

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

# HISTORY

DIVE INTO THE PAST. SHAPE THE FUTURE.

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## FROM THE CHAIR

DR. JASON COLBY

It is once again my pleasure to introduce this newsletter. Although the role has proved challenging at times, particularly amid multiple budget cuts, I have continued to appreciate the extraordinary dedication and generosity of my colleagues, both faculty and staff. The History Department once again had a successful year. In addition to an impressive number of publications by colleagues in a range of areas, we saw growing enrolments at the undergraduate level, even as enrolment across Humanities and the university remained uneven. Not coincidentally, we enjoyed closer connections between History students and the department as we move further into the post-COVID era. The graduate program also continued its recovery, despite both the impact of the pandemic and changes to the funding structure. In this process, we have benefited from the strong and dedicated leadership of Graduate Director **Dr. Christine O’Bonsawin**, who also managed, somehow, to continue to represent us on the Faculty Association.



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# FROM THE CHAIR

DR. JASON COLBY

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On a sad note, the year also brought the retirement of **Dr. Thomas Saunders**. As I said in my speech during his retirement party, this is an emotionally difficult moment for me. As chair, Tom was the first voice of the department I ever heard, and, in difficult times, his thoughtfulness and humanity have often called me back to my better angels. He has not only been a mentor and beloved friend but also a surrogate grandfather to my sons, Ben and Nate. He has always been there for them—through countless bike rides, ice skating sessions, and chats over ice cream. I have met no one in my life with greater generosity of spirit, and I have always thought of him as the heart and moral conscience of the department. It is difficult to imagine this place without him (see separate feature inside).

Central to the continuation of our culture will be our office staff. After quite a bit of change in the previous year, our office situation remained largely stable in 2023-2024. Assistant to the Chair/Undergraduate Administrative Assistant **Alison Hogan** did a superb job supporting our undergraduate program and keeping me as organized as possible, Graduate Administrative Assistant **Heather Waterlander** kept both our graduate program and our RPT process running smoothly, and Administrative Officer **Consuela Covrig** provided superb leadership as well as prompt and responsive support to the diverse range of challenges that appeared. Our staff colleagues remain the primary reason that the History Department runs well and remains a wonderful place to work. On behalf of the entire department, I thank them for their kindness, efficiency, and support, and I add a final note of appreciation to Consuela for once again designing and editing this wonderful newsletter.

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH AWARDS

Dr. Penny Bryden

King Charles III Coronation Medal for service to the historical profession, 2024

Dr. John Lutz

Faculty of Humanities Outstanding Graduate Supervision and Mentorship Award, 2023



# RETIREMENT

DR. TOM SAUNDERS



**Tom Saunders** began his time in our department as a Visiting Assistant Professor in 1985, the same year he completed his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto. His dissertation examined the American influence on the film world of Weimar Germany, an interest he would pursue throughout his tenure at UVic as a regularized faculty member since 1986. His dissertation became the foundation for his well-received book, *Hollywood in Berlin: American Cinema and Weimar Germany*, which was published by the University of California Press.

Articles, book chapters, and conference papers – in both English and German – preceded and followed that book. They cover topics ranging from images of prostitution in Weimar cinema to the Nazis’ vision of the “New Man,” from the cooperative movements in 1920s Germany to historical realism in feature films. He was awarded ten SSHRC research grants over his career, testament to the strength of his scholarship.

Tom taught many courses in modern European history, and developed an innovative new one that drew students from across the university: *Hitler in History*. Perhaps his most enduring teaching legacy, however, will be as the instructor of our year-long Honours seminar and his service as Honours advisor. Decades of UVic History Honours students have Tom to thank for the rigorous training in our discipline that he provided. He also supervised many MA students, including our own **Kristin Semmens**, who remembers his patient, thoughtful guidance very fondly.

As chair of our department between 2005 and 2010, and again for six months in 2012, Tom’s skills and attributes – kindness, attentive listening, and – once again – patience, served him well and served his colleagues even better.

In retirement, Tom hopes to enjoy the role of grandfather as well as stay connected to the department.

Kristin Semmens

# RETIREMENT

DR. TOM SAUNDERS



# BOOK LAUNCH APRIL 2024



# BOOK LAUNCH APRIL 2024

## **Antiracist Website**

Georgia Sitara

Toasted by Elizabeth Vibert

## **A Woman in Between: Searching for Dr. Victoria Chung**

1923: Challenging Racisms Past and Present

(Un)Settling the Islands: Race, Indigeneity and the Transpacific  
Challenging Racist "British Columbia": 150 years and Counting

John Price

Toasted by Peter Cook

## **Decolonizing Sport**

Christine O'Bonsawin

Toasted by Georgia Sitara

## **To Share, Not Surrender: Indigenous and Settler Visions of Treaty Making in the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia**

John Lutz and Peter Cook

Toasted by Georgia Sitara

## **Royally Wronged: The Royal Society of Canada and the Marginaliza- tion of Indigenous Knowledge**

Cynthia Milton

Toasted by Christine O'Bonsawin

## **Inequality in Canada: The History and Politics of an Idea**

Eric Sager

Toasted by John Lutz

## **South Asian Migrations in Global History:**

**Labor, Law, and Wayward Lives**

Neilesh Bose

Toasted by Andrew Wender

## **The Contemporary Middle East: Foreign Intervention and Authoritarian Governance Since 1979**

Martin Buntton

Toasted by Elizabeth Vibert

## **The Ibero-American Baroque**

Beatriz de Alba-Koch

Toasted by Cynthia Milton

## **Aisha's Story (film)**

Elizabeth Vibert

Toasted by Jason Colby

## **Ireland's Sea Fisheries, 1400-1600. Economics, Environment and Ecology**

Patrick Hayes

Toasted by Jason Colby

## **Devilfish Website and Digital Map**

Jason Colby

Toasted by Loren McClenachan

## **The Landscapes of Injustice book**

**The Broken Promises Exhibition**

**Teacher Resources at elementary and secondary levels and the  
narrative website /The LOI Research Database**

**The Gorge Park Pavilion Exhibition Wall**

Jordan Stanger-Ross

Toasted by Jason Colby

## **Transpacific Reform and Revolution:**

**The Chinese in North America, 1898-1918**

**Shanghai yu jindai Zhongguo de shetuan wangluo geming**

Zhongping Chen

Toasted by John Lutz

## **Writing the Nation: The Ukrainian Historical Profession in I ndependent Ukraine and the Diaspora**

Serhy Yekelchuk

Toasted by Oliver Schmidtke

## **Execution, State and Society in England, 1660-1900**

Simon Devereaux

Toasted by Sara Beam

## **The Trial of Jeanne Catherine: Infanticide in early modern Geneva**

Sara Beam

Toasted by Andrea McKenzie

## **Unspeakable: A Life Beyond Sexual Morality**

**A Second Chance for Yesterday**

Rachel Cleves

Toasted by Lynne Marks

## **Conspiracy Culture in Stuart England: the Mysterious Death of Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey**

