Hardly a week goes by that some article doesn’t pop up in my news feed bemoaning the decline of student enrollments in History and the other humanities disciplines. Fortunately, there is a wave of defenders pushing back against the narrative that these degrees are hindrances to a good career and declaring the importance of historical literacy in an era of artificial intelligence, fake news, and conspiracy theories. “We need the humanities more than ever,” declared a 2018 op-ed in *The Globe & Mail*. Earlier this year, the BBC asserted that so-called “worthless’ humanities degrees may set you up for life.” Articles of this kind cite studies showing that, while graduates with History degrees may begin their careers with lower salaries than their counterparts in the sciences or engineering, they often see their incomes rise robustly within their first decade after graduation. Others point to the wide diversity of career paths that are opened up, rather than foreclosed, by a History degree. Included in this latest trend have been statements from powerful tech interests, like Brad Smith, President of Microsoft, and Harry Shum, Executive Vice President of Artificial Intelligence & Research, who write, “As computers behave more like humans, the social sciences and humanities will become even more important. Languages, art, history, economics,
ethics, philosophy, psychology and human development courses can teach critical, philosophical and ethics-based skills that will be instrumental in the development and management of AI solutions.”

The Canadian Historical Society’s website What Can You Do with a History Degree features profiles of History alums from institutions throughout Canada, including an interview with SFU’s very own Jonathan Cote, who received his B.A. in History in 2002. Currently mayor of New Westminster, Cote told us about how essential his SFU History degree is to his work as mayor: “[I’m] constantly making decisions that will affect the future.” Understanding the past, Cote says, has enabled him to effectively do just that. Cote points to the skills in writing, critical thinking, and communication that he acquired as a History major “that set [me] up for success.” Finally, Cote encourages students to “follow their heart and pursue their passions...developing talents in the areas they care most about will lead to them on a journey towards a fulfilling career.”

If you are a former student of SFU History, we would love to hear your stories. We always like to know where you go, where you ended up, and the exciting things you are doing now. In the next year, we will be reaching out to alumni to gather your stories and feature them prominently on our redesigned website. Your successes are vitally important to encouraging our current and future students. If you are a former student, keep in touch, either through your favourite faculty member or by connecting with me and the Department directly.

Footnotes


Joan Scott and Jennifer Spear at the History Department’s annual public lecture series, at which Scott presented on her book: Sex & Secularism. Photo: Greg Ehlers
As members of SFU’s Department of History, we respectfully acknowledge that we live and work on the unceded traditional territories of Coast Salish peoples, including those of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Səl̓ilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), and Kwikwetlem First Nations.

ON THE COVERS

Jack Shadbolt (1909-1998) is a significant Canadian artist. Shadbolt is best known for his paintings and murals which reflect his travels and experiences including his childhood in British Columbia, his studies in London, Paris and New York, and his work as a war artist during World War II. Shadbolt’s work was influenced by the natural world, including the cycles of life and death, growth, decay and destruction; ideas of metamorphosis and transformation; fetishes and homages; as well as First Nations themes and motifs. Shadbolt received the Order of Canada in 1972.

Front cover:


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Fenianism was a revolutionary movement that arose in the 1860s—initially in Ireland and the US, spreading quickly to other diasporic spaces—to fight for Ireland’s freedom from Britain. Because no archival evidence has surfaced of a formal Fenian presence in Newfoundland, there is a tendency in the historiography to dismiss moments of tension between Irish-Catholic and English-Protestant settlers as merely evidence of fishers, tradespeople, and the working poor being led about by local religious and political leaders to serve middle-class agendas. Yet I have long believed that ordinary people generally act in their own self-interests, and that they will often tap into their own understandings of difference when power and resources are scarce or unequally apportioned. I have also suspected that ordinary Irish Catholics were attuned to broader trends in Irish republican nationalism and drew from them understandings of how to fight for greater equity in the Newfoundland context. Further, their efforts to assert their claims were cause for concern among English Protestants of all classes.

So during my research terms in recent years, I have gone to Newfoundland in search of Fenian ghosts. I have spent
much time in the Provincial Archives, tracing the spectre of republican support in the records about the 1800 United Irishmen mutiny in St. John’s and the emergence of the pro-republican Friends of Irish Freedom over a century later in the aftermath of the Easter Rising. I have also combed through local community museums and collective historical memories in the outports. In the process, I have immersed myself in mental, emotional, and physical sites of remembering. In the fishing town of Port de Grave, for example, I collected oral interviews and spent several hours in a small, desolate graveyard that marks the spot where a Catholic chapel once stood—long abandoned because in the wake of a Fenian scare in the mid-1860s, English-Protestant inhabitants had “drove out the Catholics.” Between Carbonear and Harbour Grace, I stood on Saddle Hill and contemplated how two separate ear-loppings of Protestant, conservative political observers—evidence of a proto-republican secret society called “Ribbonism”—could have occurred in broad daylight without anyone in the area having seen or heard the maimings. In Riverhead, I spoke to various grandchildren of the Riverhead “Fenians” who had physically driven off Orangemen marching into their territory in the 1880s, a period of deep recession in Newfoundland that coincided with the Land War in Ireland.

Indeed, these moments occurred at times when similar manifestations of Irish nationalism were occurring in Ireland and elsewhere in North America. Irish-Catholic assertions of ethnic identity were often filled with the thrum of subversiveness and resistance common to republican discourse, and English-Protestant responses were tied, at least in part, to a fear that Irish militant nationalism had reached Newfoundland. The ghost of Fenianism haunted ethnic relations in Newfoundland for some time, and it is sometimes still palpable in places of remembering on the island.

Willeen Keough is Professor of History at SFU.
Staring at my calendar, knowing spring will pass with astonishing speed, I feel like I’m about to be sent from Heaven back to Purgatory. My dread is deepened by having gone through this before. This is my second tenure at the National Humanities Center, a wondrous institution dedicated to the rare proposition of supporting all the humanities. Every fall since 1978, the NHC has welcomed a new cohort of anthropologists, archaeologists, historians, philosophers, poets, and students of language, literature, film, and music to a white-bricked, modernist monastery set in the piney woods of North Carolina. In early September we gathered to receive the simple but profoundly empowering order to follow our curiosity. The ensuing nine months, filled with good food, incredible library services, thrilling discoveries, and smart conversation has been like a return to grad school sans the anxiety. Unfortunately, it’s all about to end. Soon I must pack and leave, and while I’m looking forward to returning to the classroom, I am sad to leave this place and these people.

The parting is harder because of the character of this year’s cohort. The thirty-eight resident academic and independent scholars are a diverse lot, hailing from nine countries and five continents. We nevertheless quickly jelled as a community. Sometimes we came together in small groups to discuss research, other times en masse for conferences and talks. Then there was the food. The NHC’s only rule is that fellows and staff must gather at noon to break bread. In past years people tended to have set dining partners, but this year was unusual. Tables filled according to the order in which people filed into the room. Conversations emerged organically from this dynamic. Current events, what we read, wrote, or heard, the latest play or film or show: these were the usual topics, but lately everyone has been obsessed with calories. The long, wet winter thwarted outdoor exercise, but the real culprits were Jim and Tom, the Center’s two devious cooks. They are responsible for our fabulous meals, and they have been dead set on producing a middle-aged version of the Freshman Fifteen. Pastries have been my downfall, but they know everyone’s food vice. It hasn’t been a fair contest.

The NHC is an outstanding place to think and write. The food and company are widely admired, but its greatest advantage, the thing most fellows only discover after arrival, are its...
The common dining area at the NHC. Photo: Jay Taylor

Joseph E. (Jay) Taylor III is Professor of History at SFU.
The gift of time is a luxury few of us have in our academic careers, and my term as the inaugural Jack & Nancy Farley Distinguished Visiting Scholar in History has been a truly indulgent eight months. My days have been gloriously spent in archives and writing workshops, reading new books and revisiting classic works, and listening to what my sources and peers are saying.

Before coming to the SFU History Department, I had not found such peace. I was struggling to tackle my second book project: running through a series of conference presentations to discuss my evidence, drafting grant proposals to fund my archival work and secure time away from the classroom, and looking to new scholarship. In my haste to commit to a project, I had settled on the remarkable tale of Aboriginal woman Fannie Fowle, who was abducted in New South Wales, Australia; trafficked and stowed in a British ship captain’s cabin through Hong Kong and Victoria, British Columbia; and finally redeemed in Seattle, Washington, in 1885 when an investigation of the crew’s charges against the captain led to Fannie’s discovery by port officials. Through the experiences of those who suffered on board the *Hattie*...
Tapley, I hoped to chronicle the relationship between the exploitation of Indigenous women and industrial laborers at the core of settler-colonial expansion and Pacific world capitalism.

Early on, archival silences dashed my hopes. However, knowing what the archives do not hold is as important as knowing what they do hold for us. Likely because he held captives and contentious cargo, the British captain who had abducted Fannie Fowle traded with elites and immigrants in Victoria and Seattle, but also hovered just beyond documentation. His cargo came in and out of port before bureaucratic record-keeping practices became consistent, and although the Hattie Tapley can be traced here and there throughout the Salish Sea and Pacific Ocean, a book-length study proved impossible to achieve.

At first, I grieved. Historians cannot always chase hunches and, as sure as I am that more threads can be found globally to weave the remarkable tale of the Hattie Tapley, pursuing those faint traces is not possible at the moment. Fortunately, I have another set of powerful histories at hand. While following Fannie Fowle and the Hattie Tapley through British Columbia and Washington archives, I had been working on a few article drafts based on other leads I had found. These leads stemmed from my interest in nineteenth-century habeas corpus petitioners using the writ to challenge child removal, deportation, enslavement, and reservation internment throughout the North American West. In workshopping these drafts, colleagues asked why I was abbreviating the stories of more than a dozen petitioners. They highlighted additional points of comparison and analysis that would intrigue readers and encouraged me to consider these petitioners together rather than separately. I explained that it would require a book-length study to do. But wasn’t I looking for a book-length project? How had I not realized that I already had one in hand?

