William F. Allen Prize, Margaret E. Smith-Esther Butt History Scholarship

David Meister, Andrew Bergman Prize

Sara Mulrooney, Andrew Bergman Prize

Zhengzai “Charles” Pei, Fred Harvey Harrington Prize, Outstanding Service Award

Amelie Rosenhagen, Farha Tahir Award in African History, Philip Levy Research Award in History

Evie Sellers, Digital & Public History Prize

Gabriel Singer, Davis/Gerstein Undergraduate Research Award

Natalie Suri, Civil Resistance Prize

Anna Thompson, Paul Glad Prize

Je-In Woo, Steven A. and Barbara S. Jaffe History Scholarship

Sam Wood, Curti Prize

Lihao Yuan, John De Novo Prize



History Major, Ji Zhao, presenting research at the History Department's Undergraduate Thesis Colloquium, April 2025.
Photo by Arrowstar Photography

2025 Undergraduate Students Awards

Karim Aitelhassouni, William F. Allen Prize

Isabella Bellini, LGBTQ+ History Prize

Axell Boomer, L&S Dean's Prize

Isabelle Chard, Andrew Bergman Prize

Claire Czajkowski, Alfred Erich Senn Prize

Celeste Deale, Hilldale Undergraduate Research Fellowships, Philip Levy Research Award in History, Steven A. and Barbara S. Jaffe History Scholarship

Rosa Fabian, William F. Allen Prize

Matthew Foley, Roan Vaughan Civil Resistance Writing Prize

Amanda Grant, Hilldale Undergraduate Research Fellowships, Davis/Gerstein Undergraduate Research Award

Thomas Hadcock, Fred Harvey Harrington Prize, Andrew Bergman Prize

Julia Horn, John De Novo Prize

Jixiang Hu, Orson S. Morse History Scholarship

Devyn Iglesias-Fuller, American Indian History Prize

Ethan Isselmann, John De Novo Prize, William K. Fitch Scholarship

Sidney Jensen-Schaffner, Willard L. Huson Scholarship

Tony Jing, Goldberg Scholarship in History, Willard L. Huson Scholarship

Lauren Kelly, Hilldale Undergraduate Research Fellowships

Carter Kluesner, Willard L. Huson Scholarship

Katya Leek, Alice D. Mortenson Russian History Award

Claudia Liverseed, Steven A. and Barbara S. Jaffe History Scholarship, Farha Tahir Award in African History, Digital & Public History Prize

Arwen Lyons, Hilldale Undergraduate Research Fellowships

Houye Lyu, Davis/Gerstein Undergraduate Research Award

Annika Mechelke, Digital & Public History Prize

David Meister, Hilldale Undergraduate Research Fellowships

Alise Mooney, Paul J. Schrag Prize

Bella Moore, Farha Tahir Award in African History

Maggie Munson, Baensch Prize

Kamila Patris, William F. Allen Prize

Alejandra Pavon-Guajardo, Curti Prize

Andrew Sayers, Alice D. Mortenson Russian History Award

Gabriel Singer, Andrew Bergman Prize

Audrey Song, Roan Vaughan Civil Resistance Writing Prize

Salvatore Stamerra, David McDonald Prize

Paige Stevenson, Paul Glad Prize

Natalie Suri, William A. Brown Writing Prize for Black History

Parker Wall, John Sharpless Scholarship

Je-in Woo, Margaret E. Smith-Esther Butt History Scholarship

Maggie Zale, Paul Glad Prize

ARCHIVE: An Undergraduate Journal of History

ARCHIVE is UW–Madison’s undergraduate journal of history. The newest edition of *ARCHIVE* is now available.

The 2024 Editorial Board included Editors-in-Chief Thomas Harb and Zhengzai “Charles” Pei, as well as Editors Avery Beirne, Grace Pietruszka, Emmett Robison, Sophie Stein, Rose Weithaus, and Tianchen “Mark” Zhang. They worked hard during this past year to produce a volume that encompasses writing from students at Vassar College, Dartmouth College, and University of Chicago. Professor Giuliana Chamedes, served as faculty advisor to the editors as they worked on the publication.



ARCHIVE Editorial Board 2024



Included in this volume:

- “Living as the ‘Entombed’: The Case of Anna May Wong” by Anna Kozloski
- “‘No Civilised Country’: Women, Infanticide, and Autonomy in Victorian England” by Zoe McGuirk
- “Purple Hazing: Witchcraft Accusations and the War of the Roses” by Jaden Miller
- “‘One Star in the Celestial Firmament of Workers’: The Life and Career of Astronomer Harriet McWilliams Parsons, 1892–1986” by Arianne Nguyen

Read the full version of the *ARCHIVE* journal:

<https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/archive/>.