Andrea McKenzie

Toasted by Mariel Grant

## **Under the Swastika in Nazi Germany**

Kristin Semmens

Toasted by Tom Saunders

## **Using the Past to Define the Present: An Introduction to Memory Politics In Canada & Europe**

Oliver Schmidtke

Toasted by Simon Devereaux

## **Ensnared Between Hitler and Stalin: Refugee Scientists in the USSR**

David Zimmerman

Toasted by Kristin Semmens

## **The Origins of the First World War**

Gordon Martel

Toasted by David Zimmerman

## **Bucking Conservatism:**

**Alternative Stories of Alberta from the 1960s and 1970s**

Larry Hannant

Toasted by Penny Bryden

# BOOK LAUNCH APRIL 2024



Back row from left to right Gordon Martel, Lynne Marks, Elizabeth Vibert, Zhongping Chen, Andrew Wender, Mariel Grant, Wendy and David Zimmerman, Theresa Gallant, Annalee Lepp, Michael Abe, Kristin Semmens



Christine O'Bonsawin



Cynthia Milton



Andrea McKenzie



Eric Sager, Veronica Strong-Boag, Penny Bryden



Mariel Grant

# BOOK LAUNCH APRIL 2024



*Oliver Schmidtke toasting Serhy Yekelchuk's book*



*Back row from left to right: Wendy Wickwire, Pat Roy, John Lutz, Greg Blue  
Front row from left to right: Andrea McKenzie, Peter Cook, Simon Devereaux, Eric Sager*



# PAST WRONGS FUTURE CHOICES

## UPDATE BY MIKE ABE

The incredibly successful PWFC Artists and Scholars residency program continued into 2023, adding both a spring and fall residency over and above the planned residency program of 3 scholars and 3 artists. The spring residency program, held in May 2023, was an intensive experience that hosted 6 individuals over a three-week period. It has been a great joy to see creative and scholarly minds mingle and exchange ideas, and in doing so, elevate the scholarship and art that has flowed from engagement with the legacies and histories of global Nikkei dispossession, internment/incarceration. The artists and scholars attended from Australia, Brazil, the US and Canada. Another fall 2023 residency hosted 4 more artists and scholars from Canada, the US, Australia and Japan. In the first two years, PWFC has hosted 7 artists and 11 scholars at UVic at the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives and the Centre for Global Studies with support from the Department of Visual Arts in the Faculty of Fine Arts. Further funding has led to the creation of another residency in the fall 2024.

PWFC was also excited to announce the return of Canada's Internment Era Field School which last ran in 2019 prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. In July of 2023 the PWFC Office was joined by 15 UVic Students, in-service teachers, and international educators on the Nikkei National Museum's Internment Era Bus tour. The group used this opportunity to visit sites of internment, engage with community members, and build connections. Following the bus tour participants came back to campus for a week of intensive classes culminating in a variety of assignments including knowledge mobilization and dissemination plans.

PWFC has been fortunate to host a series of events and speakers, in conjunction with CAPI and other partners. Each of our guests have offered unique perspectives and approaches to looking at complicated histories of Nikkei Dispossession and internment/incarceration. On October 16th we were joined by Yasuko Takezawa (Intercultural Research Institute, Kansai Gaidai University, and Professor Emeritus at Kyoto University) followed immediately by Eric L Muller (the Dan K. Moore Distinguished Professor in Jurisprudence and Ethics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill); and on November 2nd PWFC in conjunction with CAPI hosted the

PWFC Fall 2023 Residency Showcase. This was an opportunity for each of the residents in the fall cohort to share their work with members of the community.

PWFC and the Faculty of Fine Arts also had the pleasure of presenting, for the first time, a new work by Japanese Canadian dancer, actor, and playwright, Kunji Ikeda. Kunji generously shared a performance piece that he developed whilst in Residency with PWFC title "Full Circle Joy". A loving and thought-provoking piece dedicated to the core concept of respect.

In March 2024, PWFC in association with the History Department, Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society (VNCS), CAPI and the Michiko (Midge) Ayukawa Commemorative Fund held its final lecture, Postcards from our Ancestors with 5 Nikkei artists and scholars presenting their written and artistic works.

In April 2024, PWFC, Esquimalt Parks and Recreation and the VNCS held an unveiling of the two new garden history interpretative display panels, and two interpretative panels within the Esquimalt Gorge Park Pavilion to commemorate the return of Toshie Takata's piano and a tea cup and water pitcher from the original tea house.

In May, project manager, Michael Abe joined project director, Jordan Stanger-Ross in Australia for meetings and presentations by over 25 members of our project partner Nikkei Australia. Jordan also strengthened ties with other partners in Australia during his sabbatical in Melbourne from December 2023 to June 2024. After Australia, Jordan and Michael, along with Sherri Kajiwaru, Director/Curator of the Nikkei National Museum in Burnaby travelled to Tokyo, Yokohama, Mio and Kyoto in Japan for meetings and presentations as well as attending the Mio Symposium where the travelling exhibit, Broken Promises. The exhibit, translated into Japanese is currently on display at the Canada Museum in Mio as part of a tour to several locations in Japan.

Preparations are underway for the 2024 Canada's Internment Era Field School in July 2024 and will include 5 Uvic students and 9 teachers and museum professionals from Canada, US, Australia and Japan.



**Past Wrongs  
Future Choices**

# WORKS IN PROGRESS

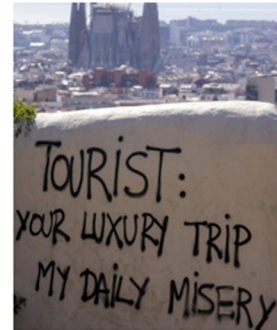
DR. ANDREA MCKENZIE  
WORKS IN PROGRESS COORDINATOR

Whitney Wood (CRC, Vancouver Island University)  
“Pregnancy, Parturition, and Pain in Late-Nineteenth  
and Early-Twentieth Century Canada”



Heather Spears, "Labour and Birth," 1995, Wellcome Images

Kristin Semmens (History, UVic)  
“Tourists, go home!": Exploring the  
History of Antitourism”



Mark Antliff (Duke University)  
“Henri Bergson’s Legacy among the 20<sup>th</sup>c Avant-  
Gardes: Intuition, Aesthetics, and Political Ideology”



Steven Pincus,  
“Bombay, Tangier and the Political Economy of  
Restoration Empire”



Port of Tangier, engraving by Wenceslaus Hollar, dated 1670

Kenneth Duggan (Vancouver Island University)  
“The Trial and Execution of Thieves at Private Courts  
in Thirteenth-Century England”




# THANK-YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE CAFÉ HISTORIQUE SERIES

**DR. JILL WALSHAW,  
CAFÉ HISTORIQUE COORDINATOR**

2023-24 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> season of Café Historique – a wonderful tradition now and great times down at Hermann’s Jazz Club on View Street. This year’s theme was *The History of Everyday Life*. **Martin Bunton** kicked off the series with “Oil: From Imperial History to Daily Life” in October, followed by his co-conspirator, **John Lutz**, in November with “Cars: How Personal Mobility Changed the World.” (Both talks, we are told, are part of the thinking of a future jointly-taught course on the history of oil.) In December, **Georgia Sitara** brought the audience into the spirit of the holiday season with “Cheers: A Boozy History of Canada.” In the new year, **David Zimmerman** presented in February, with “Progress: The History of Technology in Everyday Life”; **Rachel Hope Cleves** followed with “Food: Ingredients for Community and Identity,” and **Christine O’Bonsawin** finished off the season in April with “Sports: Exploring the History of the Olympic Games,” a timely discussion coming just months before the Paris Olympic Games.