Such encouragement, and the time away from daily commitments on my home campus, allowed me to consider how I would reframe these myriad petitioners excised into separate essays into a contemporaneous, and possibly collaborative, group of freedom-seekers. It soon became clear to me that I had the raw material for a comparative and gendered analysis of black petitioners using habeas to challenge enslavement in free territories, of Chinese petitioners using habeas to challenge deportation under the Chinese Exclusion Act, of Indigenous petitioners seeking custody of children seized by Indian agents and would-be guardians or challenging their own confinement on reservations, and of parents using the writ to claim child custody. Together, these petitioners engaged in a unique form of freedom-making as they challenged the racial, national, and gendered hierarchies that convinced others they had the authority to confine them. As individual petitioners, their stories are poignant; as collective wielders of the great writ, their histories are powerful.

“My days have been gloriously spent in archives and writing workshops, reading new books and revisiting classic works, and listening to what my sources and peers are saying.”

The Farley fellowship at SFU is at once an opportunity to network and exchange ideas with supportive and sophisticated scholars, and a chance to pursue the solitary reflection necessary to cultivate an idea into a book. During my Farley term, I have gathered a much deeper collection of material from regional archives and am moving forward with a clear vision. In addition to exchanging ideas and counsel with other scholars at SFU, I have also benefited from the training and support in digital humanities provided by staff in the Digital Humanities Innovation Lab, who taught me new ways to organize my current research, and helped me to develop a scholarly website to showcase my previous work and enhance my public outreach. Meeting with undergraduates in the Honors Seminar and sharing conference proposal strategies with graduate students also proved to be rewarding exchanges. It was a treat to be pushed to summarize historians’ essential skills and traits by Dr. Spear’s students and to share vital networking strategies with the graduate students working with Dr. Kelm and other faculty. I also enjoyed sharing from my first book, Legal Codes & Talking Trees (Yale University Press, 2016), at the inaugural Farley Scholar Lecture and with audiences throughout the Salish Sea and Puget Sound region.

Katrina Jagodinsky (center) with fellow panelists Margo Tamez (left) and Paige Raibmon (right) at the Inaugural Farley Lecture. Photo: Dale Northey
I came here in January with a bold vision of a faintly-traced book project and a handful of ideas jammed into article drafts, and I will leave in August with a book proposal drawn from those article drafts, while those faint traces will resurface as an article in the next year. Only by quieting the many demands on our time can such transitions occur, and I am so grateful for the colleagues who have offered useful suggestions and shared valuable sources while I determine what is next in my analysis of the past. The Farley position has been a fruitful and rewarding period for me, and I will never forget the beauty of this opportunity. Thank you to all of those who have made these past eight months a pinnacle of my academic career.

Katrina Jagodinsky is the Susan J. Rosowski Associate Professor of History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and was the 2018-2019 Farley Visiting Scholar in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at SFU.

“\nThe Farley fellowship at SFU is at once an opportunity to network and exchange ideas with supportive and sophisticated scholars, and a chance to pursue the solitary reflection necessary to cultivate an idea into a book.\n”

The Farley fellowship at SFU is at once an opportunity to network and exchange ideas with supportive and sophisticated scholars, and a chance to pursue the solitary reflection necessary to cultivate an idea into a book.

Katrina Jagodinsky

The Farley Fellowship includes a commitment to offer a public presentation and I enjoyed the opportunity to share my research on Indigenous women’s activism with fellow scholars Dr. Paige Raibmon of UBC and Dr. Margo Tamez of UBC Okanagan. Distinct because of our particular regional and temporal expertise, and because we each bring a unique personal perspective to the work we do, our presentations revealed to an audience of 100 people that Indigenous women’s activism takes many forms, ranging from explicitly anti-colonial legal challenges, to life-long commitments to community development and language revitalization, to encounters with state-sanctioned violence and evocations of Indigenous worldviews in global forums. Indigenous artist and activist Audrey Siegl’s traditional welcome that evening also gave me an opportunity to consider ways of supporting Indigenous access and claims to resources on my home campus at University of Nebraska Lincoln. Observing the protocols and policies SFU and other BC institutions have adopted to acknowledge and support Indigenous and First Nations sovereignty has been an educational experience for me and I am eager to discuss such practices with my colleagues and friends pursuing similar goals in Nebraska.
When I was rehired as a Parliamentary tour guide in summer 2018, Canada was dotted with as many controversies about Sir John A. Macdonald as it was with statues of him. Visitors to the Hill were hyperconscious that these statues were coming down but often unsure as to why. Some were eager to learn the reasons for the controversy surrounding these statues; others were indifferent or even combative and uninterested in learning what the source of the controversy was.

Tours of the East Block of Parliament Hill guide visitors through the offices of four historical figures, including John A. Macdonald. The purpose of the tours is to introduce students to the history of confederation-era Canada. Our training materials, however, made no reference to the role that Macdonald and his government played in the establishment of residential schools or his deeply problematic views about Indigenous people. The training materials advised that we simply acknowledge that Macdonald was a complex historical figure, as if this simple phrasing provided a full and fair accounting of his role in Canadian history. Those of us who had studied Canadian history, not just history majors but also political science, theater, and medical students, regarded this as completely inadequate.

We found ourselves regularly returning from tours frustrated because visitors had tried pulling us into arguments regarding the removal of statues, or about reconciliation and residential school history. We also heard from residential school survivors and their families, for whom the building represented a painful legacy that we were not equipped to properly represent. Eventually we petitioned our supervisor for additional resources that would give us the material we needed to tell more complete stories but none were forthcoming even by summer’s end. Personally, I felt as if my desire to tell better stories was administratively stunted by the system I worked in and for—a new and dismaying experience for a history major.

I love public history, but it’s different from the kinds of historical thinking that I’m invited to do in classrooms and in the library’s bowel—thinking that takes full account of history’s many complexities and encourages interrogation. Public history involves people—lots of people—who meet you on their own terms and with their own understandings of the world. The Parliamentary tour program does a lot of things very well but it is struggling with something public history enterprises can’t avoid: there’s no easy way to tell some of the more difficult stories that the public may not want to hear. But it’s still important that the tour guides hired to introduce visitors to the history of the Parliamentary offices they visit be provided with manuals that tell more complete stories in the five minutes per room that are allocated.

And try we did. Lots of love to my old team who are doing their best again this year to tell these stories, and best wishes to all those to come. Especially since I hear that those training materials remain unchanged.

Gabrielle McLaren is a fourth-year World Literature and History joint major at SFU. She has spent two summers working as a Parliamentary Guide in Ottawa in both Center Block and East Block. She is currently Editor-in-Chief of The Peak, SFU’s independent student newspaper, and looks forward to applying to graduate school in another year.

Statue of Sir John A. MacDonald, first prime minister of Canada, at Parliament Hill. Photo: Flickr (cailean-viii)
Innovative Teaching is a new section in Primary Source, where we will highlight the innovative teaching methods created by our faculty, instructors, and teaching assistants. Cards Against Humanity is a popular card game where players associate abstract concepts and are judged on the strongest association. A longer version of this article originally appeared on the website of NiCHE (Network in Canadian History & Environment). – eds.

CARDs AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY: RETHINKING UNDERGRADUATE REVIEW EXERCISES

Hailey Venn

Game show-style trivia games are often requested by students who want an in-class review activity, but trivia games have some critical drawbacks. They suggest that there are simple right and wrong answers that can be stated effectively in minimal words. Trivia games discourage critical thinking and demand a tremendous amount of work from those who create the game, in contrast to the players. There must be a better way.

A few years ago, Leah Wiener, PhD candidate in our department, assigned Cards Against Environmental History (CAEH) to the third year class she TA’d. The basic rules followed those of the original Cards Against Humanity and students were tasked with creating the black and white cards. As a student in that course, I really appreciated the creativity of the exercise and how the structure demanded that students go back and look over their materials.

The rules of the original Cards Against Humanity game are simple. Each round, one player becomes the judge and plays a black card with an open-ended statement on it, and everyone else answers with what they feel is their most appropriate (for whatever reason) white card. The players then debate and defend their choices, while the judge chooses a winner from amongst the submissions. The winner is the player who has had their submissions chosen most often. Cards Against Environmental History (CAEH) follows this same format, encouraging students to think about course concepts in terms of analogy and to practice building an argument and defending it.

During my first TAship in 2017, I was assigned to the same course. Naturally, CAEH was due to make another appearance. To ensure that there was little to no repetition...
of cards, I tasked each student with preparing cards for one week of the course. For the latest application of CAEH this spring, however, I needed to adapt it to a first year environmental history course, so I surprised students with cards I had drafted. I focused on key terms and actors (both human and non-human) covered in the course. The open-ended black cards were constructed using concepts we had reviewed in class and quotations from the readings. The white ‘answer’ cards I prepared included some cards that echo the caustic wit of the original game, such as a card reading “a perfectly bleached batch of coral,” intended to trigger discussion about the destruction of coral reefs. Other white cards dug deeper into the substance of our course. For example, to encourage students to reengage class discussions regarding forms of so-called “authentic cuisine,” one white card declared, “calling out the Mexican burrito for what it really is.”

Modifications aside, the basic structure of CAEH demanded that students debate with one another what the most applicable answer to the black card was. One example involved a student who submitted the word “racism” in response to a card that stated, “A key factor in the evolution of the chair was _______. ” When the judge questioned the applicability of the card, the student argued that the history of slavery was integral to the production of Jamaican mahogany which was used to make chairs during the colonial period. That, right there, is exactly what I hoped students would get out of the game.

Afterwards, I asked students what they thought of Cards Against Environmental History. Their responses were very positive. Many thought the game was “fun and engaging.” Others noted that CAEH encouraged discussion and helped them identify key terms and concepts that they could use as long-term study tools. More than one student was thrilled to discover that it helped them to “retain lots!” Is it time for trivia games to retire?

Hailey Venn is an MA Candidate and Teaching Assistant in the Department of History. The Cards Against Humanity game was modified under a Creative Commons license and this article was printed with permission of the game’s publisher, Cards Against Humanity LLC.