The Undergraduate Program Sees Major Growth

Since 2020, the Department of History's undergraduate program has experienced remarkable growth. In 2024 the History Department had 512 declared majors, the most since 2015. This growth runs counter to recent national trends for History majors in particular and humanities majors in general. It is a testament to the strength of the History undergraduate program at UW-Madison and to the growing interest in History among today's undergraduate students.

Significant growth has especially taken place since the launch of the Certificate in History in 2021, which is about half the required credits of the major. Within just three years, the number of Certificate students grew from 75 in 2021 to 284 in 2024. History Certificate students come from 69 majors across the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Schools and Colleges.

Students are increasingly taking on multiple majors, and they are finding that History pairs strongly with other courses of study. 67% of History majors have at least one additional major, with History students choosing to double with 52 majors across all the Schools and Colleges at UW.

The Department has leaned into the American Historical Association's tagline "Everything has a history," working to expand its History of Science curriculum to attract STEM students. A growing subset of History majors are enrolled in pre-med programs.

Students are finding that medical schools are interested in History as a course of study, because it allows students to stand out from other applicants and to develop desired skills such as reading and writing.

Many students have been attracted to History as their course of study, because of the diverse course options and also because of the History Department's engaging instructors. Students regularly report taking one History course for a degree requirement and then enrolling in additional courses because they enjoyed the instructor and the course material. Many history courses are cross-listed with other academic departments and programs, bringing students into history classrooms that might not have sought out these subjects otherwise.

Because of this, many students find their way to the History undergraduate program later in their academic journey. The Undergraduate Peer Advisors of the History Department meet most frequently with students who are interested in adding a History Certificate or Major in their Junior and Senior years. The Peer Advisors actively promote the History program, by reaching out each semester to over one thousand students enrolled in History courses with information about pursuing a degree or certificate in History.

Undergraduate Peer Advisor Celeste Deale recalls meeting with one graduating Senior who scheduled an urgent meeting at the end of her last semester to

take more History courses in hopes of becoming a history educator. The student had so enjoyed her recent courses in History that she was eager to postpone graduation to continue exploring history. Students, such as the one who met with Deale, are increasingly showing interest in joining the History program, as they find tremendous value in studying history and believe that the skills taught in History courses will enhance their careers.



History majors at the Undergraduate Thesis Colloquium, April 2025. Photo by Arrowstar Photography.

Jorell Meléndez-Badillo Collaborates with Superstar Bad Bunny to Tell Puerto Rican History

Jorell Meléndez-Badillo, Assistant Professor of History, recently collaborated with Puerto Rican reggaeton artist Bad Bunny to produce visualizers for his sixth studio album, *Debí Tirar Más Fotos*. These visualizers are videos featuring historical vignettes and images in sync with the album's 17 tracks. Bad Bunny is one of the most popular artists in the world, but his most recent album was created especially with a Puerto Rican audience in mind. The historical notes, written in Spanish, tell different parts of Puerto Rico's past, speaking to its people's strength and resilience, but also of their continuing struggles. "Turista," for example, tells the story of the 1868 Grito de Lares revolt against Spanish colonial rule, and "La Mudanza" of the fallout after hurricanes Irma and Maria.



*Prof. Jorell Meléndez-Badillo poses in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico.
(Photo by Althea Dotzour / UW-Madison)*

Meléndez-Badillo wrote 74 pages of historical facts and narratives about 500 years of Puerto Rico's history for the album's visualizers. "[Bad Bunny] was really interested in having that sort of historical component, so people were not only listening to the songs in YouTube, but learning their history while they do so," said Meléndez-Badillo in conversation with *LA Times*. Talking about the project, Meléndez-Badillo shared with *Teen Vogue*: "I've always wanted to take academic knowledge outside the ivory tower, and this project has allowed me to share our history on a global platform." Since being released in January 2025, the YouTube views on the 17 visualizers stand at almost 515 million.



*Artist Bad Bunny performs at a music festival in 2023.
(Photo by Frazer Harrison / Getty Images)*



History. We're Making it.

Since the first History class at UW-Madison more than 100 years ago, alumni and supporters like you have helped us fulfill our education mission.

UW-Madison's Department of History is in the top tier of history departments globally. We enroll over 6,600 undergraduate and graduate students in our courses and our faculty win teaching and research awards every year.

Please consider making a gift to support the History Department.

For more information, please visit:
<https://supportuw.org/giveto/history>

Department of History Giving Societies

Professor Frederick Jackson Turner Society

Recognizes donors who make annual contributions to the History Department of \$5,000+

Professor George L. Mosse & Professor Harvey Goldberg Society

Recognizes donors who make annual contributions to the History Department of \$2,500+

Gerda Lerner Society

Recognizes donors who make annual contributions to the History Department of \$1,000+

Supporting Excellence

Gifts of any size make a difference for our faculty, staff, and students. Alumni and friends of the Department of History contribute to our excellence and ensure the value of History degree for current and future Badgers.