Each talk counted between 110 and 140 happy listeners; more than once, every seat in the house was taken. After negotiations with Hermann’s, a much larger screen dropping down from the ceiling and a modern projector system was installed, improving visibility for members throughout the hall. Hermann’s is now a venue owned by the City of Victoria, and we have high hopes that the series will continue another ten years! Join us this fall for a new season – *Why History Matters*, starting on Wednesday October 2 – email [clio@uvic.ca](mailto:clio@uvic.ca) for more information.

October 4, Nov 1, Dec 6, Feb 7, Mar 6, Apr 3




**CAFÉ HISTORIQUE**  
**Wednesday November 1**  
**John Lutz: CARS**  
**How Personal Mobility Changed Our World'**  
 Reservations required  
 \$5 at the door / Livestream: \$5 e-transfer  
 Information: [clio@uvic.ca](mailto:clio@uvic.ca)  
 Hermann's Jazz Club – 753 View Street  
 Doors: 5:30 pm Start time: 7:00 pm

**Café Historique: Drink:**  
**A Boozy History of  
 Everyday Life in Canada**  
 with **Dr. Georgia Sitara**  
**Hermann's Jazz Club**  
**Wednesday, December 6**  
 7:00 - 9:00 pm / doors at 5:30 pm (All Ages)  
 In Person \$5 at the door

Join us for a drink and a whirlwind tour of a history of drinking in Canada. We'll trace the changing fortunes of taverns, saloons, beer parlors and cocktail lounges from the rise of the temperance movement through prohibition and the successful fight for the freedom to drink.

Information: [clio@uvic.ca](mailto:clio@uvic.ca)




You never listen to me, you only hear what you want to hear

Sure, I'll have a beer

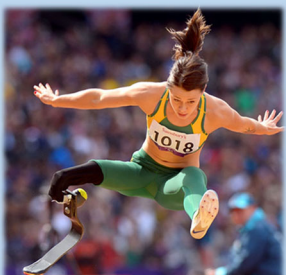
Café Historique presents  
**Progress:**  
**The History of  
 Technology in  
 Everyday Life**  
 with **Dr. David Zimmerman**  
 Wednesday, February 7  
 7:00 – 9:00 pm \* Doors 5:30  
**Hermann's Jazz Club**  
 753 View Street  
 \$5 - register online  
 Dinner special: Dine Around 2024  
 Information: [clio@uvic.ca](mailto:clio@uvic.ca)



**Café Historique: Eat:**  
**A Brief History of Humanity in Ten Foods**  
 with  
**Dr. Rachel Hope Cleves**  
**Hermann's Jazz Club**  
**Wednesday, March 6**  
 7:00 - 9:00 pm  
 Doors at 5:30 pm (All Ages)  
 In Person and Livestream  
 Information:  
[clio@uvic.ca](mailto:clio@uvic.ca)



**Café Historique: Sport... and Scandal:**  
**Exploring the History of the Modern Olympic Games**  
 with  
**Dr. Christine O’Bonsawin**  
**Hermann's Jazz Club**  
**Wednesday, April 3**  
 7:00 - 9:00 pm  
 Doors at 5:30 pm (All Ages)  
 In Person and Livestream  
 Information:  
[clio@uvic.ca](mailto:clio@uvic.ca)



# GRADUATE AWARDS

## **SSHRC Awards**

Jamey Jespersen, Andrew Johnston, Pia Russell

## **Presidents Research Scholarships**

Jamey Jespersen, Andrew Johnston, Pia Russell

## **UVic Graduate Fellowships**

Natasha Danais, Ursula Dhillon, Ben Dippel, Kristen Fontaine, Laura Gillis, Abby Goldstein, Rye Green, Abby Romano, Eric Zdravec, Milan Zec

## **UVic Graduate Awards**

Ella Cathcart, Jerry Flexer, Yixiong Fu, Trevor Gallagher, Olivia Giesbrecht-Coombs, Jamey Jespersen, Sydney Kadagies, Emilia Koehn, Wenjuan Lu, Jesse Robertson, Pia Russell, Aaron Stefik, Alyssa Talley, Natasha Walden, Brett Wyatt

## **UVic Graduate Entrance Awards (GEA)**

Ella, Cathcart, Olivia Giesbrecht-Coombs, Sydney Kadagies, Aaron Stefik, Brett Wyatt

## **Alumni Association Graduate Award**

Laura Gillis

## **Falkenstein Fellowships**

Ella Cathcart, Yixiong Fu, Olivia Giesbrecht-Coombs, Jamey Jespersen, Emilia Koehn, Alyssa Talley, Milan Zec

## **Francis Woods Memorial Scholarship**

Kristen Fontaine

## **Dr. Esme Foord Graduate Scholarship**

Brett Wyatt

## **Hawkes-Little Graduate Scholarship**

Ursula Dhillon

## **Hoy Sun Benevolent Association Scholarship**

Yixiong Fu

**The Hugh Campbell and Marion Alice Small Graduate Teaching Fellowship in Scottish Studies  
Humanities: Strategic Research Grant and St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society Endowment in Scottish Studies  
Scottish Historical Review Trust Researcher Bursary**

Theresa Mackay

## **Hutchinson Graduate Scholarship**

Natasha Danais, Wenjuan Lu

## **Kalman Award for International Heritage Studies**

Sydney Kadagies

## **Leon J. Ladner British Columbia Historical Scholarship**

Abby Romano

## **Otto and Joan Bekius Scholarship**

Andrew Johnston

## **The 1990 Learned Societies Scholarship**

Abby Goldstein

## **Victoria Historical Society Scholarship**

Rye Green

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW

## PIA RUSSELL

ÍY SŁÁĆEL. Cultural heritage is my professional passion and I have worked in the field of galleries, libraries, archives, and museums (“the GLAM sector”) for over twenty years. I am trained as a historian, archivist, librarian, and educator.

After so thoroughly enjoying my experience in UVic’s MA in Public History program with Professors Marks, Vibert, and Semmens, I decided to extend my program of research into doctoral studies.

I am a librarian in [Special Collections and University Archives](#) at UVic where I support students, instructors, and researchers in the Faculty of Education. At UVic Libraries I also curate the [British Columbia Historical Textbooks \(BCHT\) collection](#). As the curator of BCHT, I am the Primary Investigator of a Social Science and Humanities Research Council’s (SSHRC) Insight funded grant titled *Unsettling History: An Interactive Digital Library of British Columbia’s*

*Historical Textbooks, 1871-1921*. This project seeks to elevate inclusive histories of British Columbia with an emphasis on decolonization, anti-racism, and gender studies through critical re-readings of BC’s historical textbooks. Indigenous and K-12 school partnerships are essential to this scholarship. Our research team won the 2022 British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) [Champion of Intellectual Freedom Award](#).

