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UIC

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DEPARTMENT NEWS

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

I was recently reminded of what it means to teach at a research university.

Last fall I taught a course that used food as a window into the broad sweep of Latin American history. As you can imagine, food production in the Americas has undergone a massive transformation over the past five hundred years thanks to the arrival of cattle and Old World grains, the establishment of haciendas and sugar plantations, and the still-ongoing competition between wheat (associated with Europeanness) and corn (associated with indigeneity). So there was plenty to talk about in class.

Instead of papers, I asked the students to prepare research posters on the history and social significance of a Latin American food of their choosing. The posters were presented at a special session of the “Diet of Globalization” conference on the history of Mexican foodways held at the Institute for the Humanities in early December. Leading scholars from the United States, Canada, and Mexico attended the two-day event.

How gratifying it was to see the students lecturing the scholars on their findings about Puerto Rican sofrito, Argentine beef, and Brazilian coffee, among many other topics! A few of the students even took selfies with the visiting academics. The conference attendees were clearly impressed in their own right, and they made occasional references to the poster session throughout the rest of the conference. What I had just seen was a serious dialogue between students and international scholars. To me, it represented the essence of what we strive for at UIC.

Professor Chris Boyer

FACULTY NEWS

Elif Akcetin was awarded (together with Mark C. Elliott, Carla Nappi, and Yulian Wu) a Collaborative Reading-Workshop Grant by the Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS Program in China Studies. She will use this grant to organize the workshop “Translating Manchu in the Qing,” which will take place at Harvard University, May 15-17, 2015.

Chris Boyer organized the “Diet of Globalization” thanks to funding from the “Humanities Without Walls” project funded by the Mellon Foundation and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences was a really exciting event. Six scholars presented their work on Mexican transnational food and agriculture history both at the Institute for Humanities and in Casa Michoacán in Pilsen. Professor Boyer is now editing the papers for publication in a special issue of *The Americas*. Also, the students from his undergraduate history seminar presented their research projects during a poster session at the conference. It was great to see scholars and students engage each other on a topic of mutual interest.

Professor Boyer also led a Newberry Teachers as Scholars seminar and gave presentations in Chicago, Buenos Aires, and Guadalajara.

Jonathan Daly was a discussant for a panel entitled “Surveillance, Censorship, and Political Repression in Imperial

Russia” at the 46th Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) held in San Antonio. He is now co-author of *Western Civilization: Ideas, Politics, and Society, 11th ed.*, by Marvin Perry et al.

Malgorzata (Gosia) Fidelis gave an invited lecture on Youth Culture and the Global Sixties in Poland at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, in December 2014.

In November, **Laura Hostetler** spent ten days in China attending a workshop and international conference sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences on the occasion of the 300th Anniversary of the geodesic surveys made of the Qing empire. At the workshop for graduate students in Beijing she presented a paper on the French Jesuit Antoine Gaubil, who lived in worked in Beijing from 1723-1759. In Sanya, Hainan—the southernmost point of those imperial surveys—she gave a keynote address entitled “French Cartographic Cooperation in the *Huangyu quanlan tu*.” She was also able to visit the imperial observatory in Beijing.

Rama Mantena published an article in the November 2014 issue of *India Review*, “The Andhra Movement, Hyderabad State and the Origins of the Telangana Demand: Public Life And Political Dis-

course in South India, 1900-1956.” She also gave talks at Hyderabad, India (November 2014) and the South Asia Institute, University of Texas-Austin (February 2015).

Robert Johnston was promoted to Professor and re-elected to the UIC United Faculty Representative Assembly. He published “Long Live Teddy/Death to Woodrow: The Polarized Politics of The Progressive Era in the 2012 Election,” *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 13(July 2014), which was the focus of a session at the American Political Science Association meetings. He presented a seminar on “American Populisms” at the Newberry Teachers Consortium, and he gave the keynote address on “Current Political Encounters with Progressivism” at the Illinois Council for History Education annual conference. In public affairs, he testified before the Illinois Senate Education Committee in favor of a bill that would have required the teaching of labor history and collective bargaining in public schools, and he recently published an op-ed titled “Vaccine Politics: Blame Science and Win Iowa” (titled by Reuters, not by him) at <http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2015/02/03/vaccine-politics-blame-science-and-win-in-iowa/>

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UPCOMINGEVENTS

**MONDAY,
March 16
Noon-1:30 pm**

**University Hall, 950
UIC**

Workshop on Teaching Writing with Chauncey Monte-Sano

In this workshop, Monte-Sano will share her findings from three high school classrooms about the teaching strategies and principles that supported students' growth as historical writers. This presentation will compare the instruction of two teachers whose students improved in writing historical essays with the instruction of a teacher whose students did not improve. This will be an interactive session with time to discuss questions and ideas from participants and time to discuss how one might apply the ideas from this research study in the classroom.