Tina Adock

“I got my dream job, but I can’t imagine I would have gotten it without the experiences I had at SFU,” says Tim Paulson, the Department of History’s most recent postdoctoral fellow, as his two years here come to a close. Tim joined the department in the fall of 2017 shortly after completing his PhD in History at the University of California, Santa Barbara. It was a homecoming of sorts: Tim grew up in Victoria and graduated with a BA Honours in History from the University of Victoria in 2010. He will be staying in British Columbia, but moving inland, becoming an Assistant Professor of History at the University of British Columbia’s Okanagan campus this July.

A historian of capitalism and the environment, Tim studies the transnational history of rangelands and their economic and scientific management. His SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship gave him time to develop his second project, which collects and mobilizes information in historical sources to help solve contemporary problems of rangeland management. Jay Taylor, Tim’s co-supervisor, helped him navigate the challenges of building relationships with ranchers in the Okanagan Valley, a focal site for this study. “His mentorship was invaluable,” Tim says.

Tim also enjoyed teaching the department’s three environmental history courses in 2018-19. He was particularly impressed by students’ willingness to engage with challenging material, such as the writings of mid-twentieth century environmental economists, and challenging assignments such as learning how to use Google Earth Pro to create historical maps. He will be responsible for developing brand new courses of a similar nature at UBC-Okanagan and is glad to have had the opportunity to test-pilot these courses at SFU.

Tim will miss being part of what he calls the “vibrant, healthy community of scholars and friends” in SFU’s Department of History, but says he will always be proud to have spent time here. We wish Tim all the best as he embarks on his new tenure-track position in Kelowna!

Tina Adcock is Assistant Professor of History at SFU.
While meeting to discuss my progress in a directed reading course some months ago, my professor, Dr. John Craig, mentioned an upcoming conference which coincided with my past and present research into the collecting practices of British botanists, surgeons, and explorers during the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries. The conference, Collecting in the Early Modern Academy, focused on the collecting practices of the Royal Society and the Society of Antiquaries of London, our host institution, during this period. After a very enthusiastic ‘yes’ on my part, and with the assistance of Dr. Craig, a generous grant from the History Department made the whole expedition possible.

The speakers walked us through the history of collecting archival materials, from early modes of collecting to modern collections management. We embarked on a figurative journey throughout Britain and then abroad to Italy, Egypt, and Japan before finding ourselves back at the Society of Antiquaries. The documents located in the Society’s archives had allowed us to travel to these distant corners of the world. On both days of the conference, research presentations were followed by an hour of hands-on engagement with the Society’s archival collections. The librarians had pulled books, manuscripts, and artifacts related to that day’s research presentations—often the very items that had served as the foundation of the research that had been presented. One man chuckled in surprise as he realized that the book he had been analyzing was one of just five known copies across the globe. It was wonderful to see how current scholars had tied together elements drawn from disparate sources scattered throughout the library to illuminate something new. Thousands of connections readily made, thousands more waiting to be discovered.

Most of those attending the conference were doctoral students, professors from universities across the world, and individuals working in the various heritage institutions of Britain: the British Museum, the Ashmolean, and the British Library to name a few. Some of these individuals had spent decades of their life contributing to the field and some, like myself, were only just beginning to step into it. Regardless, everyone I talked with was exceptionally kind and clever. It was interesting to discuss the challenges of working in the heritage sector. I often found the challenges colleagues faced in Britain to be similar to my own experiences working in museums in Canada. It was thrilling to discuss research and to learn about the range of topics that other scholars are pursuing, while developing a greater understanding of the discourses to which both they and I hope to speak. The rooms were full of genuine interest, excitement, and optimism. We all left with a renewed sense of purpose. Given that archival collecting is a field in which we often work in isolation, the conference provided insight into the wide range of scholarly contributions that are being made. Although one’s own contribution may seem small, the contributions of the collective are continually driving the field forward.

Chelsea Brown recently graduated with a BA (Honours) in History from SFU.
On April 3, 2019, the 338 delegates of the Daughters of the Vote (DOV) filled the House of Commons. We were there to ask why more women are not being elected or seeking office to begin with. We were also there to remember the multi-generational effort it took to progress as far as we have and to ask how much further we still have to go. At least, that was what the week was supposed to be about, until it was overtaken by much larger events that unfolded around us. Soon, we found ourselves struggling for a political voice in a program that was supposed to encourage it as we were caught up in a national narrative.

The day before we were to take our seats in the House, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau ejected MPs Jody Wilson-Raybould and Jane Philpott from the Liberal caucus. Discussions of the SNC Lavalin dispute and the status of women in Canadian politics rapidly escalated, and we suddenly found ourselves in the midst of this conflict.

When some delegates began organizing protests against Trudeau’s treatment of Wilson-Raybould and Philpott, the conference organizers reminded us that we were privileged to be sitting in the House and asked us not to “jeopardize the program for future delegates.” When they learned of this, some Conservative MPs criticized Daughters of the Vote on social media for attempting to stifle protest, even though their party had voted against the program in the first place. It seemed to us that they were using not only the situation involving Wilson-Raybould and Philpott but also the Daughters of the Vote program itself to attack Trudeau’s self-proclaimed feminist image. However, many of the delegates involved in the protests identified as BIPOC, disabled, or LGBTQ2S, and were opposed to the Conservative Party due to its past treatment of these marginalized groups. Although the 2019 delegates represent a wide range of identities and political perspectives and by no means have one monolithic opinion, many of us felt that our political voice was being co-opted by organized political parties.

So what could we do to control our own narrative? How were we going to use the time during which the House was ours? There were many answers to this. The first DoV delegate to speak, Kailey Arthurson, declared that she stood with “women who are excluded or forcibly removed from colonial spaces.” On CPAC’s public recording, one can see that she raised her arm in a gesture of solidarity to Wilson-Raybould and Philpott, who had quietly taken seats in the public gallery above to watch the proceedings. This powerful moment was not lost, of course, but it was obscured in the news coverage.

Also not visible on the public recording were the protests against Trudeau and Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer. Although the protests against Trudeau were widely documented by Canadian news organizations, more delegates walked out during Scheer’s speech to DoV delegates than turned their backs on Trudeau. Most news reports, however, emphasized the fact that delegates turned their backs on the Prime Minister. The walkout on Scheer and the standing ovation most of the remaining delegates gave the protesters on their return to the House chamber was only briefly noted or omitted entirely.

After we had left the House of Commons, Question Period began. Some MPs used our visit to shame Trudeau, asking how he could have ejected two female Ministers just before DoV delegates arrived. Rather than acknowledging the powerful speeches on climate change, the rights of Indigenous people, and Islamophobia that my fellow delegates made, we found our voices ignored and our presence tokenized. Perhaps we should have expected this. Many of us spoke with one another after the event, expressing concern that we had been made to feel powerless rather than empowered by the House of Commons sitting and by other events that had unfolded during the week-long program.

It is strange to be a student of history in 2019, with our livestreams and instant newsfeeds. Even as we were there on the ground participating in historical events, we could see that the news accounts of the very events we were witnessing were incomplete. Perspectives vary from one person to another and from one news organization to another—my own perspective is no exception to this. Even if it was not an empowering experience, the program did teach me many important lessons about the state of Canadian politics that I will not soon forget.

Lydia Tang is an undergraduate in her final year of study at SFU, majoring in History (minor in Political Science). She represented the riding of Vancouver South at the 2019 Daughters of the Vote conference, which made national headlines by staging a protest in the House of Commons.
At the heart of that discussion were three interrelated questions: “What does it mean to study history at SFU?” “Why study history?” and “What does history have to say to us today?”

Emily O’Brien

On March 18, 2019, members of the History Department gathered at the Diamond Alumni Centre for a special department meeting. We set aside our usual agenda of committee reports, announcements, and other departmental business. The purpose of this month’s meeting was to have an important conversation about how we can bring more students into our History classrooms, and how can we keep them coming back.

The meeting was organized by the department’s Working Environment and Outreach Advisory Committee (WEOAC): faculty members Emily O’Brien (WEOAC chair), Roxanne Panchasi, and Aaron Windel; History’s Coordinator of Communications and Events, Jonathan Gudlaugson; our department manager, Judi Fraser; and our History graduate student representative, Andrea Samoil. The committee has made a point this year of talking directly to SFU History students, and in particular our undergraduates, to get a better sense of their questions, concerns, and interests as they take our courses and navigate our program. These conversations were the impetus for our meeting and for what unfolded as a lively and fruitful discussion.
At the heart of that discussion were three interrelated questions: “What does it mean to study history at SFU?” “Why study history?” and “What does history have to say to us today?” We were instructed to answer these questions concretely and creatively and to draw on our own experiences as we did. We were also asked to imagine ourselves addressing an audience that included enthusiastic and committed History majors, curious but apprehensive first-years, high school students learning history as “names and dates,” and anyone wondering about the personal or professional value of studying the past.

To help us with our conversations, we invited Annalee Kornelsen, a graphic recorder with the agency Drawing Change, to join us. Annalee listened carefully while we talked, and as she listened, she drew. In the words, images, and colours that she put down on paper, she captured our ideas vividly. She also conveyed the energy of our conversations. Everyone contributed to the discussion—faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students—and we were still talking well into our scheduled lunch. We’ve included the images alongside this report so that you can see what we came up with.

We plan to share these graphic recordings with a broad audience, and especially with those asking the same questions that we did: “What does it mean to study history at SFU?”, “Why study history?” and “What does history have to say to us today?” A few weeks after our March meeting, the images became a part of our recruitment message at Next Steps, a Student Services event showcasing all of the programs available to newly admitted SFU students. This fall, we’ll be bringing digital versions into our classrooms, to our Undergraduate Townhalls, and featuring them on the History website. In so doing, we hope to continue this conversation with a still broader group of people. If you have something to add to the discussion, we’d love to hear from you!

Emily O’Brien is Associate Professor of History and Humanities at SFU. She is also the chair of the History Department’s Working Environment and Outreach Advisory Committee.
The History Honours program offers a series of courses (History 300, 400, & 494) to students interested in investigating history at a more professional level, as well as the opportunity to write a thesis based on original research by working closely with a faculty member. Honours courses were offered by Roxanne Panchasi, Paul Sedra, and Jennifer Spear to explore challenging questions related to the history of history as a discipline, historical methods, writing, original research, and potential careers in academia.