In the fall of 2024, I will co-teach *HSTR329A: Race and Ethnicity in Canada up to 1900* with my friend and colleague, **Chaa’winisaks**. This course will focus on land-based teachings as much as possible and take a critical approach to settler colonialism in the Canadian state. The analysis of primary source documents will be central. My passion for history centres on the lands beneath my feet and I am committed to sharing this knowledge with others.

HÍ,SWŪKE SIÁM.



## JCURA

### CONGRATULATIONS 2024 JCURA WINNERS!

Massimo Calabrese

Supervisor: Dr. John Lutz

[We Are Not Stones: Land, Indigenous Agency, and Colonialism in Williams Lake BC, 1821-1881](#)

Amber Fill

Supervisor: Dr. Andrea McKenzie

[Curiosity Killed the Cat: Vivisections in Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century England](#)

Sarah Johnston

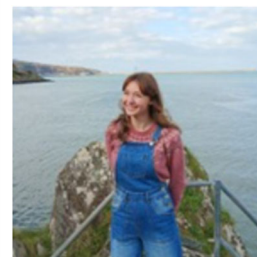
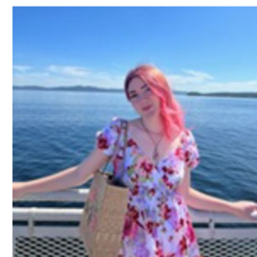
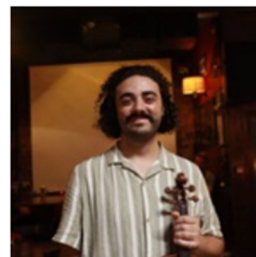
Supervisor: Dr. John Lutz

[Socio-economic Status in the Sanatorium: Tuberculosis in B.C. during the Interwar Period, a case study of Tranquille Sanatorium](#)

Kaja Pedersen

Supervisor: Dr. Kristin Semmens

[Sex on the Beach: Exploring Gender and Sexuality at British Seaside Resorts 1919-1939](#)



# HONOURS PROGRAM

## DR. JILL WALSHAW, HONOURS ADVISOR

The 2023-24 year saw an extremely strong field of Honours students, with 18 in the seminar and 11 completing their theses. In April, students defended their research on topics ranging from BC indigenous history (land in Williams Lake, settler use of Chinook jargon, and myths surrounding clam gardens) to local history topics (tuberculosis in the Interwar period, controversial Port Alberni figure Alan Webster Neill, and cannabis legalization in Canada), and new approaches to European topics (18th-century British attitudes towards vivisection, the Russo-Ukraine war viewed from a historical cold-war perspective, the

dismemberment of Hungary in 1919 and prisoner accounts of menstruation loss in the Holocaust). This year also concluded in a handover from **Tom Saunders**, who has taught the seminar and been the face of the Honours program for many years running, to **Jill Walshaw**, who has recently taken over the administrative side and will now be teaching the seminar since Tom's retirement this past summer. We are extremely proud of our honours students: their hard work and innovative ideas make the program what it is!



*Fabulous Honours Cohort 2023-2024 with Dr. Saunders*

# UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

**Alexander & Phyllis MacLeod Baird Memorial Prize in Scottish History**

Tamara Wallace

**Allan and Elizabeth McKinnon Scholarship**

Jared Vander Veen

**Barry Gough Scholarship in History**

Alicia Singh, Eileen Quayle, Adriana Wilson

**Canadian History Scholarship**

Sophie Marra, Bowen Wilson-Sharp

**Charlotte S.M. Girard Book Prize in French History**

Bronwyn Currey

**Clara Evelyn Wilson Scholarship**

Sofia Spiteri

**Churchill Foundation Vancouver Island's Shirley Burstall Scholarship**

Charlotte Conn, Cooper Kopec, James Ziolkoski

**Dr. Shawn Cafferky Scholarship in Military History**

Massimo Calabrese, Sarah Wilkinson

**Dr. Toby Jackman Book Prize in British History**

Jesi Pearce

**Frank Sylvester Scholarship**

Kym Aerts, Austin Follestad, Kendra Lancaster

**Gregory Blue Scholarship in Global History**

Kendra Lancaster, James Ziolkoski

**Grotius Award in Modern History**

Sam Olson

**Harper Scholarship in History**

Massimo Calabrese, Maggie Dennis, Tamara Wallace

**Helen Jessop Ford Scholarship**

Kym Aerts

**Hendrickson Prize in B.C. History**

Jacob Moreno

**Hutchinson Bekius Scholarship in History**

Erica Turgeon

**Inspiring Historians Legacy Scholarship**

Grace Charness

**J. Walter Grant Book Prize in British Columbia History**

Jakob Svorkdal

**John Gough Scholarship for Studies in the History of the Environment**

Stefano Buckley

# HUB



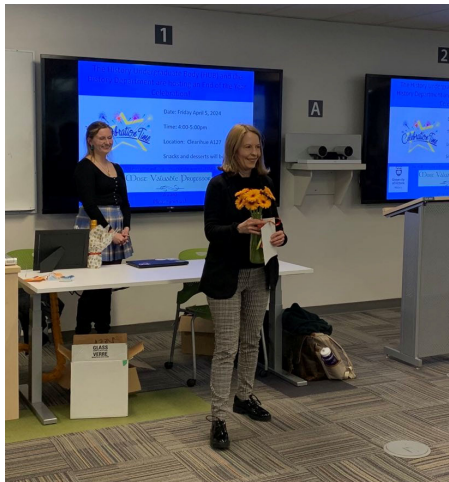
This past year for the History Undergraduate Body has been absolutely incredible. This year we had eight new members on the board, five of whom returned from the previous year. This past year has been very active as we held our regular peer tutoring, a couple of board game nights, an intense but joyful student-prof trivia night, as well as the first Winter Formal since the COVID pandemic. In addition, we also updated our constitution. To celebrate the end of the school year we ran our annual HUB crawl, uplifting our spirits.

At the year end event, organised by the amazing department staff, **Dr. Simon Devereaux** won this year's student-voted "Most Valuable Professor" award, with **Dr. Andrea McKenzie**. **Dr. Kristin**

**Semmens** and **Dr. Georgia Sitara** tied for the third place. In August, *The Ascendant Historian* celebrated the launch of their third volume, while progress for Vol. 4 is well under way. The HUB executives would like to give a special thank you to the History department professors for being so hard working and inspiring to students, and imparting us with their wisdom. Another special thank you to the amazing department staff, Consuela, Alison and Heather, without whom the department could not run, your support is incredibly meaningful! Finally, we would like to thank the students who make all of this possible; we love to hear your laughter and see your lovely smiles as we run these events and to see those who are so passionate about history. The HUB looks forward to a new year.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. SIMON DEVEREAUX FOR WINNING THIS YEAR'S MOST VALUABLE PROFESSOR AWARD!