**WEDNESDAY,
April 8
3 PM**

**Institute for the
Humanities
701 S. Morgan Street**

Dan Geary, the Mark Pigott Lecturer in American History at Trinity College Dublin, is coming to UIC's Institute for the Humanities

He will speak about the 1965 Moynihan Report and its reception. The report, which was entitled, "The Negro Family: The Case for National Action," focused on the deep roots of black poverty in America and concluded, controversially, that the relative absence of nuclear families (those having both a father and mother present) would greatly hinder further progress toward economic and political equality.

**MONDAY,
March 16
4 PM**

**Institute for the
Humanities
701 S. Morgan Street**

Chauncey Monte-Sano, University of Michigan, The Historical Writing Project

What is good historical writing? What do historians do and attend to in the process of writing? In what kinds of writing are historians engaged? This study explores the nature and process of historical writing through interviews with historians who specialize in different regions and eras and who completed their PhD and entered academia at different times. Her study highlights key attributes of historical writing valued by historians and exemplars in different genres.

**WEDNESDAY,
April 29
3:30 PM**

**Location TBA
For more information
visit us on the web:
<http://history.las.uic.edu>**

Gilbert Osofsky Lecture



We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Khalil Muhammad**, Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture will deliver the 2015 Osofsky Lecture, "The Statistical Ghetto and the Origins of the Postracial Myth."

March 20-22

**Opening Session:
Friday, March 20, 2015,
5-6:30 pm Institute for
the Humanities
701 S. Morgan Street**

Festschrift Conference: Humanism Challenges Materialism in the Work of Deirdre Nansen McCloskey

The conference explores the centrality of ethics, identity, and prudence in economic history and adjacent fields of inquiry. We will circulate nine papers prior to the conference and anticipate vigorous discussion during presentations in order to develop them for publication. Each paper will begin with 10 minutes of introductory remarks, reserving the bulk of time for conversation. For more information visit our newsfeed at: <http://history.las.uic.edu>

PAST PERFECT

Jochen Arndt presented chapters of his dissertation, entitled “Missionaries, Africans and the Emergence of ‘Xhosa’ and ‘Zulu’ as Ethno-Linguistic Identities, 1800-1870,” at the North Eastern Workshop for Southern Africa in Burlington, Vermont (October 2014) and the 57th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association in Indianapolis, Indiana (November 2014). Jochen received very good feedback and made very good contacts.

Huiying Chen received the Mark Samuels Lasner Fellowship in Printing History sponsored by the American Printing History Association (<https://printinghistory.org/programs/fellowship/>). Huiying will use the award to fund my research trip to China in summer 2015, to investigate the archives and libraries in Beijing.

On December 18th, 2014, PhD student **Nicolás Llinás** (nee Gordon) married his wife Elena Llinás, a PhD student studying 19th century Mexican education at Tulane University in New Orleans. In attendance was department chair Prof. Chris Boyer.

In November, **Melissa Hibbard** presented a paper entitled “‘The Colony is Salvation’: Interwar Summer Camps and the Cultivation of Poland’s Children,” at the 46th Annual

Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in San Antonio, TX.

She also organized a panel for this year’s AHA in New York City. The panel, which was sponsored by the Society for the History of Children and Youth, was called “Children on the Periphery: Cross-Cultural Encounters in Child Rescue.” My contribution to the panel was a paper entitled, “‘A Bit of American Philanthropy in Swampy Pinsk’: Child Relief Work in Eastern Poland, 1919-1922.”

Melissa gave a presentation, “Child Rescue and the Politics of Cultural Integration” at UIC’s Institute for the Humanities on February 5.

Tyler Miller was awarded both the Chancellor’s Fellowship and the Provost Award from the UIC Graduate College. In May 2015, Tyler will be using the Provost Award to attend a Summer Course on Forced Migration, sponsored by the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University (Toronto). During the following summer months, he will be conducting archival and ethnographic research on the Somali diasporic communities in Minnesota’s Twin Cities for his dissertation. The Chancellor’s Fellowship has provided the funds for the summer re-

search.

Tyler was also selected as a Humanities Without Walls Pre-doctoral Fellow. He will spend three weeks in late summer workshops collaborating on projects related to alternative academic careers with public humanities scholars, leaders of university presses and learned societies, and governmental and NGO officials. A cohort of 30 students, chosen from graduate programs across the Midwest, will comprise the workshop participants. For more information about this program, visit: <http://www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu/initiatives/pre-doctoral/index.html>

Jenna Nigro is one of the recipients of the Grad College’s Outstanding Thesis Award.