This year, eight students embarked on this journey: Zhanara Almazbekova, Mitchell Booth, Alexander Emanuelli, Holly French, Maggie McKeon, Keenan Nadeau, Heather Poussard, and Sophie Webb. Their research projects included: tea advertising in nineteenth-century Britain, the memoirs of a World War II French prisoner of war, the 1951 Festival of Britain, British lesbian and gay activism in Vancouver in the 1970s, and the feminization of the labour force in Rwanda after the genocide. They were supervised by Paul Garfinkel, Mary-Ellen Kelm, Willeen Keough, Ilya Vinkovetsky, Sarah Walshaw, and Aaron Windel. Sarah Walshaw served as second reader for most of the theses, with Aaron Windel kindly stepping in as second reader when needed.

Honours program experiences are strongly shaped by the interests of the students themselves and this was particularly true of this year’s Honours seminar in the spring semester. Following an intensive fall semester in which the cohort took both History 300 (Historiography) and History 400 (Methodology), they came to History 494 (Honours Seminar) having already engaged deeply with each other’s research and interests. This engagement continued as the content of the course was designed by the students themselves. Each week, one student assigned readings related to their own thesis project and led productive discussions with their classmates, working through issues arising from their research. The Honours students also identified History Department colleagues whose scholarship and research methods they were interested in learning more about. Over the semester, we had deeply engaging conversations with faculty members Luke Clossey, Mary-Ellen Kelm, Willeen Keough, Roxanne Panchasi, Lauren Rossi, Ilya Vinkovetsky, and the Farley Distinguished Visiting Scholar Katrina Jagodinsky, who shared their own work and work that has inspired them. These conversations gave the students a chance to see how historians work.

For the course project, the students once again took charge, deciding to create posters based on some aspect of their thesis research. One used a romanticized portrait of a young Kyrgyz woman to highlight how the Soviet Union sought to transform central Asian tribes into Soviet republics. Two students brought together their independent research on Tanganyikan independence and a hydroelectric project in interior British Columbia to explore the complex legacies of British colonialism in the mid-twentieth century. At an end-of-semester reception, the students shared their posters and their broader research projects with a packed room of colleagues, staff, and other students.

It was a pleasure to work with these budding historians. We wish them all the very best in whatever paths they decide to take!

Jennifer Spear is Chair of the History Department and taught the Honours Seminar this year. Sarah Walshaw is Senior Lecturer in the Department of History and Honours Program Coordinator.

The honours posters from this year’s cohort are currently on display on the 6th floor of the Academic Quadrangle in the History Department.
**National Territorial Delimitation of Kyrgyz Republic: Brief Overview**

- After October 1917, when the Bolsheviks took power in Russia, new Soviet administrations were first created and then dissolved.
- In 1946, as a part of the national delimitation, the Kirghiz Autonomous Oblast’ (KKAO) was created.
- In 1991, the Soviet government granted the territory of the KKAO the status of Kyrgyz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (KASSR).
- In 1990, KASSR became an equal member of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) as Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic (KSSR).
- In 1991, KSSR achieved full independence after the collapse of the USSR.

Refer to maps below for a visual timeline.

**Soviet Borders-Making Project in Historiography**

- **Totalization school**
- **Revitalization school**

**Imperial Maps**

- Imperial maps function as a simple, organized view of colonialism. Histories of colonialism often follow suit, reducing complex colonial situations to a simple binary: the colonized and the colonizer. However, this narrative does not allow for populations that do not clearly fit in either of these categories or work across this binary divide.

The goal of our analysis is to bring to light the complexities of British colonialism through examining interethnic alliances and populations of middlemen. In this analysis, we will be looking at Canada and Tanganyika in the 1950s. We hope to show how these in-between populations functioned similarly across the Empire.

### Complexities of Colonization: Canada and Tanganyika

**European-style maps worked on the basis of a totalizing classification.** (Benedict Anderson)

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### Examples of Colonialism and Womanhood

- **North American Colonization**
- **Ugandan Womanhood**

**Context**

- In 1651, the Kenney Dam blocked the Nechako River in British Columbia (BC). The dam’s reservoir displaced the Ootsa Lake settlements, which had historically traded with the Nechako River to survive the BC interior winters.
- In 1951, the Kenney Dam blocked the Nechako River in British Columbia (BC). The dam’s reservoir displaced the Ootsa Lake settlements, which had historically traded with the Nechako River to survive the BC interior winters.

**Interesting Alliances**

- **Soviet Mackenzie Valley**
- **Cheilotha and the Cheilotha**

**Middleman**

- **The Asian Association**
- **TANU**

### Bringing Modernity to the Kyrgyz Orient or Border-Making of Soviet Central Asia

- **Daughter of Soviet Kirghizia**
- **Soviet Central Asia, 1922**

**Poster by honour students Zhanara Almazbekova.**

**Looking through the Painting: A transformed Kirghizia**

**Poster by honour students Keenan Nadeau and Heather Poussard.**

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This year’s History Department event schedule was a busy one, featuring our Public Lecture Series, Sex & Sexuality, and several other exciting and well-attended events.

The Public Lecture Series began with a bang in October, with world-renowned historian and author, Joan Wallach Scott (Princeton, Emeritus), speaking to a packed theater at the Vancouver Campus about her recent book *Sex & Secularism* (Princeton University Press, 2017), which she linked to her previous work on gender and intellectual history. After the event, a reception was held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the publication of Scott’s groundbreaking work, *Gender and the Politics of History* (Cambridge University Press, 1987). During the reception, pre-recorded video readings of *Gender and the Politics of History*—read by over 50 of Scott’s former colleagues, friends, former students, and fans, including some very well-known scholars—were played, much to the delight of Scott and the attendees. The video project was organized, compiled and edited by the history department’s Roxanne Panchasi and is currently hosted on the Columbia University Press website (see endnote for link).
On February 8, 2019 the Department hosted Katherine Crawford, Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies and History Director of Women’s and Gender Studies at Vanderbilt College of Arts & Sciences, who presented to a crowded room at the Vancouver Campus. Her talk, entitled "Sexuality & Identity in Early Modern History: Towards an Ethic of Toleration in an Age of Incivility," brought together the persecution and intolerance directed at a variety of different groups, such as prostitutes and castrati, over the past 200 years, and ended with an examination of the modern day Furry community—a poorly-understood and often-mocked group who enjoy, for a variety of reasons, dressing in animal costumes. Crawford closed her talk by asking each of us who we want to be in the face of the growing intolerance and exclusions of our present era. Do we want to be tolerant and accepting, even if we don’t understand? Or do we want to be the ones pointing and mocking? Each one of us has that simple choice.

Besides our notable individual guest speakers, our 2018-2019 Lecture Series also included two interesting panel events. The first was a community panel held at the Surrey Campus in November, featuring local activists from the Surrey LGBTQ+ community and moderated by history faculty Elise Chenier. Participants enjoyed an intimate evening of moving presentations and discussion as panelists shared their experiences on the front lines of LGBTQ+ activism in Surrey over the past twenty years, and showed why those experiences are so important to understanding, surviving, and succeeding in today’s political and social environment.

In April, we hosted a faculty panel featuring a mix of our own History faculty and faculty from the Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies. Elise Chenier, Jennifer Marchbank, Ela Przybylo, Bidisha Ray, June Scudeler, and special guest undergraduate and activists Shilpa Narayan discussed their research and personal experiences with sexualities and activism. Moderator Willeen Keough expertly navigated a lively discussion that explored past and current activism as we traveled from small town Scotland, through the urban city-scapes and rural farm villages of India, and into our schools and backyards here in the Lower Mainland. Over the course of the evening, we heard about what it was like to be a young person in the 1960s discovering that the McGregor 'sisters' who shared a house were not actually sisters in the traditional sense; why asexuality has a right to occupy space in the discourse on sexuality; how Netflix and other streaming services are disrupting the cultural landscape in Indian film in their unending quest for new content; and how LGBTQ+ youth in Surrey are making safe spaces for themselves in the face of sustained and sometimes openly hostile opposition.

In addition to the Department’s Annual Public Series, we also organized several other notable events including our annual Mirhady Lecture, where Nahid Siamdoust (Yale) shared the research from her book Soundtrack of the Revolution: The Politics of Music in Iran (Stanford University Press, 2017); a second, special Mirhady lecture and workshop in honour of recently retired Professor Emeritus Derryl MacLean; the second annual History Reads (#SFUHistreads), our Public Book Club; and the inaugural Farley Lecture, organized by this year’s Farley Visiting Scholar, Dr. Katrina Jagodinsky (see page 10). We have an equally ambitious schedule of public events planned for the 2019-2020 year, and we look forward to making some exciting announcements in the coming months.

Jonathan Gudlaugson is Communications and Events Coordinator for the Department of History. He is also the staff editor for Primary Source.

The past twelve months have been a year of notable successes, but also one tinged with sadness. Professor André Gerolymatos, the founding director of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies, Hellenic Studies Program, and great friend and colleague, passed away on May 30th following a year-long battle with cancer.

Dr. Gerolymatos would have been pleased with all that has been accomplished over the past academic year. The Centre continued its tradition of bi-weekly research seminars throughout the Fall and Spring semesters, featuring presentations on a range of Hellenic topics in the fields of Archaeology, Classics, Literary and Cultural Studies, as well as Byzantine, Ottoman, and Modern Greek History. In addition to faculty and graduate members of the Centre, we also welcomed local scholars from Douglas and Langara Colleges and the University of British Columbia, as well as visitors from the University of Belgrade and Rutgers University.

In October, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies welcomed a group of internationally-renowned scholars of the Virgin Mary for a conference on the emergence of the cult of Mary in Byzantium, Egypt, and Syria. Presenters came from a variety of international institutions, including the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, the National Hellenic Research Foundation, Unité Mixte de Recherche 8167 (Orient & Méditerranée) in Paris, the University of Amsterdam, and Sapienze University of Rome. The conference opened with a keynote lecture by Dr. Niki Tsironis (Institute of Historical Research at the National Hellenic Research Foundation in Athens, Greece) entitled “Female Deities of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Emergence of the Cult of the Virgin Mary.”