## CONGRATULATIONS!

To Dr. Andrea McKenzie for winning the second place  
and Dr. Kristin Semmens with Dr. Georgia Sitara for the third place !!!

# MOST VALUABLE PROFESSOR AWARD CONGRATULATIONS!



# FACULTY YEAR IN REVIEW



Adebisi Alade

## ADEBISI ALADE

During the 2023-24 academic session, I concentrated on developing my first book manuscript and revising articles and book chapters for publication. I also shared my research on Africa as well as colonial health and medicine with diverse audiences in person and via Zoom. Highlights include an invited public presentation to the Canadian International Council (Victoria chapter) on cash politics and the growing democracy in Africa, an invited paper presentation on state power and public health in colonial Nigeria at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and a live interview with Rohit Joseph on CBC's All Points West discussing Black history in Canada and the city of Victoria. As a UVic Global Development Studies (GDS) Program Committee member, I proposed and organized the First Annual Undergraduate GDS Conference in the spring of 2024. This event featured paper presentations by students from various disciplines, including History, Indigenous Studies, Sociology, Pacific and Asian Studies, Economics, and Environmental Studies. Topics and themes covered by students offered "Critical Perspectives on Colonialism and Development in Postcolonial Societies." I taught two undergraduate courses on Africa and its diasporas during that term - HSTR 360: Africa in the World and HSTR 360A:



Sara Beam

## SARA BEAM

Back in the archives! 2023-24 has been a year of transitions. From full sick leave with long Covid for 2022-23, this past year I have transitioned back to work gradually. This summer it has been wonderful to be able to return to the archives and my research on 16thC Europe. In the spring, a chapter entitled "She Said, He Said in a Seventeenth-century Infanticide Trial" was published. #

## NEILESH BOSE

During the period under review, I have finished revisions on a monograph as well as a range of other publications on the subject of modern religious reform in nineteenth century India and related issues of religion, secularism, and religious nationalism. My monograph, tentatively titled *Refining Religion: Comparative Religion in Nineteenth Century India*, has been revised and submitted for final review. Related to this work on religion and politics in India is an online review essay titled "The Resurgence of Religion: Worldmaking in the Era of Desecularization" for the Social Science Research Council, which appeared in May



Melia Belli-Bose, Neilesh Bose

2024, <https://intersections.ssrc.org/field-reviews/the-return-of-religion-and-nationalism-reconsidered/> Also related to my research on religion in colonial and post-colonial South Asia is a roundtable I have edited for the *Journal of American Academy of Religion* titled "Religion as Polity Formation: Revisiting Religion in Modern Imperial India," published online in November 2023. Finally, I published a book chapter about nineteenth century Indian religious reformers, and their studies of comparative religion, titled "Vernaculars across Texts: Modern Islam and Modern Literature in Bengal" in *Language Ideologies and the Vernacular in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia* (Routledge, 2024). I've also delivered presentations in person and via Zoom for audiences in several different universities. These include conferences such as the European Network in Universal and Global History (ENIUGH) in June 2023, as well as a guest lectures to **Dr. Desiree Valadares'** class at the University of British Columbia and **Dr. Andrew Wender's** class on political religion and secularism at UVIC. Upcoming talks are scheduled for Bombay at IIT-Bombay and in Colombo, Sri Lanka, at the American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies, as well as Goa in BITS Pilani. I taught my undergraduates HSTR 112A "World History, 1900 – 1945" and HSTR 275 "History of Modern South Asia." My most important creation was the birth of baby girl

# FACULTY YEAR IN REVIEW



Martin Bunton



Penny Bryden



Rachel Cleves

## PENNY BRYDEN

I've been on sabbatical for the 2023-2024 academic year, which has meant travel in the off-season to archives, writing for full days (not just an hour here or there), lots of reading, lots of filing of archival images, and some deep thought about the new courses I'll be launching in the fall whenever I felt stumped by either the PMO, political scandals, or peace promotion (the three big projects I'm completing). It's all been a complete and utter delight. #

## MARTIN BUNTON

This last year, *Contemporary Middle East: Foreign Intervention and Authoritarian Governance Since 1979* (Wiley 2024) finally saw the light of day. Meanwhile, *History of the Modern Middle East* (co-authored with the late William Cleveland, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Taylor & Francis) moved through production, with an expansion of its online instructor/student resources. For most of the year I was kept especially busy with public talks on contemporary events, and I presented a paper on Canadian foreign policy towards the Middle East at the annual Middle East Studies Association meeting held in Montreal. In addition to being asked to review some articles, books, projects and promotions, I was very pleased to serve on the external review for UVic's Global Development Studies minor.

On a sad note, February saw the passing of **Rod Dobell**, a remarkable mentor and wonderful friend. Such a huge loss. #

## ZHONGPING CHEN

The 2023–2024 academic year started with the simultaneous publication of my two books in

July 2023: *Transpacific Reform and Revolution: The Chinese in North America, 1898–1918* (by Stanford University Press), and *Shanghai yu jindai Zhongguo de shetuan wangluo geming* (by Jiangsu People's Press), my self-translation of *Modern China's Network Revolution*, which was originally released by Stanford University Press in 2011. As a result, I was invited to give three online speeches about the two books to audiences in the United States and China in the fall of 2023. In addition, I delivered an in-person speech to a local audience at the CAPI-hosted book launch for the new English publication. From May 11 to June 6, 2024, I took a research and conference trip to China, Malaysia and Singapore. During this trip, I received invitations to deliver five lectures at the Shanghai Social Scientific Academy and four universities in Shanghai, Nanjing, Chaozhou and Xiamen, and presented a conference paper, "The Little Ice Age, Ming China, and Zheng He's Maritime Voyages, 1405–1433," in Kuala Lumpur. After the trip, I received the news that my co-authored book on Kang Youwei (1858–1927), a political reformer in modern China and the Chinese diaspora, will be published by Brill at the end of 2024. #

## RACHEL CLEVES

A lot happened in 2023-2024! My first novel, *A Second Chance for Yesterday*, co-authored with my brother Aram Sinnreich, came out from Solaris Press in August. It was long-listed by the British Science Fiction Association for the best novel prize, to our delight. I also completed work on my next monograph, *Lustful Appetites: An Intimate History of Good Food and Wicked Sex*, which will be published by

Polity Press in the UK in November 2024, and in North America in February 2025. It's now available for pre-order in the UK. I've kept up a busy schedule of teaching, including my 100-level global history of food class, two 300-level role-playing courses, and a mixed undergraduate-graduate seminar on LGBTQ history, as well as working with graduate students. My MA student **Chris Pihlak** defended her thesis "A Movable Closet: Constructions of Femininity Among Twentieth Century Transfeminine Periodical Communities" in August 2023, which went on to win UVic's Gold Medal for Outstanding Master's Thesis or Project in the Humanities. Chris is now working on a SSHRC-funded PhD in History at the University of Toronto. And my Ph.D. student **Jamey Jespersen** continues to win grants and prizes, too numerous to count. To highlight just two accomplishments, she won a Vanier Scholarship to fund her PhD studies, and she won prizes both from both the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender History (CLGBTH), and from the journal *Gender and History*, for her article "Trans Misogyny in the Colonial Archive: 'Remembering' Trans Feminine Life & Death in New Spain, 1604-1821." This spring I've begun another extended archives trip to complete the research for my next book project, "To Russia with Love: A True Story of Sex, Spycraft, and Stolen Diamonds." I've also given a range of invited talks and conference papers, including at the Schwules Museum in Berlin and at the American Historical Association and the Queer History Conference. And finally, I was elected to the council of the Canadian Historical Association. Phew! Looking forward to a study leave in fall 2024 and time to work on writing my next book. #