Prof. Lee Palmer Wandel with students of the UW in Florence program, spring 2025.

Giving Options:

Giving Online

Make a gift online through the UW Foundation at:
<https://supportuw.org/giveto/history>.

Giving By Mail (use attached envelope)

Send a check made payable to the UW Foundation (indicate "Department of History Annual Fund" on your choice of specific fund) to:

University of Wisconsin Foundation
U.S. Bank Lockbox 78807
Milwaukee, WI 53278-8807

History 201 Students' Research Published by WWI Public History Website

Dr. Leslie Bellais' undergraduate class – History 201: World War I in Wisconsin – offers students a unique opportunity to showcase their historical research to the public. The course, which Bellais first offered in Fall 2023, explores the social, political, and economic effects of WWI on Wisconsin. Student in the class meet with librarians and archivists at the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. After being introduced to these collections students pick a collection to work with pick a topic and a thesis, and write an essay about their findings.

Bellais developed the class after having completed her dissertation, “Traitor State: A Crisis of Loyalty in World War I Wisconsin,” which she completed at UW-Madison in 2022. Before studying and teaching at UW-Madison, Bellais had a three-decades-long career as a museum curator, most of which was at the Wisconsin Historical Society. Bellais also often teaches History 401: Public History Workshop and Wisconsin 101: Our History Through Objects.

In 2024, six undergraduate students had the opportunity to publish their essays on The Doughboy Foundation website, which shares historical content to educate the public about America's participation in World War I.

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The online essays include “Letters for Victory: How Messages from Home Boosted Soldiers' Morale” by Ethan Isselmann, “The Power of Persistence: How a Man Deemed Inadequate Flew Above the Odds” by Andy Kaucic, “Defiance in the Heartland: Resistance to Hyper-patriots in World War I Wisconsin” by Jacob Steidinger, “Shunning the Sword: World War I's Conscientious Objectors” by Theodore Xing, “The Lost Identity of the 57th Brigade in World War I” by Rory Fehring, and “The Williams Show: Courage, Creativity, and Innovation in World War I Aviation” by Luke Christopherson.

You can read each of these pieces at <http://doughboy.org>.



Mortimer Lawrence Identification Card, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, WVM Mss 710

Image featured in article “The Power of Persistence: How a Man Deemed Inadequate Flew Above the Odds,” authored by Andy Kaucic.



Fighter pilots who belonged to the 17th Aero Squadron.
RDW Papers, Box 2, Wisconsin Veterans Museum

Image featured in article “The Williams Show: Courage, Creativity, and Innovation in World War I Aviation,” authored by student Luke Christopherson.

Bootcamp for Future Historians



Student and faculty participants in the “Future Faculty and Historians” program, May 2024.

In May 2024, the History Department hosted the first “Future Faculty and Historians” program – a bootcamp designed to prepare a dozen promising undergraduates from four universities for the opportunities to continue their History education with further graduate study. The event was part of a collaboration between faculty and students in the history departments at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, University of Puerto Rico–Río Piedras, Florida International University, and Spelman College. It was created as an opportunity for students to demystify the PhD application process and learn about the day-to-day life of graduate students and professors.

The workshop organizers, Professors Neil Kodesh and Jorell Meléndez–Badillo, and the History faculty from the other participating universities, gathered with the students in the Memorial Union to explore options for furthering their history education. Former doctoral students also shared their experiences in public facing history and non-academic careers.

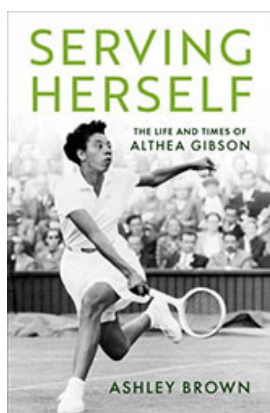
The workshop provided a space for prospective students to come together and talk about their futures, giving the young historians a sense of what it is like to be part of a vibrant and engaged graduate cohort. As well as helping the students build practical skills and pointing them to resources, the bootcamp proved an excellent opportunity for students to expand their professional and academic network.

Acclaim Continues for Ashley Brown's *Serving Herself: The Life and Times of Althea Gibson*

Ashley Brown, Associate Professor and Allan H. Selig Chair in the History of Sport and Society, has continued to receive many accolades for her biography of the iconic American tennis player and golfer Althea Gibson. *Serving Herself: The Life and Times of Althea Gibson* (Oxford University Press, 2023) offers a revealing look at the rise and fall of a fiercely independent trailblazer who set a pathbreaking course for Black athletes.