This year also marked the third instalment of the Edward and Emily McWhinney Memorial Lecture, an annual public event established to honour two long-time supporters of Hellenic Studies at SFU. Dr. Dimitris Papadimitriou, Professor of Politics at the University of Manchester and Director of the Manchester Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, was welcomed to the podium for a public talk entitled “Bailout Legacies: The Imprint of the Greek Economic Crisis on the European Union.” In March we hosted Olga Kefalogianni, a former Minister of Tourism of Greece and member of the Greek Parliament for Nea Demokratia, who offered a public lecture at the Museum of Vancouver on Greece’s cultural heritage, sustainable development, and the economic promise of tourism. The talk was followed by a panel discussion with Dr. Dimitris Krallis and Ms. Kefalogianni.

In addition to events and academic exchanges, the team of developers and pedagogical experts from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation New Media Lab have been occupied with the Rebooting the Greek Language project, a Stavros Niarchos Foundation funded initiative that brings together revolutionary pedagogy and cutting-edge technologies to Greek language education. An important aspect of this project has been community outreach and over the past year the team has been holding workshops, symposia, and pilot projects throughout Greece and North America. We were pleased to be joined by the Greek Minister of Education, Kostas Govroglu, at our workshop in Athens in June 2018.

Finally, and in celebration of 2019 being the United Nations’ International Year of Indigenous Languages, we are pleased to reflect on the contributions that the Stavros Niarchos Foundation New Media Lab has made to the SSHRC-funded project entitled First Nations Languages in the 21st Century: Looking Back, Looking Forward. This seven-year project is a collaboration between the First Nations Language Centre at SFU and 22 community partners to preserve 13 critically endangered First Nations languages in Western Canada. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation New Media Lab is honoured to be supplying the anchor technology that powers the innovative online tools to teach First Nations languages. We are looking forward to continuing our support for these partners as they develop their own curricula and teach their own languages.

Dr. Dimitris Krallis and Olga Kefalogianni (MP, Nea Demokratia) discuss Greece’s cultural heritage at the Museum of Vancouver in March 2019. Photo: Dale Northey

Chris Dickert

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Chris Dickert is Manager of Communications and Public Relations for the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies.
Dr. Gerolymatos joined the SFU History Department in 1996 as the inaugural holder of the Hellenic Canadian Congress of British Columbia Chair in Hellenic Studies. From the very beginning, Dr. Gerolymatos strove to secure more resources to expand the teaching and learning of Greece’s language, history, and culture at SFU. Over 23 years he raised millions of dollars in gifts and grants from governments, NGOs, and individuals who embraced his vision of a vibrant and engaged Hellenic Studies presence at the university and in the broader community.

Dr. Gerolymatos always sought to build bridges and form partnerships and one of his most valued partners was the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF). With their support, he launched the world’s first online language learning platform designed specifically for the Modern Greek Language. The technology developed during this project has continued to evolve over the past fifteen years and has been used to support Arabic, French, and Italian, as well as thirteen critically endangered First Nations languages in partnership with SFU’s First Nations Language Centre. The trust Dr. Gerolymatos built with the SNF eventually led to a $7 million endowment and the creation of the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies in 2011, the largest centre of its kind in North America, followed by the establishment in 2013 of Hellenic Studies as an independent academic program at SFU, with Dr. Gerolymatos as founding director.

Even as he sought to lay the foundations for a lasting Hellenic Studies presence at the university, Dr. Gerolymatos always gave freely of his time and was often in the community giving talks on his research to lay and academic audiences. His expertise in terrorism and international relations found him in frequent demand from the local, national, and international media, especially following the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York city. Closer to home, you could always find Dr. Gerolymatos in his office in the Hellenic Studies corridor, with his door open, ready to talk politics, research, or just to catch up.

Dr. Gerolymatos leaves an enduring legacy at SFU in the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies and the Hellenic Studies Program, and his loss will be felt by all who knew him. We will miss him greatly.
The 2018–2019 academic year marked twenty years of Scottish Studies at SFU. To celebrate, the Centre for Scottish Studies held a number of events and public lectures over the 2018–2019 academic year. The CSS has its origins in the Department of Humanities and was a joint venture by members of the local community and SFU faculty interested in promoting Scottish culture in Metro Vancouver. Involving SFU in this community-led initiative certainly made sense: Scottish-Canadian trappings can be found throughout the University, including a world-famous pipe band, the names of SFU’s sports teams, and of course, SFU’s mascot: the anthropomorphic Scottish terrier called ‘McFogg the Dog.’ The origins of SFU’s Scottish identity are controversial due in part to the oft-mistaken identity of the individual that the university is actually named for (not the explorer as one might assume). It is also, as recent history graduate Georgia Twiss (BA 2019) discovered in the course of her research, part of an invented tradition that did not reflect the desire of the student population who envisioned SFU as a modern, forward-thinking institution.

Legacies of Scottish colonization and settlement that are increasingly a focus of attention among historians of the
Atlantic World, include Scottish involvement in the Atlantic slave trade. In order to inaugurate its 20th anniversary celebrations the Centre held a public lecture and celebration on October 27, 2018, at SFU Harbour Centre, featuring Canada Research Chair in Atlantic Canada Communities at Saint Mary’s University, Dr. S. Karly Kehoe, whose talk, “Histories of the Scottish Atlantic: Caribbean Slavery and the Highland Diaspora in the Maritime Colonies,” was warmly received by a packed room. As the CSS has often done at other events in the past, the event showcased local Scottish-Canadian culture, inviting the Vancouver Gaelic Choir to give a beautiful performance to a captivated audience. We also heard from some of the current and past recipients of CSS student awards and fellowships, including the current David and Mary Macaree Fellowship holder, History MA student Kaitlyn MacInnis. The Centre also held a very special 20th anniversary Robert Burns lecture on January 24th featuring Dr. Sierra Dye from the University of Guelph, who spoke to the audience about witchcraft and the ‘supernatural’ Robert Burns. Dr. Dye was also able to visit Dr. McCullough’s History 347 (History of Scottish Family and Youth) class to teach the students about the witchcraft trials in Scotland, the longest lasting of the European witch hunts. The students greatly appreciated all that they learned from Dr. Dye. To round out the academic year, the 78th Fraser Highlanders Association of Vancouver visited History 448 (Scots in the Atlantic World) for one of their famous Brown Bess Musket demonstrations as part of a discussion of the role Highland Scottish soldiers played in the Seven Years’ War in North America. The Frasers then donated $500 towards student essay prizes in Scottish-Canadian history. First prize went to Julia Gabriel, and second to Keith Wise, for their excellent research essays on transatlantic Scottish history. History major Julia is also the 2019 recipient of the Jennifer Wade Prosser and Family Award for Scottish Studies not only for her excellent academic performance but also her dedication to helping others in the community.

As we celebrate twenty years of Scottish Studies at SFU, the Centre for Scottish Studies is committed to promoting a more critical understanding of the historical legacies and impact of Scots as colonizers and settlers in what is now British Columbia not only as part of the Centre’s teaching, research, and public engagement activities, but also as part of SFU’s broader commitment to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This historical legacy will be part of a broader research project on Scottish migration to the Pacific involving international scholars and SFU students in the very near future. We welcome your suggestions, comments, and feedback. Please send them to scottish@sfu.ca.

Katie McCullough is a Limited Term Assistant Professor of History and Director of the Centre for Scottish Studies.
The Centre for Comparative Muslim Studies (CCMS) had another fabulous year of academic programming and community outreach. CCMS has become an academic and social hub for a large audience, including the Muslim community in Vancouver as well as that in Burnaby. Working in alignment with SFU's values of equity, diversity and inclusion, CCMS is considered to be a safe and welcoming place for all.

We continued our usual academic programming with a very successful Annual Lecture Series featuring Christina Civantos (University of Miami), Cemil Aydin (UNC-Chapel Hill), Humeira Iqtidar (King’s College London) and Fikret Adaman (Bogazici University). More public talks were scheduled, including “Soundscapes of Uyghur Islam” by Rachel Harris (School of Oriental and Asian Studies).

Our community outreach activities increased considerably in 2018–2019. We kicked off our summer activities with the sponsorship of a mural at Vancouver Mural Festival. The City of Vancouver chose us as its sole partner to celebrate Islamic History Month, with an event that took place on October 27, 2018, at the Central Branch of the Vancouver Public Library.

Amal Ghazal
Public Library. It was a day full of energy and positive vibes, featuring art, music, calligraphy, and digital stories. The event drew a large number of Vancouverites throughout the day. The huge success of the event prompted VPL to extend an invitation to organize the celebration next year, and we will be celebrating Islamic History Month again at the Vancouver Public Library on October 5, 2019.

On October 25, 2018 we held the event “Healing in Cooking: Refugees, Agency and Community” and screened the documentary “Soufra” about a catering company in Lebanon run by refugees that expanded into a food truck business. We connected this story to that of Tayybeh, a catering and food truck company based in Vancouver and run by Syrian refugee women. The screening was followed by a panel discussion and a reception catered by Tayybeh. We screened the documentary again during International Women’s Day on March 8, 2019, at Surrey City Centre Library.

Our graduate students, led by M.A. candidate Benjamin Dipple, also organized the 11th Annual MEICON-BC (Middle East and Islamic Consortium of British Columbia) student conference this year. This important and informative event was held at the Harbour Centre Campus on March 23, 2019, and brought together graduate students and faculty from institutions throughout the Pacific North West region. Another signature event, “Reimagining the Shahnameh for a New Generation: A Journey into a 600-year-old Visual Tradition,” was held on March 24, 2019, to celebrate Nowruz. We were joined by American-Iranian artist Hamid Rahmanian who has turned this Persian epic into a stunning visual journey.