# FACULTY YEAR IN REVIEW



Jason Colby



Beatriz de Alba-Koch

## JASON COLBY

Once again, chair duties occupied much of my time in the 2023-2024. I did, however, have moments when I still felt like a researcher and teacher. I had the opportunity to give several conference and public presentations on my SSHRC *Devilfish* project, including presenting its digital animated map in a keynote speech at the interdisciplinary Oceans Past conference in the UK. (The scientists really seemed to enjoy it, though it is possible they were just being polite.) I also gave a number of media interviews on both my research and political events in the United States. Finally, I did a bit of teaching, including a second round of HSTR 201: Intro to Historical Research and an interdisciplinary course on counterfactual history, co-taught with **Stephen Ross**. I once again thank my colleagues for offering guest lectures in HSTR 201 - the students loved your visits. Overall, it was a great year. #

## PETER COOK

I returned to teaching after a study leave in 2022-23 with considerable trepidation, not least because of the explosion of concern in the media and in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* about the impact of artificial intelligence chatbots like ChatGPT in colleges and universities. More generally, as a teacher I also was feeling rather rusty, having spent the preceding months at work on a co-authored study of

two Catholic communities in the upper St Lawrence valley - one Mohawk, the other Highland Scottish - in the decades between the American Revolution and Canadian Confederation. Happily, I found that the students in my classes had not in fact been enslaved by technology and were more than willing to indulge my efforts to bring my research into the classroom. These included asking students in an introductory survey on early Canadian history to transcribe and analyze the letters of Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea) in the Haldimand Papers and developing a new joint undergraduate- graduate seminar on Canada in the Age of Revolution (1760s-1850s). Between spring 2023 and spring 2024 I was also delighted to complete successful supervisions of four graduate projects by talented students, the first of which, **Carla Osborne's** PhD dissertation "‘We Know Where We Are’: The Role of Place in Indigenous Historiography by Haudenosaunee and Northwest Métis Historians" (co-supervised with **Dr Christine O'Bonsawin**), subsequently won the Dean of Humanities' Gold Medal. Early this year, as a juror for the Canadian Historical Association's John Bullen Prize, I had the privilege of reading many other excellent dissertations from universities across Canada. I have come away from these experiences full of amazement at the promise shown by the next generation of historians and proud of the role that our

own Department of History has played in fostering this talent. #

## BEATRIZ DE ALBA-KOCH

This spring I taught as a special topic a new course on Portuguese expansion of the early modern period. The course is now formalized as HSTR 361 (Slaves, Spices and Saints in the Portuguese Empire 1441-1822); I look forward to teaching it again. For the Latin American Studies Program, I organized the visit of Luis Millones Figueroa (Colby College) as Lansdowne Scholar. He lectured in HSTR/LAS 376E (History of the Aztecs, Inka and Maya) and was the keynote speaker for the Tenth Latin America Research Workshop. At the Workshop I delivered the paper "Juan Bautista Valerio de la Cruz, Indigenous Conquistador of the Gran Chichimeca." In the late spring I travelled to Perú to document open-air crosses that integrate pre-contact and colonial cut stones carved with Inka religious symbols. The crosses at the remote sites of Apachaco and Coporaque, located in the puna of the Department of Cuzco, were particularly intriguing. Their unusual star-shaped bases depict a *chakana*, the ancient Andean symbol patterned after the Southern Cross constellation and representing the axis mundi. The trip also allowed me to explore Moche and Chavín archeological sites which I discuss in HSTR/LAS 376E. For my course on Latin American women, I furthered my understanding of the *tapadas limeñas*, the nineteenth-century women of

# FACULTY YEAR IN REVIEW



John Lutz



Lynne Marks

## SIMON DEVEREAUX

This year was an unusually busy one, but also afforded many satisfactions. My book *Execution, State and Society in England, 1660-1900* (Cambridge UP) was published in October 2023, and helped secure my promotion to Full Professor. In the autumn I chaired conference sessions in Halifax (Northeast Conference on British Studies) and Philadelphia (American Society for Legal History). And I began a term as an Associate Editor of the *Journal of British Studies*, the leading North American journal in my field. Teaching kept me particularly busy. In the autumn I taught a new 300-level course, “The History of Night”; in the spring, I taught “Hoaxes, Conspiracies and Moral Panics” by myself for the first time, which required six more weeks of new lectures. Tiring as this sometimes seemed, I was surprised and touched to be awarded HUB’s Most Valuable Professor prize. As summer begins, Prof. McKenzie and I are looking forward to our first trip to the British archives since before COVID. Since May 2023, our home life has been enlivened by the addition of two kittens who have proven to be extremely adept at opening cupboards in pursuit of food. #

## JOHN LUTZ

The most fun I had this year was teaching the graduate Public History class. Or maybe it seemed more fun because it looked like a disaster just before it began when, our long term partner for practicum projects, Point Ellice House Museum, suddenly shuttered its doors. When one door gets slammed in your face you can sometimes pry another open and, in this case, we got lucky. The Royal BC Museum was looking for help, particularly in rethinking their “Old Town” exhibit and invited the students to work on

that. The student projects were thoughtful, well-researched, creative and provocative, and, for me at least, the whole experience was fun!

The best part of the professor’s job is working along side engaged and engaging students; this year I supported **Sarah Johnson** and **Massimo Calabrese** through their JCURA and Honours projects, **Dave Lang** to the end of his MA and was second reader for the MA’s of **Aron Gislason** (Anthropology) and **Ben Dippel** (History). Rewarding as I learned a lot, and fun!

Like Dicken’s *Ghost of Christmas Past*, I continue to drag around shackled chains of several older projects, struggling to get them a little closer to a finish line, but made more headway on newer ones. I completed a biography of a Sto:lo elder, **Margaret Commodore**, the first Indigenous Minister of Justice in any province or territory in Canada (Yukon in her case). Margaret, who will turn 93 years young this fall, has a life story that is inspiring, courageous but tempered by tragedy and it has been a privilege to work with her. With colleague **Keith Carlson** I published the first article from our “Sickness no one could cure” project on smallpox in the Pacific Northwest, in the *Western Historical Quarterly*, and my article on Indigenous coal miners won the best article prize in BC History.