Serving Herself has won the Association of Black Women Historians' Letitia Woods Brown Book Prize in recognition of the best book in Black women's history, the United States Golf Association's Herbert Warren Wind Award for exceptional contributions to golf literature, and the Popular Culture Association's Harry Shaw and Katrina Hazzard-Donald Award for outstanding work in African American popular culture studies. Most recently, it won the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Garden's 2025 Shapiro Book Prize, awarded to an outstanding first scholarly monograph in American history and culture. The committee gave Brown's work high praise, calling it "history at its best."

Brown has presented her research to the United States Golf Association and the World Golf Hall of Fame and has been interviewed by the Bloomberg Businessweek Podcast and the New Jersey State Golf Association. *Serving Herself* has also featured on *The Atlantic's* recommendations of seven books "that will change the way you watch" the Olympics and Paralympics, on the *Wall Street Journal's* list of five best books on women in tennis, and among *Booklist's* "Top Ten Sports Books" of 2023.



Prof. Brown at the United States Golf Association and World Golf Hall of Fame

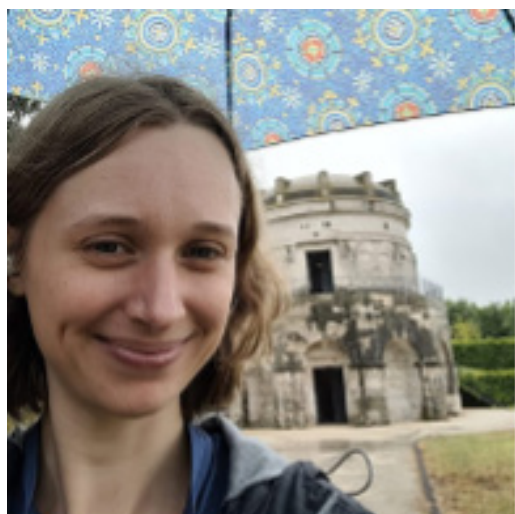


Prof. Ashley Brown receiving the Herbert Warren Wind Award for book *Serving Herself* at the United States Golf Association Annual Awards in March 2024
(Photo Credit: USGA / Chris Keane)

Mosse Teaching Fellowship: Teaching “Women, Sex, and Power in the Mediterranean World”

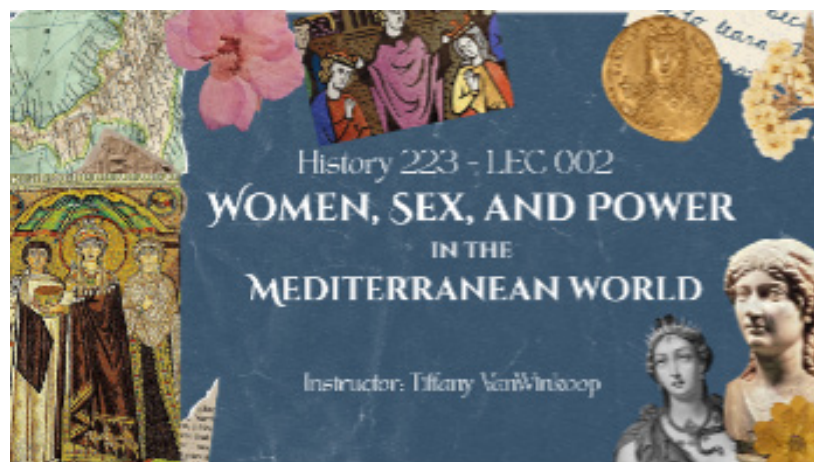
Tiffany VanWinkoop (Ph.D. Candidate)

Former students of George L. Mosse who wish to honor their teacher in a way that acknowledged his commitment to teaching, and his extraordinary ability to inspire his students established the George L. Mosse Teaching Fellowship in 1992. Contributions to the teaching fellowship fund by former students, other alumni, colleagues, and friends underwrite a one-year teaching fellowship every other year. The Teaching Fellowship allows an advanced PhD student under the supervision of their doctoral advisor to develop and teach an undergraduate course.



This past year I was given the opportunity to develop and teach my own course through the Mosse Teaching Fellowship, which I titled “Women, Sex, and Power in the Mediterranean World c. 450 BCE – 1200 CE.” I developed this course while doing the readings for my preliminary examinations, when I noticed that source material and scholarly conversations around topics such as gender and sexuality are often confined to their own temporal or geographic context. I wanted the opportunity to take a holistic approach to these topics within the wider Mediterranean World, and I was awarded the incredible opportunity to do so in this class. The twenty-eight undergraduate students who completed the course came from a wide variety of academic disciplines and spanned all four years from seniors to freshmen. Many had never engaged with the premodern world and were excited to

explore something so far outside their own time period. It was incredibly rewarding to watch the students step outside their comfort zones and to really engage with the material, creating connections that even I had missed! From my perspective, the course was a resounding success, and I was so proud of the work that they had done, not only to understand the Mediterranean World, but to see how gendered perceptions in the past carry on in the present. Finally, nominated by students from the class, I was awarded the History Department’s 2024–2025 Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Rethinking War and Peace: The War and Society in Culture Program

Thomas Rider (Ph.D. Candidate)

In recent years, the History Department's War in Society and Culture Program, first founded in 2017, has grown into a large and active academic community. The Program has flourished, in part, thanks to the influential contributions of UW-Madison historians who have significantly shaped approaches to this history over the years.