Perhaps our most important activity this year was the launch of the Muslim Community Fellowship in January 2019. Over the course of 2017-2018, CCMS hosted a series of “Being Muslim” community dialogues. These dialogues, including “Being Black and Muslim in Metro Vancouver,” “Being Muslim on Unceded Land,” and “Being a Muslim Artist,” created a space for self-identified Muslims from various backgrounds to engage with one another around their lived experiences. What emerged was the importance of spaces where Metro Vancouver’s Muslims could gather to reflect on their different experiences, and deepen their relationships with each other. A diverse Fellowship Design Team, comprised of young Muslim leaders living in Metro Vancouver, began to meet and think about their own experiences, what type of learning had served them well, and what would be useful to share with others. The design team received funding from the Contemplative Justice Network to undertake a retreat. At this retreat, the design team created the Fellowship structure. We sent a call for applications and chose 16 fellows for 2019. Biographies of our fellows can be found on our webpage: www.sfu/ccms.

With funding from SFU Community Engagement and Outreach we will host a closing ceremony for the Fellowship program in November 2019, where we will feature the different community engagement projects the fellows have undertaken.

We are looking forward to another year of activities that further connect SFU and CCMS to the broader communities in Burnaby, Vancouver, Surrey and beyond.

Amal Ghazal is Associate Professor of History and Director of the Centre for Comparative Muslim Studies at SFU.
Over the past two years, the Taiwan Studies Group (TSG) has emerged as an important locus for the interdisciplinary studies of Taiwan’s social, economic, and political development. With its innovative programs and public events, the TSG will continue to contribute to the growing field of Taiwan Studies and to promote understanding of the historical ties between Taiwan and the world.

This year, the TSG continued to foster scholarly discussion about Taiwan’s history, society, and culture. Aiming to enhance understanding of Taiwan as well as its relations with China, Asia, and the world, the TSG brought together scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds to join in discussions with SFU faculty and students. The TSG also builds connections with community partners to help students and the public engage in learning about Taiwan’s culture and history.

The TSG’s 2018-2019 Speakers Series featured talks by a number of distinguished scholars of Taiwanese history, sociology and political science. Among them were Hsiao-ting Lin (Stanford, Hoover Institution), curator of the Modern China collection at the Hoover Institution, who spoke about the collections on Cold War in Taiwan and East Asia from the Hoover Institution Archives. Ya-Wen Lei (Harvard University) discussed the development of public opinion in contemporary China and its correlation with the authoritarian project of modernization. Sida Liu (University of Toronto) reported on his ethnographical study of lawyer’s alliances as well as their intriguing career path across Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China. Ashley Esarey (University of Alberta) talked about the life of political activist Nylon Cheng, whose protest activities and martyrdom influenced the generations who witnessed and participated in Taiwan’s transition from authoritarian rule to democracy.

In addition to the Speakers Series, the TSG collaborated with community partners in organizing events on Taiwanese culture and history. In a public lecture hosted by both TSG and Richmond Public Library, Michael Jacobson (King County, WA, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget) spoke about his 30-years of study of Indigenous Taiwanese and his stories of rescuing two Daowu fishing boats in Seattle—an action that attracted Taiwan’s Orchid Island leader to participate in a Tribal Canoe journey that included both BC First Nations and Native Americans in the US. In a roundtable session organized by the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, the Director of the TSG, Weiting Guo, was invited to participate in discussions with Steve Tsang (School of Oriental and Asian Studies) on the future prospects for Hong Kong and Taiwan in the Xi Jinping Era.

The TSG also developed collaborative projects with other academic institutions. In fall 2018, Guo participated in the “Global Island” workshop organized by the Taiwan Studies Program at the University of Washington. Guo’s paper will be published in a special issue on Taiwan Studies in the prestigious Asian Studies journal, Cross-Currents (UC Berkeley). In spring 2019, Guo joined a project coordinated by Hsiao-ting Lin (Stanford University) that explores maritime activities and international relations in Cold War Asia. He also collected archival sources at the Center for Chinese Studies in Taipei and conducted fieldwork in Xinzhu and Jilong. In summer 2019, Jeremy Brown visited the National Chengchi University in Taiwan to conduct research on accidents in postwar Taiwan.

Forthcoming events include lectures by Shuyu Kong (SFU Humanities), who will give a talk on Taiwan’s nature writing and ecological consciousness, using Wu Mingyi as a case study; Laura Jo-Han Wen (Randolph-Macon College), who will speak on visual culture and colonial modernity in early twentieth-century Taiwan; Yao-yuan Yeh (University of St. Thomas), who will lecture on the US-Taiwan-China relations during the Trump era; and Irene Pang (SFU International Studies), who will discuss labour-rights development in relations across the Strait of Taiwan.

Finally, the TSG is planning a workshop in spring 2020 that examines the culture of violence in Taiwan’s history. This workshop will offer a critical reassessment of criminal violence in Taiwan, examining its origins, evolution, and larger impacts on law and society and challenging a normative understanding of Taiwan’s endemic violence as merely a deviant force. In spring 2020, Guo will also organize an exhibit on the life of a legendary woman, Huang Bamei, who was a pirate queen, guerrilla leader, and women’s organization coordinator during the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945) and the Chinese Civil War (1945–1958).

We look forward to seeing you at our events, and please keep an eye on our website for more details.

Weiting Guo is a Limited Term Assistant Professor of History and Director of the Taiwan Studies Group.
Last year, FASS announced an exciting new minor degree program, Global Asia. This program offers a minor degree which, when paired with any major at SFU, will give a student comprehensive knowledge and a broad understanding of the regions of Asia and their significant role in economic and social global affairs. Unique to the program is the ability to take courses from a broad array of departments and faculties, including the Language Training Institute, Humanities, Anthropology and Sociology, English, World Literature, Political Science, International Studies, Communications, and History. After a full year of offering courses, we are pleased to report that the Global Asia program has been well received, with five courses offered and over 100 enrollments in the past year. We expect enrollments to continue to increase with two new lower division courses introducing students to the program this fall.

Our foundational course, Global Asia 101 (Introduction to Global Asia) was offered for the first time in Spring 2019. Introduction to Global Asia offers an interdisciplinary survey of Asian Studies and features five guest lectures from specialists at SFU whose research focuses on Asia. Special attention is devoted to examining how issues such as colonialism, nationalism, religion, orientalism, and gender shape contemporary Asian societies. Global Asia 101 will be offered again in fall 2019 and twice a year going forward.

The Global Asia program was represented for the first time this year at Next Steps, an event showcasing all of SFU’s programs for newly admitted SFU students who will be starting classes in the fall. Our program generated significant interest because of the number of disciplines it connects and the ability to pair the minor credential with a major in Business Administration, Environment Studies or Communications, among others. We’ve planned an official launch of the program to celebrate and promote our first year of operation. This will take place in early November 2019. Details will be announced on our website www.sfu.ca/globalasia as well as through our social media channels. Be sure to follow us on Twitter and Facebook so you don’t miss the official announcement!

Many thanks to the Global Asia Steering Committee members Luke Clossey (Director, History), Helen Leung (Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies), Janice Matsumara (History), Tsuyoshi Kawasaki (Political Science), and Michael Hathaway (Sociology and Anthropology) for their guidance, as well as to the staff of the History Department who have cheerfully added administering the Global Asia program to their already busy workload. The Global Asia program is off to a great start and we look forward to building on this year’s successes over the next year. If you any questions, suggestions or ideas, please contact Luke Clossey, Director of the Program, at lclossey@sfu.ca.

Jonathan Gudlaugson is Communications & Events Coordinator for the Department of History, and now the Global Asia program. He is also the staff editor for Primary Source.
**HSGA REPORT**

**Nicholas Fast**

This academic year, in addition to the usual hustle and bustle of graduate student life, the history department’s graduate students participated in two major events. First was the annual Qualicum History Conference held during the last weekend in January. Seven graduate students, as well as three undergraduate students, presented on a variety of subjects, including Turkish cultural brokers, the Vancouver Landfill, Chinese primary school education, the Canadian Farmworkers Union, Chinese bandits, portrayals of the Ferengi (of Star Trek fame), and worker self-management in France. The graduate students, along with some faculty members, then burned the house down at karaoke night with their covers of “I Want It That Way” and “Dancing Queen.” A special thank you to all of the faculty members who came out to support SFU’s students.

Second, after its formation in October 2018, history graduate students took a leading role in the Tuition Freeze Now campaign. The student-led, grassroots campaign held information sessions for students and attended the SFU Board of Governor’s (BOG) meetings, lobbying the SFU administration to explore alternative budgets that did not include raising tuition and to provide a more transparent consultation process. After the March 2019 BOG meeting where the Board voted to increase tuition rates for the 2019-2020 academic year, sixty undergraduate and graduate students, including four graduate students from the history department, stood in protest and forced the BOG meeting to adjourn to a new location behind closed doors. The HGSA continues to be a major part of this campaign and is thankful for faculty support.

In terms of research, our graduate students have travelled all over the world to conduct their research. Some stayed close to home in British Columbia, but others went to Ottawa, Turkey, China, Belgium, Scotland, and Zanzibar, among many other places, to follow up on research leads. Needless to say, if SFU History had a passport, it would be full of unique stamps.

Finally, we would like to congratulate all who successfully defended their MA theses or PhD dissertations since May 2019: Aali Mirjat, Madeline Knickerbocker, Mark Grueter, Edip Golbasi, Le Tao, Jeffrey Greenall, Benjamin Klassen, and Benjamin Dipple. Best of luck in your future endeavors!

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**WEOAC REPORT**

**Emily O’Brien**

2018–2019 was a busy and fulfilling year for the Working Environment and Outreach Advisory Committee—the WEOAC. From fall through spring, I worked closely with the Department’s new Communications and Events Coordinator, Jonathan Gudlaugson, and department manager, Judi Fraser, to organize History’s four-part public lecture series, Sex and Sexuality (see page 20). Committee member Roxanne Panchasi took on the role of colloquium coordinator, organizing six talks—including one by WEOAC’s graduate student representative, Andrea Samoil—for the department and the larger SFU community. Beginning in the fall, the WEOAC began exploring new ways to fulfill the “outreach” dimension of its responsibilities by directing its attention to SFU undergraduates. We developed an ambitious agenda of recruitment initiatives, including two undergraduate townhalls in February. There, current history students had the chance to connect personally with faculty and staff, and to start broader conversations with them about their concerns and interest in studying history. The success of these townhalls has encouraged us to organize several more for the next academic year. With the aim of starting still other conversations about the undergraduate experience in History, the WEOAC spearheaded two other events in the spring semester: a department meeting focused exclusively on exploring ways to draw more (and keep more) undergraduates in our classrooms (see page 17); and a faculty and graduate student workshop on class participation. Moderated by committee member Aaron Windel, the workshop covered all aspects of undergraduate participation, including strategies to help shy students join class discussion and methods for evaluating tutorial and seminar participation. The well attended session inspired a new series of participation workshops for undergraduates for 2019-20. WEOAC’s outreach also included building a stronger working relationship with the SFU History Student Union and assisting them with their highly successful career panel, featuring five SFU History alumni.