In the research category, I made my first ever trip to Washington DC to spend time in the archives of the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Museum of Anthropology on the smallpox project, and with Keith and **Si:yemiya (Sonny McHalsie)** we presented our work in Washington, Montreal and in Renne Italy. Now that I think about it, maybe exploring, eating and wine-tasting after my presentation in Italy was *actually* the most fun I had this year! #

## LYNNE MARKS

In the fall of the 2023 I continued to focus much of my time and energy as President of the UVic Faculty Association – a position with its full share of both frustrations and fulfillment. In 2023 I was very pleased to celebrate the successful and impressive defences of both MA student **Morgan Watson** (co-supervised with **Annalee Lepp**), and PhD student **Kefen Zhou** (co-supervised with **Greg Blue**). I look forward to seeing important publications emerging from both of these original and important projects. In January of 2024 I was pleased to be able to take a six month study leave, and focus more of my attention on analyzing and writing up some of the research that has emerged out of the SSHRC funded *Alternative Visions* project on elements of second wave feminism, that I collaborate on with **Margaret Little** of Queen’s and **Sarah Nickel** of the U of Alberta. I was very fortunate to be able to spend a month writing in England (primarily in Cornwall) and a second month in Bari, in the south of Italy. This was a wonderful experience, and thanks to **John Lutz** (who informed me of the opportunity), while in Southern Italy I was also able to present a paper at the Italian Association of Canadian Studies conference on “Decolonization and Indigenization: The Contemporary Debate in Canada.” While on my leave I wrote an article on an important and understudied group of 1970s lesbian activists, *Wages Due Lesbians*, which I presented at a fascinating queer history conference in Berlin at the beginning of July. During the leave I was also able to work on a paper on political strategies of immigrant and ethnic activist women, to be presented at a conference in Japan this August. #

# FACULTY YEAR IN REVIEW



Oliver Schmidtke

## LOREN MCCLENACHAN

This year I have focused most on developing new local, collaborative, and community-engaged research. This work has included a variety of historical fisheries in British Columbia and Alaska, and has involved community partners in BC, Washington and Alaska.

I am writing this from Campbell River, where I have just had the pleasure of visiting the Campbell River Museum and meeting with archivists there. I have been working with partners at the museum and the local Tyee Club to digitize records of the large “Tyee” Chinook salmon caught by members of the club over the last 90 years. I am collaborating with the Club and other researchers in BC and Washington to analyze these records to document changes in the size and number of fish. This work was included as part of the exhibit *Fish On: 100 years of the Tyee Club* that opened in July of this year.

Just before leaving on this trip, I submitted a paper called “The Fish that Stop: Drivers of historical (1915-1940) decline for Pacific cod and implications for modern management in an era of rapidly changing climate.” While Pacific cod fishery in Alaska has been productive for decades, a recent climate-driven collapse may have historical precedents. Traditional knowledge holders refer to cod as “the fish that stop,” with the 1930s suggested as a period of decline. This archival work reconstructed the commercial salt cod fishery, confirming a rapid decline in the 1920s and 1930s that is linked to a period of warming. This research involved collaboration with scientists at NOAA’s Alaska fisheries science center and climate scientists

and is part of a larger project with partners including local Alaskan communities.

Finally, many in the department know **Patrick Hayes** a postdoctoral fellow with whom I have been working over the past two years. Our work together has focused on documenting the transition from Indigenous management of ancestral clam gardens in BC to settler colonial clam fisheries in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This research is being conducted in partnership with the Sea Garden Restoration Project, a collaboration among Parks Canada, WSÁNEĆ Nations and Hul’q’umi’num-speaking Nations. These partners are actively working to restore ancestral clam beaches in the Salish Sea and are seeking new historical insights to aid in these efforts. Patrick is currently on parental leave and will return to finish up this work later this year. #

## OLIVER SCHMIDTKE

During the academic year 2023/24, I completed the Jean Monnet Network ‘European Memory Politics: Populism, Nationalism, and the Challenges to a European Memory Culture’ (see: [www.eucanet.org](http://www.eucanet.org) for details) working with our partners in France, Hungary and Poland on a book manuscript, distributing our digital educational booklet to educational institutions, and publishing various journal articles on memory politics in a comparative perspective. In addition, with the Europe Canada Network project, we organized a roundtable on the wicked problem of governing refugees and irregular migration in a world of resurgent nationalism and hardening borders in April 2024 (financed by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation). The question of how Western democracies deal



Christine O'Bonsawin

with such political challenges, what the rise of the populist right means, and how our shared knowledge of history can be a critical tool in addressing the threat of authoritarianism also informs my current research in Europe during the summer months of 2024. Beyond dedicating my time to research and teaching, I continued to be the director of UVic’s Centre for Global Studies promoting its multi-disciplinary research community and its multifaceted outreach initiatives. #

## CHRISTINE O'BONSAWIN

In 2023-2024, I took advantage of being part of a world where we seemingly get to travel again! A highlight of the year was travelling to Winnipeg to participate in the official book launch of *Decolonizing Sport*, which I co-edited with respected scholars **Janice Forsyth**, **Russell Field**, and **Murray Phillips**. I also travelled to Montréal to participate in a research summit with the Indigenous Hockey Research Network. My involvement at the summit landed me an invitation to join a research team of esteemed scholars and numerous community partners from across the country affiliated with the Indigenous Hockey Research Network on a stage one SSHRC Partnership Grant application (which was successful, and we are now working on the stage two application). Although I was busy with many scholarly activities, I also found time to travel to see family and community. In July 2023, after many years of COVID-related cancellations, my children and I travelled to our Abenaki community of Odanak to attend our annual powwow! #

# FACULTY YEAR IN REVIEW



Georgia Sitara at Café Historique



Kristin Semmens



History Display—Georgia Sitara

## KRISTIN SEMMENS

2023/2024 opened with a quick trip to Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario, where I was invited to give a public lecture on victims' resistance to the Nazis. In January, I attended the AHA conference in San Francisco, where I presented a paper on the history of antitourism. In April, along with my colleagues in Germanic Studies, I was an invited faculty member at the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University's Regional Institute in Bellingham, Washington. This year I also published an article on Hitler's Beer Hall Putsch in *History Today*, and have begun work on a piece about cartoons in the international press featuring *Mein Kampf*. It wasn't all work, though; after carrying out some research for my antitourism project in Portugal, my husband and I walked a part of the Camino to Santiago de Compostela, Spain. A very special (and sometimes arduous) experience! ♣

## GEORGIA SITARA

Orange Shirt Day, to continue the spirit of the day, I put together a display in the History Department of crucial reading materials to "deepen our understanding of truth and our responsibilities for decolonization." In April, I spoke to over 200 civil servants who work for the Ministry of Children and Family Development on these histories and proposals. I provided feedback on training modules on antiracism and intersectionality developed by BC Data Services for their researchers and gave a lecture on the history

and critical theories of multiculturalism in Canada as part of the professional development of staff at the BC legislature.

I also deeply enjoyed teaching the post-Confederation Canadian history survey course after an eight year hiatus. It was sweet to return to the very first course I ever taught at UVic, now over two decades ago. This time, I used histories of children and youth as points of entry into modern Canadian history. I hoped that by teaching students about young people, they would come to understand them as historical actors, as historical agents who made and changed history; I hoped it would help students understand their own power. Given that the class was largely composed of teachers in training, I hope the course content will lead them to approach their own future students with respect. Changing the world is possible in every little thing we do.