Over the last half century, our understanding of what constitutes military history has slowly but surely grown beyond the study of battlefields, army headquarters, and political power centers. UW-Madison historians like George Mosse, Edward "Mac" Coffman, John Dower, Stephen Ambrose, and most recently, Mary Louise Roberts have helped pioneer a far more expansive view of military history that examines the experiences of ordinary people, both civilians and soldiers at war and on the home front. Building on the work of these accomplished scholars, the History Department's War in Society and Culture (WISC) Program promotes a broad-based intellectual community that seeks to better understand armed conflict in all its various social and cultural contexts.

Since its founding, the WISC Program has sponsored a vibrant and diverse speaker series featuring UW-Madison faculty, graduate students, and guest lecturers

from across the spectrum of war in society studies. In addition to a full slate of speakers and events offered this year, WISC and the Department of History were also honored to host Cindy Schweich Handler and Harry Handler in a conversation about their new book, *A German Jew's Triumph: Fritz Oppenheimer and the Denazification of Germany*.

The WISC Co Chairs, Professors John Hall and Michael Martocchio, and Project Assistant Tom Rider are working to invigorate the program and engage more deeply with affiliated faculty, students, and friends. They have begun sending out a periodic E Newsletter, *The Vedette*, to keep the WISC community informed of upcoming events, professional development and educational opportunities, and other items of interest in the broad field of military history. WISC offers funding opportunities for students affiliated with the program that includes travel grants for presenters at the Society for Military History's annual conference and a competitive, one-semester fellowship for a WISC Program dissertator. The first recipient of the WISC program dissertator grant was PhD candidate Patrick Eickman, who is researching the sentimental practices and literature of the Teutonic Knights during the Middle Ages.



Ph.D. Candidate Patrick Eickman standing outside Malbork Castle, Poland - Medieval Headquarters of the Teutonic Knights

Reflection on Presenting Research at the AHA Annual Meeting

Axell Boomer (B.A. '25)



I had the privilege of attending the American Historical Association's Annual Conference in January. At the undergraduate poster session, I exhibited my senior thesis, an exploration of how American Protestant communities have utilized Abraham Lincoln as a symbol to rationalize Christian nationalist and settler nationalist identities. During a separate session, I shared the work I have done on the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's Freedom Schools for UW's Nonviolence Project. When I wasn't presenting, I attended panels related to memory and Indigenous history. I also sat in on sessions about AHA's public engagement work, particularly as it relates to its research on K-12 history curricula.

Oral History Interview with Alum Paul Soglin

As part of the Mosse Program's Oral History project, program director Skye Doney sat down with Paul Soglin to discuss his life and career. Soglin – who obtained a BA in History with Honors from UW-Madison in 1966, and a law degree from the Wisconsin Law School in 1972 – has been a fixture in Wisconsin electoral politics since the 1960s. During his time at UW, Soglin was active in multiple protest movements. He was elected mayor of Madison in 1973 and reelected for three terms through 1979. Then, after launching an unsuccessful bid for the US House of Representatives in 1996 he resumed his duties as Madison's mayor in 2011. He served in that role until April 2019. Soglin's time as mayor was noted for the focus on equity, building a tax base that could support human services, developing a better sense of place for Madison neighborhoods, and eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in educational achievement, income, and incarceration.

Below is an excerpt from the interview with Paul Soglin, conducted on March 17, 2023. The excerpt deals with Soglin's interactions with History faculty after the 1967 demonstrations against Dow Chemical on the UW campus and were linked to the anti-war movement.

You can read or listen to the full interview at: mosseprogram.wisc.edu/2023/08/19/soglin/



(Photo by John Woods)



(Photo by John Wolf and Heiner Giese)

"After the Dow demonstration in October of [19]67, the faculty met, I believe it was at the law school, the large law school lecture room. And I'm outside. And believe it or not, my three favorite professors are all standing together: George Mosse, Stanley Kutler, and Kenneth Dolbeare (b. 1930) in the political science department. And I said to them — we were discussing the events — and I said to them, 'Well, all we're doing is putting into action what you're teaching us.' And all three of them had this ashen face. I said, 'No, no, no. You didn't teach us to get involved in violent demonstrations. You taught us the role we could play in terms of impacting events.' They looked a little better after that."