Emily O’Brien is Associate Professor of History at SFU and Chair of Working Environment and Outreach Advisory Committee which manages the Department’s events and other engagement activities.
This year the History Student Union (HSU) saw the addition of several new executives and other changes due to previous board members graduating. Megan Daniels became President, Emma Bisset became Vice President, Paul Choptuik became the Upper Division Representative, Aman Johal became our New Secretary, Jessica Stewart became the new Public Relations Officer, Laura Baldry became Lower Division representative and Tristan Broom became the new SAAS Representative. With a fresh committee of executives it was challenging to figure out what direction we wanted to take the HSU, but it was also very exciting because we had a lot of new ideas.

Our first event was a History Meet and Greet, where we encouraged History students to come and mingle with one another and with HSU members. Our second event was a Pizza and Movie Night, where we ordered pizza and watched a few episodes of Drunk History - super fun and casual! The next event was our largest: History Career Night. We invited five different speakers, all SFU History alums, to come in to talk about their current careers, experiences, and lessons learned from acquiring a History degree. The night began with a question and answer session facilitated by Dr. Emily O’Brien, and then a brief networking period where students were encouraged to chat with the speakers and ask any questions they had. The night finished off with a prize draw and food, after which guests continued to chat and mingle until the event concluded. Approximately twenty-five people attended the event which was a great turn out. The advice that the speakers provided was priceless. Not only was it helpful, thoughtful, and generally good advice for any university student on a career search, but it was also sound life advice as well. A lot of work, time, and energy went into planning this event, particularly by our president, Megan Daniels, who did much of the organizing. At our post event wrap-up, we reflected on how all of the executives of the HSU came together and were very supportive of one another, which was exciting to see especially as the event came together so successfully. To finish off the semester, we had a casual pub night, where we met at SFU’s new pub, The Study, to celebrate with lots of good food and drinks.

In 2019–2020, our current executives will continue to run the HSU, although our former president, Megan Daniels, has graduated (Congratulations, Megan!). Elections will soon be held to determine who will become the new HSU president. We are also planning exciting events in the upcoming semesters, such as another Meet and Greet, a pub night and other fun events! We encourage anyone who is taking a history class and is interested in our union to stop by our events and meet us. It’s always a good time!

Laura Baldry is in her fourth year at SFU, pursuing a major in History.
AWARDS
2018–2019

GRADUATE

Alan Aberbach Graduate Scholarship
Bradley Kleinstuber

Cook Conference Scholarship
Panagiotis Delis

CTEF Doctoral Graduate Fellowship in Humanities
Joseph Burton
Rui Zhang

David Lam Centre Graduate Research Travel Award
Anna Makonin
Jifeng Li

David and Mary Macaree Graduate Fellowship
Kaitlyn MacInnis

Douglas Cole Memorial Graduate Entrance Scholarship in Cultural History
Emily Jukich

Edward & Emily McWhinney Foundation Hellenic Studies Graduate Scholarship
Stevan Bozanich

Esherick-Ye Family Foundation Grant
Yifan Shi

External Graduate Award (B.C. Summer Swimming Assoc. Regional Prize)
Curtis Platson

Graduate Dean's Entrance Scholarship
Cahit Meta Oguz

Graduate Fellowship (MA)
Ryan Breeden
Benjamin Dipple
Nicholas Fast
Emily Jukich
Bradley Kleinstuber
Jifeng Li
Anna Makonin
Curtis Platson
Esther Souman
Siling Tao

Graduate Fellowship (PhD)
Joseph Burton
Panagiotis Delis
Aleksandar Jovanovic
Rui Zhang

Graduate Fellowship Supplement
Jovana Andelkovic
Panagiotis Delis

Graduate International Research Travel Award
Anna Makonin
Curtis Platson
Siling Tao
Rui Zhang

Hellenic Canadian Congress of BC Graduate Scholarship
Stevan Bozanich

Katevatis Graduate Scholarship in Hellenic Studies
Jovana Andelkovic

Michael Fellman Graduate Prize
Aali Mirjat (2018)
Arlen Wiesenthal (2017)

Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement
Jifeng Li

MITACS Globalink Research Award
Jifeng Li

Nick Kravariotis Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Hellenic Studies
Stevan Bozanich

Supervisory Support Award
Joseph Burton

SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship Masters
Benjamin Dipple
Jifeng Li
Kaitlyn MacInnis

Thesis Completion Fellowship
Edip Golbasi
Ardalan Rezamand

Travel and Minor Research Award
Jovana Andelkovic
Songwei He
Emily Jukich
Jifeng Li
Andrea Samoil

William F & Ruth Baldwin Graduate Scholarship in History
Kaitlyn MacInnis

William & Jane Saywell Graduate Scholarship in History
Benjamin Dipple
Nicholas Fast
Songwei He
Esther Souman

UNDERGRADUATE

The Richard Morgan Award for the best essay or project in Indigenous History in Canada
Charlotte Steele
"Isolation"

The Margaret Ormsby Award for the best essay or project in Canadian History
Anastasia Kosteckyj
"The Slow Violence of Dispossession: The History of British Columbia’s Hydroelectric Development and its Impacts on Aboriginal Health"

Keenan Nadeau
"Resource Discourses of Settler Colonialism: An Environmental History of the Ootsa Lake Region"

The European History Award for the best essay or project
Zachary Vanderploeg
"Early Modern Catholicism’ in Pole Position: Reginald Pole and Improvements to Catholic Historiography"

The William L Cleveland Award for the best essay in African/Middle Eastern/Asian History
Liam Foster
"Purity in Buddhism: Spiritual, Literal or Both?"

The Stephen McIntyre Memorial Book Prize for the top graduating student in History
Anna Bruder
Judi Fraser joined History as Department Manager in April 2009 and soon put her unique stamp on the Department.

Judi first arrived at SFU as a student in the early 1980s, earned a BA in Dance in 1987, and moved to Toronto to pursue a career in Modern Dance before returning to SFU in 2005. During the years before her return to SFU she raised three sons -- Alex, Jason, and Daniel -- and spent a much loved year abroad in Italy with her family.

Prior to becoming the Manager of the History Department, Judi held positions in the School of Engineering Science, Campus Security, and Student Services. But she is best known across campus for her dedication to fitness and riding her bike from North Vancouver to Burnaby Mountain year-round on a daily basis. In 2015, Judi was featured in a Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences news article on commuter cycling, and you can find her public cycling profile on Strava.com (a popular route and distance tracking app for cyclists), whose name is inspired by the Swedish word “sträva” or “strive”.

To strive means “to make a great and tenacious effort” and, in many ways, Judi embodies and instills this attitude in the team of staff she manages and the faculty she supports. We all rely on Judi’s depth of knowledge, no-nonsense attitude, and creative solutions to keep us on track and pointed in the right direction.

One of the things Judi strives for – and succeeds at – is making the department a warm and welcoming place, especially for newcomers. She maintains the department tradition of Pie Days where the whole department – graduate students, faculty and staff – meets in the staff lounge to enjoy home-made pies, some of which she makes herself. Newcomers are welcomed with their own personalized embroidered linen napkin as well as their own plate and fork.

Judi marks the year’s special occasions such as Christmas, birthdays, and retirements with the beautifully handcrafted cards that she makes herself. Staff treasure and collect these cards which can be found prominently displayed in their offices. It’s these little touches that make the department seem like a home away from home.

To say that Judi is the heart of the department is not an overstatement. Whether it is organizing Pie Days and pie napkins, her home-made cards, or just being there to listen and help, Judi makes the department a warm and wonderful place to work.

Ruth Anderson is Chair’s Secretary and Graduate Program Assistant in the Department of History.
Jeremy Brown

In fall 2018, I presented “Counting Bodies and Body Parts: Accidental Deaths and Injuries in the People’s Republic of China,” at the Statistics, Categories, Politics: Analyzing, Interpreting, and Visualizing Data in Recent Chinese History workshop at the University of Freiburg. In 2019 I published two short chapters, “Special Powers” and “Men’s World,” in Perry Link, Jeremy Murray, and Paul G. Pickowicz, eds., China Tripping: Anecdotes, Vignettes, and Reflections from Lives Lived with China (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019). I also served as a volunteer consultant for the Arts Club Theatre’s production of Lauren Yee’s play, The Great Leap, and spoke at a post-performance panel about the SFU Tiananmen Project, to which 73 SFU history undergraduate students have contributed original content. In summer 2019 I will spend three months in Taiwan adding a comparative element to my larger research project about the social history of accidents and safety in recent Chinese history.

Elise Chenier

In spring 2018 “Love-Politics: Lesbian Wedding Practices in Canada and the United States from the 1920s to the 1970s” was published in the Journal of the History of Sexuality 27, no. 2 (2018): 294-321. Anyone planning an oral history project will want to check out the new collection Beyond Women’s Words: The Personal, Political, and Ethical Challenges of Doing Feminist Oral History, edited by Katrina Srigley, Stacey Zembrzycki, and Franca Iacovetta, and can learn when and how to archive your project in my essay “Oral History’s Afterlife.” Students in the 2019 winter version of History 454 organized and hosted a community panel discussion about LGBTQ2 political activism which featured leading figures in queer politics and culture. Keep your eyes open for the article these students are writing on doing essay-less history and self-grading.

Luke Clossey

In September 2018 I was appointed the first director of SFU’s new Global Asia program. 2018 also saw more Jesus research in France, Italy, and Romania, and I completed a first, thousand-page draft of its first volume. I’m treating myself to a break from the Jesus project, which allows time to focus on the Buddhism project.

