

# Past Perfect

New Series

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**Preface:** Please send information for *Past Perfect* to my email address by May 1, 2022 for the May 2022 issue. [benwhisenhunt@comcast.net](mailto:benwhisenhunt@comcast.net)

## News:

*Athenaeum*, an Italian periodical, has published an article by **Michael Alexander** (Professor Emeritus): “The Ironic Interpretation of the *Commentariolum Petitionis*. A Response to Prost, Tatum, and Sillett,” *Athenaeum* 109 (2021) pp. 64-113. This article is a response to objections which various scholars have raised to Alexander’s previous (2009) article in the same journal, in which he argued in favor of an ironic reading of an ancient advice manual, ostensibly written by Quintus Cicero for his brother Marcus, on how to campaign for the Roman consulate.

**Ismael Biyashev** (Ph.D. Candidate, History) in the coming academic year will be serving as a Resident Graduate Scholar at the UIC Institute for the Humanities. The official announcement is here: <https://huminst.uic.edu/people/resident-graduate-scholars/>

**James Cracraft** (Professor Emeritus) has published a collection of his writings called *Revolutions and the Making of the Modern World: From Peter the Great to Karl Marx* with Peter Lang Publishers. <https://www.peterlang.com/document/1063364> **Ben Whisenhunt** (see more below) served as the editor for the volume.

**Jonathan Daly** (Professor of History) recently published the second edition of his *The Rise of Western Power: A Comparative History of Western Civilization* (London: Bloomsbury, 2021). Likewise, a [Chinese ed.](#) of the same book recently came out (Shanghai: Wenhui, 2021). Also, a [Korean ed.](#) of *Historians Debate the Rise of the West* appeared last year (Sunin Publishing, 2020). He was also supposed to serve as a visiting professor of Russian history at the Humboldt University in Berlin starting in October (assuming the pandemic does not revert all the courses to distance-learning!)

Duke University Press will be publishing **John D'Emilio's** (Professor Emeritus) coming of age memoir: *Memories of a Gay Catholic Boyhood: Coming of Age in the 1960s*. Scheduled for release in August/September 2022, it describes how a boy raised in a politically and religiously

conservative Italian immigrant family in the Bronx was reshaped by a Jesuit high school education and by the pacifism and antiwar activism he encountered at Columbia in the late 1960s.

**Leon Fink** (Professor Emeritus) has remained happily preoccupied as editor of *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History* and is especially proud of a forthcoming special issue on Sexual Harassment at Work as well as a future issue on Work in Times of Pandemic. Since moving to D.C., he also has become increasingly linked to the wider circuit of activities of Georgetown University's Kalmanovitz Institute for Labor and the Working Poor, where the journal is now lodged. As part of KI's educational outreach since COVID, he has organized several related international webinars, e.g. "Right-Wing Populist as an Anti-Worker Agenda," "Just Transition Strategies and the Green Revolution," [www.facebook.com/kilwp/videos/1208477832956579/](http://www.facebook.com/kilwp/videos/1208477832956579/). Meanwhile he has continued to cast forth his opinions in occasional op eds., e.g. --"To Tame a Far-Right Supreme Court, Let's Revive This Forgotten Proposal from 1922," *In These Times*, Oct. 3, 2020. Most of his intellectual energies, however, have been absorbed in a book project he began at UIC and will be realized in the January 2022 publication of *Undoing the Liberal World Order: Progressive Ideals and Political Realities Since World War II*. <http://cup.columbia.edu/book/a/9780231202244> He sends his best wishes to all of his UIC colleagues.

**Anindita Ghosh** (Ph.D. student) published a chapter, "Muslim Migration and Shaping of Identity in the Post-Independent India," in *Gender, Culture, and Identity: South Asian Diaspora Literature of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (2021), edited by Dr. Sajaundeen Nijamodeen Chapparban. Here is the link to the book:

[https://www.amazon.in/dp/B09CYH413V?ref=myi\\_title\\_dplt&fbclid=IwAR0fX8FLmye4zLN64Mr20fCOCZlua3LMBsmdbxlaeAWYWXKsb-BdNX-Qo\\_o](https://www.amazon.in/dp/B09CYH413V?ref=myi_title_dplt&fbclid=IwAR0fX8FLmye4zLN64Mr20fCOCZlua3LMBsmdbxlaeAWYWXKsb-BdNX-Qo_o)

**Michael Jin** (Assistant Professor, Department of History and Global Asian Studies Program) published *Citizens, Immigrants, and the Stateless: A Japanese American Diaspora in the Pacific* (Stanford University Press, 2021): [https://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=32505&bottom\\_ref=subject](https://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=32505&bottom_ref=subject). He serves in the Illinois State Board Education's Advisory Group in support of the implementation of the Teaching Equitable Asian American History (TEAACH) Act, the 2021 state legislation making Illinois the first state in the country to require a unit of instruction in Asian American history in public schools.