Remembering Robert Eric Frykenberg



Robert Frykenberg was born in India in 1930 and grew up in Nalgonda, Telangana. In 1942 he moved to America with his family. He earned an M.A from the University of Minnesota, embarked on graduate studies at UC Berkeley (1954–58), and earned a Ph.D. from SOAS at London University (1958–61).

In 1962, he joined the University of Wisconsin–Madison faculty and served there as Professor of History and South Asian Studies until 1998. While at UW–Madison, Frykenberg founded SAMP (South Asia Microfilm Project) in 1963. He was Chairman of the UW–Madison Department of South Asian Studies and Director of South Asia Studies Center from 1970 to 1973. Frykenberg founded the annual Wisconsin Conference on South Asian Studies in 1972, an international event that attracts over 500 participants. He directed Pew Research Advancement Projects from 1994–1999 and served on the board of Pew Research Enablement Project from 1993–1999. Robert Frykenberg received Emeritus status in 1998, after 36 years at UW–Madison. He is remembered with gratitude in the Department of History.

Get involved!

Want to help shape our major's professional futures? Consider being a career mentor! Career mentors might provide advice on how to get started in their field, read over resume or cover letters, or help current students build their networks.

Contact Christina Matta at christina.matta@wisc.edu for more information.

International Media Attention for Emily Callaci's *Wages for Housework*

Professor Emily Callaci's recently published book has garnered significant media attention in 2025. She released her second book, *Wages for Housework: The Story of a Movement, an Idea, a Promise*, with Penguin. It is the first book to tell the story of the "Wages for Housework" movement – a relatively unknown but influential feminist campaign in the 1970s. Since its release, the book has been highlighted in many popular media outlets.

Wages for Housework has been featured in *The Atlantic*, *The Guardian*, *The Nation*, *The Financial Times*, and *Publishers Weekly*. In addition, her work has been highlighted by numerous podcasts, including BBC's *Start the Week*. As the articles reveal, the subject of housework remains a relevant topic in contemporary society and has regained attention by the Covid-19 pandemic, political discourse on declining birthrates in the U.S., and other global debates around housework and carework. The Wages for Housework movement, originating in the 1970s, has persisted as a provocative idea and unfulfilled goal.



Prof. Emily Callaci and graduate students celebrating *Wages for Housework* at an event at the Madison bookstore A Room of One's Own, May 2025.

Callaci's interest in the topic began when she was on parental leave from the Department, when she was struck with the absence of carework in the feminism that she grew up with in the 1990s. Her new role as a mother and her training as a historian led her to ask what feminists had to say about housework and the care of children, the elderly, and wider communities.

In addition to working in archives in the US, the UK, and Italy, Callaci also conducted oral history interviews with a number of activists active in the wages for housework movement. Many of these activists clashed with one another, and the story of the movement is one often fraught with tension, as movement leaders took up the capacious politics of carework in very different ways. These stories have attracted a large audience of global readers who are interested in the impactful history of the wages for housework movement.

Explore these select interviews with Emily Callaci:

- "'It infuriates me': Why the 'Wages for Housework' Movement is Still Controversial 40 years On," *The Guardian*: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/feb/07/wages-for-housework-movement-still-controversial-40-years-on>
- "The Enduring Lessons of Wages for Housework," *The Nation*: <https://www.thenation.com/article/culture/emily-callaci-wages-housework-history/>
- "Wages for Housework – then and now" with BBC *Start the Week*: <https://www.bbc.com/audio/play/m0027t58>



The Atlantic

The Nation.



Intern Spotlight: Mosse Undergraduate Interns

Each year the Mosse Program selects 1-3 UW-Madison History Department undergraduate students for the George L. Mosse Program Undergraduate Internship in European and Digital History. Interns have the opportunity to gain experience in digital humanities, public history, and the library sciences. They work with units across campus, including UW Archives, UW Libraries Special Collections, the Oral History Program, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, and the Wisconsin Historical Society.



Olivia Kelly

Working on the exhibit “[1914: Then Came Armageddon](#)” was a fascinating experience. Working in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum research center allowed me access to one-of-a-kind personal memorabilia from some of our nation’s greatest heroes. Not only has this internship taught me about how professional researchers access databases, but I have also learned more about the process of acquisition for museums and archives. Working to display and preserve these materials in Wisconsin’s cultural memory has been and will continue to be a highlight of my college career.



Theodore Xing

My internship with the oral history department at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum has been an incredible academic and professional development opportunity. I’ve had the honor of working on hundreds of veterans’ stories: documenting, learning from, and hearing their firsthand experiences directly through their voices. I’ve learned what it means to be a diligent historian, how an interview is conducted, and how these stories are preserved for generations to come by the museum. Through this internship, I’ve gained not only practical and professional skills in archival research and public history methodology, but also a deeper appreciation for the human stories behind historical events. This experience has both solidified my passion for history and affirmed my commitment to using storytelling as a means of honoring the past and informing the future.