I presented these histories to a group of high school students at the Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry. Talking to teenagers about the impact of history on young people, and young people's impact on history, was pure delight, as was lecturing on the histories of courtship and dating (again) for this year's Humanities Recruitment event. I also had so much fun at Hermann's Jazz Club lecturing on "Drink: A Boozy History" to a sold out house as part of Café Historique. It was wonderful to raise a glass to, and remember, our beloved colleague **Shawn Cafferky** who taught a course on Drink and Social Control in Canada at UVic for years before suddenly passing away. It was a poignant reminder that Shawn's legacy, like all our teaching, will live on. ♣

## JORDAN STANGER-ROSS

During study leave this year, I was able to conclude work on a new book manuscript, tentatively titled *Exile: The Expulsion of Japanese Canadians, 1946*. The book centres on the effort by the Canadian government to send Japanese Canadians to Japan at the end of the Second World War, as well as the Supreme Court of Canada case to which it gave rise. Along with my co-author and friend, **Eric Adams**, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta, I'll submit the manuscript for peer review early this summer. My experience writing the book has affirmed for me the value and pleasure of collaborative scholarship. In much of the academy, co-authorship is essential—think, for example, of the long list of authors on major scientific discoveries – but in history it has remained the exception, with single-authored work still the disciplinary gold standard. I'm not sure why. In this case, Eric's expertise as a lawyer and a scholar of law was necessary to reading the arcane records of the courts. My expertise – built in a decade of studying the uprooting and internment of Japanese Canadians – enables *Exile* to tell the stories of the people who made the policies and the Japanese Canadians most affected by their harms. Neither of us – nor, perhaps, anyone on the world – could have written the book alone. So, this year I'm grateful to Eric and, more generally, bearing the flag for collaboration in the pursuit of historical knowledge. ♣



# FACULTY YEAR IN REVIEW



Elizabeth Vibert

## ELIZABETH VIBERT

I will remember 2023-24 as the year of finishing *Aisha's Story*. And finishing, and finishing some more. It was reassuring, when I thought I might be editing this documentary for the rest of time, to read Walter Murch's words: paraphrasing Robert Bresson, Murch notes that a film is born three times – in the preparation of the script (in this case, the storyboard rooted in oral history transcripts), in the shooting (which surfaced new layers of oral history), and in the editing. I've been working on an oral history project with Palestinian grain miller **Aisha Azzam** since 2018, in the refugee camp in Jordan where she has lived since she was a child. We completed our second season of shooting there in 2023, and resumed editing right away. If 10,000 hours is the secret to mastery, co-editor **Chen Wang** and I are earning our certificates.

Thinking we just may be finished, we've begun submitting *Aisha's Story* to film festivals. (Nothing like a hard deadline.) We're starting work on a short-film version that will be useful in classrooms. Meanwhile, the Wayuu film production team on our "Four Stories About Food Sovereignty" project is hard at work editing the film we shot together in Colombia last year; and we're getting started on work with First Nations on the west coast of the island, as part of the "Balance Co-Lab" partnership. Back on campus, I continue to enjoy teaching HSTR 100, among other courses,



Jill Walshaw

## JILL WALSHAW

Great year in 2023-24. In addition to running Café historique and acting as Honours Advisor, this year I put energy into revitalizing the student foreign exchange to Toulouse, France, a beautiful city with which I have a long personal and professional history. In the fall I taught the European survey and a 300-level course on the French Revolution and Napoleon, before beginning a study leave in January that took me to France for three months. Wrapping up a SSHRC grant, I used the time to write - sitting in the National Library, surrounding myself with every possible secondary source on a topic - and to network, meeting with colleagues in Paris, Avignon, Toulouse and the Pyrenees. One article and two partial book chapters later, I have had a good summer keeping up the momentum, and am looking forward to teaching the Honours Seminar (496) in the fall. #

## ANDREW WENDER

2023-2024 brought a number of teaching, curriculum development, and research activities at the intersection of the units



Andrew Wender

and supervising grad students. One doctoral student is starting (cinematographer Chen Wang has commenced an interdisciplinary PhD in History and Writing under my co-supervision) as another is nearing completion (**Theresa Mackay** is working on the final chapter of her dissertation). I may graduate alongside Theresa in the spring. #

where I work: History, Religion, Culture and Society (RCS), and Political Science. Highlights included the development of a pilot special topics course during Spring 2024, HSTR 200/RCS 201 (Religion, Coloniality, and Indigeneity in Canada and Worldwide), and my cross-listed courses POLI 382/RCS 383 (Politics and Religion) and HSTR 380/RCS 380 (Religion and the Making of the Modern Middle East).

I continued to be involved with the critical theory journal *Telos*, presenting the paper "Democratic Backsliding in the Presentist Moment" at their annual New York conference during March 2024, and contributing a book review to the journal. In addition, my ongoing work with the World History Association saw me deliver the paper, "Imperial Traces in an Era of Ongoing Decolonization Movements: Stubborn Stands of World-Historical DNA," at their annual conference during June 2024 at San Francisco State University. My pieces on "Zoroastrian Dualism and Monotheism" and "Jewish Messianic Movements" also appeared in **Andrew Holt**, ed., *Religion and World Civilizations: How Faith Shaped Societies from Antiquity to the Present* (New York and London: Bloomsbury, 2023). Not least, History colleague **Martin Bunton** and I are happy that our book manuscript, *The End of the Ottoman Empire and Forging of the Modern Middle East: A Short History with Documents* (Hackett), is now moving toward production. #

# FACULTY YEAR IN REVIEW

## DAVID ZIMMERMAN

Three big pieces of news Publication of my book Ensnared Between Hitler and Stalin: Refugee Scientists in America he USSR. University of Toronto Press, 2023. This may have been in the last newsletter. 2. I am Announcing my happy shift into Retirement effective 1 July 2026. 3. I am just about finished my new book manuscript, Scholars in Flight from Hitler. #

## SERHY YEKELCHYK

For me, the fall of 2023 was dominated by travel, speaking at a number of universities in North America and beyond about Russia’s war on Ukraine, and giving media interviews on the topic. That year, I shared the title of UVic’s Newsmaker of the Year with **Tamara Krawchenko** from Public Administration. Both of us would have much preferred not to have a major war of aggression as the reason for that honour. In contrast, the spring of 2024 offered some much-needed quiet time to update my books on Ukraine for new editions and to wrap up several collaborative projects I was (co-)editing. In 2023 I published a book titled Writing the Nation: The Ukrainian Historical Profession in Independent Ukraine and the Diaspora, and my article, “Uphill from the Maidan: Centres of Power in Kyiv’s Symbolic Geography,” won the Best Article Award from the Canadian Association of Slavists. Undergraduate teaching was as rewarding and enjoyable as ever, and having two of my graduate students defend their theses every summer is becoming somewhat of a tradition. #



David Zimmerman



Serhy Yekelchyk

Keep in touch!

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