**Robert Johnston** (Professor and Director of Teaching of History Program) reported that he had the good fortune to give his first in-person talks since the start of COVID. In October, he spoke on his research on controversies over vaccination throughout American history at universities in Bern, Geneva, and Lausanne, Switzerland. He also gave Zoom lectures for the National

Humanities Center and Heidelberg Center for American Studies. The latter resulted in a [podcast](#). Also, in this realm, he will soon have an editorial appearing in the *American Journal of Public Health* on the uses of history in explaining current COVID-related vaccine resistance. He recently published “A Good Reason to Read an Old Book: A Critical Appreciation of *Midwestern Progressive Politics*” in a forum in the *Middle West Review* on Russel Nye’s classic 1959 book. He and Laura Westhoff also curated their annual “Textbooks and Teaching” section of the *Journal of American History* with a forum on the teaching of historical writing, and they just put to bed a collection of essays on the ways that historians can teach democracy for the March, 2022 issue. Last spring he served as a member of the program committee for the Labor and Working-Class History Association—a conference that was, originally, supposed to be at UIC. He participated in sessions on populism, academic labor, and the history of unions at UIC (the latter with a quite eloquent Jeff Schuhrke).

**John Kulczycki** (Professor Emeritus) gave a paper entitled "From the Treaty of Versailles to the Treaty of Lausanne: The Legitimization of Forced Migration" at a conference on "The Treaty of Riga and Other Post-Versailles Treaties as Elements of the Interwar World-Order in Central and Eastern Europe" in Kraków, Poland, September 22-24, 2021.

**Deirdre McCloskey** (Professor Emeritus) was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She keeps publishing books, such as from the University of Chicago Press this fall *Beyond Positivism, Behaviorism, and Neo-Institutionalism in Economics*, and presents at numerous Zoom meetings.

**Jeff Nichols** (Graduate student), reported that he was interviewed by a correspondent with the Japanese television program, “The World to Compare,” which covers “interesting and fascinating things from around the world.” They are doing an episode that features the cannonball safe found under the parking lot of Anshe Emet Synagogue in Lakeview two years ago. He had helped the synagogue’s day school develop a lesson on urban history, detailing all the buildings and businesses near the corner of Grace and Broadway, the place where the safe was discovered. Drawing from the scholarship of the late **Perry Duis**, he talked a bit about Chicago saloons and Chicago crime before the advent of Prohibition. (A saloon once stood at that corner.) They filmed at the Honors College, so UIC was represented.

**Julie Peters** (Associate Director of Teaching of History Program and Clinical Associate Professor) would like to celebrate the passage of Public Act 102-0301, which removes the videotaping requirement for teacher licensure in Illinois. Although it only represents a small victory in the fight against the use of the edTPA as a high-stakes assessment for licensure in Illinois, it's a start. It also represents more than three years of lobbying, committee hearings, setbacks, and finally, a bi-partisan bill that the governor signed this month. Here is a link to the legislative steps from

the Spring 2021 session, in case you'd like to see how complicated even a successful legislative session can look. It doesn't tell the story of all the failures and disappointments from the two years before. Please let me know if you have questions or if you'd like to explain anything.

Thanks!

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=808&GAID=16&DocTypeID=SB&LegId=133435&SessionID=110&GA=102>

**Ben Whisenhunt** (Ph.D., 1997) Professor of History at College of DuPage edited James Cracraft's *Revolutions and the Making of the Modern World: From Peter the Great to Karl Marx* published by Peter Lang (2021). As co-managing editor and co-founder, he just posted the 10<sup>th</sup> issue (completing five years) of the *Journal of Russian American Studies (JRAS)*

<https://journals.ku.edu/jras>. He also served as discussant at the Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (ASEEES) in New Orleans on panels entitled "Collective Memory as a Factor of US-Soviet/Post-Soviet Relations" and "Revolt, Diplomacy, and Religion: Russian-American Relations in the 19th and 20th Centuries."