Remembering Robin Rider



Dr. Robin Rider joined UW–Madison in 1996 as Curator of Special Collections, Memorial Library and as Senior Lecturer, first in the department of History of Science and then History. Under her stewardship, the Department of Special Collections benefited from many acquisitions as well as donations of materials and funds, largely due to her thoughtful cultivation of long-term professional and philanthropic relationships. Campus and community visitors learned much from the 50+ full-scale [exhibits](#) that she curated in the Special Collections galleries, often in close collaboration with faculty, staff, and students, as well as the many exhibits in other venues, both on and off campus, on which she assisted. Her last exhibit, on [educational games](#), was open through December 2024. Robin also shared her expertise through countless classes for a wide range of students, whether from UW–Madison, other UW system campuses, K–12 schools, conferences, or the general public; through the stand alone courses she taught for credit nearly every year; and through her work with [scholars](#) from

around the world who visited UW–Madison to make use of the outstanding library collections that she built over her long tenure.

Robin maintained an active research profile, [publishing widely](#) on technical, cultural, social, and political aspects of the history of mathematics and print culture from the Renaissance through the 20th century. Her remarkable work celebrates what a trained mathematician and historian can do by taking seriously the books, manuscripts and special collections she assembled and curated.

Robin was deeply dedicated to sustaining research infrastructure for history of science, medicine, and technology (HSMT) scholarship, both through her work building UW–Madison’s HSMT holdings and her service to the field at large. Her commitment to the field was reflected in her key role in negotiating the inclusion of History of Science Society (HSS) journals in an early iteration of JSTOR, her numerous published bibliographies and guides to sources in the Berkeley Papers in History of Science series, and her long-term service on the HSS publications committee and advisory board for the History of Science Society bibliographer. All who had the good fortune to encounter Robin experienced her wide-ranging scholarly expertise, generosity, and support. She will be dearly missed.



Ninth floor, UW–Madison Special Collections. Curator Robin Rider shows students John James Audubon’s “The Birds of America from Original Drawings” (1827–30).
(Photo Credit: Eric Ferguson)



Curator Robin Rider by the University of Wisconsin Special Collections’ exhibit “Most Agreeable & Rational Recreation: Two Centuries of Educational Board Games.”.
(Photo Credit: Badger Herald / Akhilesh Peddi)

Ph.D.s Awarded, 2023-2024

Dustin Michael Cohan, “Remaking America’s Dairyland: Undocumented Workers, American Farmers, and the Tenuous Alliance of Modern Dairy, 1986–2009”

Celia Marie Crifasi, “Breastmilk and Belonging: Marian Theology, Wet Nursing, and Milk Kinship in the Early Modern Spanish Atlantic”

Edward Hartwell Frame, “Opening the American Mind: Education, Liberalism, and the Life of Scott Buchanan”

Tyler Andrew Lehrer, “Dangerous Friendships: Making and Un-Making Maritime Buddhist Connection in Eighteenth-Century Southern Asia”

Alice Coulter Main Kwok, “Imagining the Norse Medieval in Nineteenth-Century France”

John McCann Bassett, “Kapayapaan ay susi ng kaunlaran: The Economic, Political, and Security History of Davao City, 1980–98”

Chong Moua, “Refugee Cosmopolitanism: Hmong Refugees and a Critical Stateless Perspective”

Lewis J. Patterson, “‘A Rare Degree of Perfection’: Navalists Visions of Progress and Power in Europe and America, 1898–1919”

Zhijun Ren, “Envisioning the Early Modern Empire: Travel and Writing in Sino-Korean Relations”

Charlotte Clare Whatley, “Property and Power: Legal Performance and Royal Legitimacy in the Age of Edward III”



Graduates and advisors at the History Department's
Ph.D. Graduation Celebration, May 2024.

Ph.D.s Awarded, 2024-2025

Ayodeji Wakil Adegbite, “Nigeria’s Biomedical Public: African Medical Practitioners in the Environment, Politics and Science of Disease Control in Africa, 1861–1990”

Collin E. Bernard, “Housing in the Age of Fracture: Social Movements, Representation, and the French and Italian Communist Parties (1968–1981)”

Bridget Dawn Collins, “From the Cradle to the Grave: Infectious Disease in the Twentieth Century American Home”

Joshua Doyle-Raso, “Referral, and Primary Care: How Latino Organizations in Chicago Created a Stabler Healthscape for Spanish-speaking Communities, ca. 1950–2000”

Erin Shoshana Faigin, “‘Fer Sure!’: The Valley Girl, the Jewish American Princess, and the Limits of Jewish American Upward Mobility in the Suburban Age”