Lauren Faulkner-Rossi

I successfully launched a new version of History 338 (Global History of the Second World War), for the Centre for Online and Distance Education in the summer of 2018. I am currently preparing to develop another version of History 338 as a pioneer Flex course for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, to launch in the spring of 2020. Over the course of the year I completed a chapter about the causes of genocide for publication in an edited volume about the cultural history of genocide in the nineteenth century. Another chapter on masculinity, religion, and the Holocaust was accepted for publication in 2020. This was also my first full year working as historian-lecturer for the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre’s high school symposia program.

Andrea Geiger

2018 saw the publication of two articles that speak to my interest in the intersection of history and law and the many ways in which Indigenous people and Japanese immigrants responded to the legal constraints that confronted them on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border during the first half of the twentieth century. By coincidence, the first of these two articles, “The Courtroom as Legal Borderland: Encounters between Western and Indigenous Legal Tradition in the Courts of the Alaska District,” was published in Beyond the Borders of the Law: Critical Legal Histories of the North American West (University Press of Kansas, 2018), edited by Katrina Jagodinsky, this year’s inaugural Farley Visiting Scholar, together with Pablo Mitchell. The second article, “Disentangling Law and History: Nikkei Challenges to Race-Based Exclusion from B.C.’s Coastal Fisheries,” appeared in the Southern California Quarterly in fall 2018.
Weiting Guo

This year, I won the 2019 Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies, which supported my archival research in Taiwan. I also joined a digital humanities project called Bodies and Structures: Deep-Mapping the Spaces of Modern East Asian History (coordinated by University of California, Santa Barbara), in which I explore the history of water in a Chinese city. My article on a Chinese pirate queen was included to a special issue of Cross-Currents (forthcoming in December 2019). I gave a talk at Henan University on the emergence of rough justice in eighteenth-century China and presented a paper on Cold War Sinology at the World Congress of Taiwan Studies. A student in my HIST 390 (Ethnicity and Identity in East Asia) class, Laura Wong, published an article on her family history in Ricepaper. I was selected by Taipei Economic & Cultural Office (TECO) to join a delegation of scholars to visit Taiwan.

Nicolas Kenny

Teaching in the French Cohort Program in Public and International Affairs (FCP) is always a highlight of my year. One of the challenges my fellow instructors and I have faced has been finding material on Canadian history and politics suited to undergraduate students working in a minority-language context. So, with Aude-Claire Fourot, Rémi Léger, and Jérémie Cornut of the Political Science Department, we decided we would edit our own first-year textbook. With contributions from some thirty scholars across the country, Le Canada dans le Monde. Acteurs, idées gouvernance (Presses de l’Université de Montréal, 2019), addresses key themes from innovative perspectives and in accessible prose. It will be required reading for all incoming FCP students and in bilingual and French-language programs from coast to coast.

Thomas Kuehn

During the past year, I continued to work on my current book project that studies concepts and practices of Ottoman imperial governance in the long nineteenth century. At conferences and workshops in Sofia and at New York University, I presented portions of my work-in-progress that focus on the ties of Ottoman-Arab army contractors and fiscal entrepreneurs to Anatolia, the larger Red Sea region, and India from the 1880s to early 1920s. I also published an article titled “We Know nothing about Yemen!’ Ottoman Imperial Governance in Southwest Arabia and the Politics of Knowledge Production, 1872-1914” in the June 2018 issue of the Journal of Arabian Studies. This past fall, I organized two events in honor of Dr. Derryl MacLean on the occasion of his retirement from SFU at the end of 2018, namely an invited lecture by Abbas Amanat (Yale), and a workshop titled “Multiple Voices in Persianate and Iranian Studies” with Abbas Amanat, Mojtafa Mahdavi (University of Alberta), and guest of honor Derryl MacLean.

Mark Leier

I’m really excited about a new version of History 463 for this fall. The course is "Rebellion and Revolution: Topics in the Theory and Practice of Resistance” and the topic this time is “Dismantling Capitalism: A Critical Look at Capitalism, Marxism, and Anarchism.” We’ll read works of contemporary authors such as James C. Scott’s Two Cheers for Anarchism, Yanis Varoufakis’s Talking to My Daughter about the Economy, or, How Capitalism Works—and How It Fails, and Helen Razer’s raucous Total Propaganda: Basic Marxist Brainwashing for the Angry and the Young. In other news, I’m working away on research projects, ranging from a much delayed history of Canada to an examination of how and why the BC labour movement retreated and regressed in the 1920s.

Janice Matsumura

I have begun two small projects, which will hopefully result in two more articles. One examines how various Japanese wartime pundits envisioned postwar society. The other covers
psychiatric evaluations of defendants in four famous (or infamous) court cases that were politically significant or attracted much public attention. In the classroom, I tried out a new course on the Japanese empire, and, thanks to useful student feedback, have been able to fine tune it. I have also added to my cat collection. I have never had a kitten before and have discovered that they are quite different from adult cats. The photo is of my latest companion, who is indifferent to complaints about mutilated sweaters.

Hilmar Pabel

In the fall semester of 2018, I taught our new course, History 200 (Making History: Introduction to Historical Research), for the first time. The course is a great opportunity for students to learn the basics of research in a small setting through a focused historical study. The students and I investigated the merits of microhistory from the perspective of its proponents and in practice. We began in the Middle Ages, read Natalie Zemon Davis’ classic The Return of Martin Guerre (Harvard, 1984), considered how to write our own microhistories from documents about a woman accused of witchcraft in seventeenth-century Germany, learned about air combat through the story of a young Canadian pilot in the First World War, and probed just how complicit a German bureaucrat was in the Shoah (Holocaust).

I have long wanted to challenge the idea, too easily accepted among historians, that Erasmus of Rotterdam was a Church reformer. In 2016, I did so in a keynote address to the Society for Reformation Research at Westminster College, Cambridge (UK) on “The Impetus of Reform in Erasmus of Rotterdam’s New Testament”. Revised for publication, my article under the same title appeared in Erasmus Studies in 2018.

This spring I did my bit for promoting community engagement with history. On April 8, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver and the Vancouver’s Congregation Beth Israel hosted an evening of dinner and presentations on Easter and Passover. Rabbi Laura Kaplan (Vancouver School of Theology), Christopher Friedrichs (UBC, emeritus), and I addressed an audience of 200 people at the parish hall of St. Patrick’s Church. I spoke on “Easter meets Passover: From Prejudice to Promise.” One of the highlights of the evening was the opportunity to sing Hine Ma Tov with Rabbi Laura (photo): “How good and pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to live in unity” (Psalm 133: 1). Do I look a little like Garrison Keillor?

Roxanne Panchasi

Continuing my research on the cultural politics of “the bomb” in France, I published “No Hiroshima in Africa: The Algerian War and the Question of French Nuclear Tests in the Sahara” in the Spring 2019 issue of History of the Present. This past year, I presented work on other aspects of the project at the Modern Language Association and at two invited talks at the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech. I was excited to organize Joan Wallach Scott’s visit to our department during Women’s History Month in 2018 and the latest edition of SFU History Reads this past March. Finally, I am in the early stages of a new digitization project involving a set of remarkable French sources from the SFU Library’s “World War II Propaganda Posters” collection.

Ilya Vinkovetsky

Russia has been in the news lately for undermining democracy, so it may seem counterintuitive to write about an instance when it promoted and supported it. I ventured into Balkan history with an article in the December 2018 issue of Journal of Modern History on the making of Bulgaria’s first post-Ottoman constitution. The article, which addresses the surprising sponsorship of a progressive constitution by lawyers and bureaucrats of an autocratic power, is titled “Strategists and Ideologues: Russians and the Making of Bulgaria’s Tarnovo Constitution, 1878-1879.” This article holds special meaning for me: Bulgaria is a place where I had my first full-time academic job before coming to SFU, and the 1879 Tarnovo Constitution—guaranteeing the rights of association and assembly among others—has long been a topic of fascination.

The year brought other adventures. In November my article “Russia and North America” was published in the Oxford Bibliographies in Atlantic History. Last summer delivered an unexpected invitation to lecture on Baltic history
while sailing, with my mother, aboard a cruise ship voyaging across the Baltic Sea. In October I traveled to Bielefeld, Germany, to talk about the conduct of the tea trade as an impetus for fortifying the Russian-Chinese frontier.

December brought a pleasant opportunity to revisit Fort Ross (the southernmost settlement of Russia’s nineteenth-century North American colonial effort) for the first time in many years as part of a brief stint as an invited participant in a de Young Museum of San Francisco seminar, “Pacific America: Art, Travel, and Collecting, ca. 1750-1850.” That same month I also took part in a roundtable in Boston on the future of maritime history. And in February I presented a paper at Yale University on the Russian-American Company as a business.

Sarah Walshaw

Sarah finds tall baobab trees near Majanga, Madagascar.

I’m very happy to be back in Vancouver with my family and teaching African History at SFU after a year living in Oxford, UK. Before classes started in September, however, I realized a life-long dream in travelling to Madagascar. I worked with Columbia University archaeologist Zoë Crossland and Université D’Antananarive archaeologist Chantal Radimilahy at the fifteenth century highland site of Ambohidahy, where I mentored local and foreign students in field and laboratory analysis of plant remains. This spring I helped organize the Society of Ethnobiology conference at UBC, for which I raised more than ten thousand dollars in SFU funding, and I will be the incoming President of the Society. I travelled to conferences in Aarhus, Denmark, and Lecce, Italy to present my ongoing research into late Swahili period archaeobotany. Together with SFU graduate Fernando Astudillo, I co-authored a chapter on historical ethno-botany coming out in the Routledge-edited volume Advances in Historical Archaeology, and have another co-authored paper in press with SFU alum Jennifer Ramsay and Indiana University’s Karla Hansen Speer on staple plant foods in the edited volume A Cultural History of Plants in Antiquity, published by Bloomsbury. In the fall I’m looking forward to teaching a FASS First class—a freshman seminar initiative—on students’ relationships with food in the past, present, and future.