Daniel James Jackson, “Flying Brothers: The Cold War and America’s Airpower Allies in Southeast Asia”

Carly Renee Lucas, “Curriculum and Conscience: Ujamaa, Intellectual Activism, and Accountability at Tanzania’s University”

Samuel Ethan Meyerson, “The Great Grazing Ground: Indigenous Power and the Limits of the State in East Africa, 1911–1999”

Zhaoshen Wang, “Dating Ming Nostalgia: Commemorating Chongzhen in East Asia”



Graduates and advisors at the History Department's
Ph.D. Graduation Celebration, May 2025.
(Photo Credit: Arrowstar Photography)

Selected Graduate Student Awards and Fellowships

2023–2024

Verenize Arceo – Advanced Achievement in Teaching Award, Campus TA Award

Zada Ballew – Elouise Cobell Dissertation Writing-Year Fellowship, Indigenous Education, Inc.

Celia Crifasi – Barbara “Penny” Kanner Award

Patrick Eickman – German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

James Flynn – Fulbright US Student Program

Max Greenberg – Early Excellence in Teaching, Campus TA Award

Chris Herde – Sandoway Graduate Writing Prize

Emir Karakaya – Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies

Ik Kittisenee – CSEAS Fellowship

Ye Lin – Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies

John-Coahle Merryfield – Boren Award (Japan)

Kyle Miron – Early Excellence in Teaching, Campus TA Award and the Kate Everest Levi Second-Year Paper Prize

Fauzi Moro – Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship

Alexandra Pasqualone – Spencer Dissertation Fellowship

Alex Scheepens – Claims Conference Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies

Jorge Trinidad-Espinoza – Paul Glad Prize

Emma Wathen – Madeleine L’Engle Research Fellowship

Yacov Zohn – Cohen-Tucker Dissertation Fellowship, Leibniz Institute of European History

2024–2025

Selenay Aydin – Campus TA Award: Advanced Achievement

Srotaswini Bhowmick – IRIS Summer Fieldwork Award and Black Languages, Arts, and Culture Foundation

Ludwig Decke – Manya Friedman Memorial Fellowship, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, Washington, D.C.

Yadhav Deerpaul – African Studies Research Award

James Flynn – Junior Fellow, Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies, Seoul National University

Francisco Hernandez Molerres – Fulbright, France

Michael Kaelin – Predoctoral Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University

Napakadol Kittisenee – Graduate Student Research and Travel Award, Center for Culture, History, and Environment

Carly Lucas – Quinn Dissertation Fellowship

John-Coahle Merryfield – Boren Award (Taiwan)

Kyle Miron – L&S Teaching Mentor, AY 2025–2026

Fauzi Moro – Predoctoral Fellowship, Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, University of Virginia

Keely Mruk – Campus TA Award: Early Excellence

Andrés Pertierra – Dissertation Fellowship, Leibniz Institute

Tomás Pino – Tinker Nave Summer Field Work Grant

Kharis Ralph – Fulbright, South Korea

Leslie Sabakinu – Quinn Dissertation Fellowship

Join the Madison History Club!

The Madison History Club brings together UW–Madison alumni and people across Madison who are curious about the past and eager to learn and discuss history with others.

Through public lectures, book discussions, roundtables, and film screenings, the Madison History Club connects the community with the innovative research and teaching going on in the Department of History. Members guide the club's program of events. All are welcome, and we hope you will join us!

Visit the department calendar – <https://history.wisc.edu/upcoming-events/> – to explore all of the History Department's upcoming public events, including History Club programs. Video recordings of some Madison History Club events are available to view at the Department of History's YouTube channel: [@uwmadisonhistory](https://www.youtube.com/@uwmadisonhistory).

To learn more visit: <https://history.wisc.edu/madison-history-club/>



Madison History Club Public Lecture "Religion and Politics in the Long Roman Empire" with Prof. Leonora Neville in April 2025



Madison History Club Public Lecture "Chivalry, Stoicism, and the Way of the Samurai in Modern Japan" with Prof. Sarah Thal in December 2024.

Stay Connected with the History Department!

Please follow us on social media and check out our website
for updates on department life and upcoming events.



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Thank you to the 2024 members of our Giving Societies for their generous support!

We'd like to extend our gratitude to those whose gifts qualified them for Department of History Giving Society membership in 2024.

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Professor Marla Ramírez meets with undergraduate mentees. She is one of 10 recipients of the Award for Mentoring Undergraduates in Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities. Ramírez trains undergraduates to conduct oral history interviews to document the stories of Latinx communities in Wisconsin. She also worked with students on archival research about the unconstitutional banishment of U.S. citizens of Mexican descent during the Great Depression.

(Photo Credit: Althea Dotzour / UW-Madison)