Jeff Nichols discovered long lost film footage from the 1915 Eastland Disaster. He received widespread media attention- including an interview on WTTW’s *Chicago Tonight* <http://bit.ly/16LRYlr>

The December 2014 issue of the *American Historical Review* published reviews of books by alumni **Eric Smith**, *American Relief Aid and the Spanish Civil War*. (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2013) and **Sam Mitrani**, *The Rise of the Chicago Police Department: Class and Conflict, 1850-1894* (Urbana and Chicago: Univer-

BROWN BAG SERIES

Wednesdays, Noon- 1 PM University Hall, Room 950

Spring 2015:

- * January 28: Michal Wilczewski (UIC), “The War at Home: Polish Villages during the First World War”
- * February 4: Carla Zecher (Newberry), “Fundraising for Music at the Jesuit Mission on Naxos in the Seventeenth Century”
- * February 11: Hashim Ali (UIC), “Journeys to the Other Shore: Reflections on My Homeland”
- * February 18: Nanno Marinatos (UIC), “Necessity in History. The View of Herodotus”
- * February 25: Jeff Sklansky, Keely Stauter-Halsted and Kirk Hoppe (UIC), “Graduate Student Professional Development Session: Archival Research Abroad”
- * March 11: Robert Johnston (UIC), “Extremist Politics and the Mid-Twentieth Century Anti Vaccination Movement”
- * March 18: Lynn Hudson (UIC), “Burning Down the House: The California Ku Klux Klan”
- * April 1: Elif Akcetin (UIC), “Consumption as Knowledge: Pawnbrokers in Qing China Appraise Furs”
- * April 8: Louis Mercer (UIC), “Seeking the Historical Origins of the School-to-Prison Pipeline”
- * April 15: Joaquín Chávez (UIC): “La Masacuata’s Battle: Countercultural Movements, The Global Sixties, and the Origins of the New Left in El Salvador, 1966-1972”
- * April 22: Paris Papamichos Chronakis (UIC): TBA

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

CO-EDITING ACADEMIC JOURNALS

Three of our faculty, Leon Fink, Robert Johnston, and Marina Mogilner are co-editors of highly respected journals all founded at the dawn of the Twenty-First Century. They generously agreed to share their experiences as editors with *History Matters*.

Tell us a little bit of the background of the journal and how you became involved with its publication.

Fink: Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas (LABOR) began in 2003, appropriately enough, in a labor revolt. As editor (for the previous three years) of the long-standing journal, *Labor History*, my fellow LH editors and I suddenly confronted a new, commercial publisher who demanded that our quarterly begin publishing six times a year—a formula that we were convinced could not work on either intellectual or operational levels. Rather than consent or give up, we organized! In the end, the entire 40-person board resigned en masse from LH, and we found a new, sympathetic publisher in Duke University Press, where I have happily served as editor for a dozen years.

Johnston: Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (JGAPE) began publication in 2000 and is issued quarterly. In recent times, we have had a bit of mission creep and now think of ourselves as the go-to journal for 1865 up into the

1920s. I became involved as co-editor in 2013 with co-editor Ben Johnson (Loyola).

Mogilner: *Ab Imperio Quarterly* (AI) was founded in 2000 as an international bilingual professional periodical that advances the research paradigm of new imperial history. For the founding editors – five historians residing in different countries (Russia, USA, Germany and Hungary) – this was a response to the crisis of the field of Russian studies that had lost its very object with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. A new framework was needed to reintegrate scholars who studied this complex and diverse polity, territory, culture and population and who did not necessarily identify with “Russian studies”.

How does your responsibilities with the journal complement your research and writing? How does it connect to your teaching?

Fink: For me, it’s a rewarding balance. There is probably no better to keep up with new work in a broadly-defined

field; through the journal I am in regular contact both with well-established scholars and graduate students framing their earliest professional efforts. The journal also helps me frame new themes and materials in all my classes. For graduate classes, in particular, I regularly take advantage of our accumulated “anonymous” manuscripts to turn the students into discriminating editors themselves.

Johnston: For many years, I have written historiographical articles about, especially, the Progressive Era, including in the inaugural issue of JGAPE in 2000 as well as the essay on the Gilded Age and Progressive Era in Eric Foner and Lisa McGirr, eds., *American History Now* (AHA and Temple University Press, 2011). I consider such reflections on the state of the literature to be not only an extension of my research, but in many ways at the heart of my research agenda, which very much involves re-thinking the issue of democracy during this period. In terms of my teaching, I have already used portions of drafts of JGAPE essays and forums in my classes, to very good effect. Also, one of my major ambitions for JGAPE is to open the journal

up to not only considerations of teaching, but to *writing* by teachers (something that happens only rarely in comparable scholarly journals).

Mogilner : The journal for me is a research project in its own rights. AI is not a regular academic journal, this is a journal that elaborates and defines a new field. Every year AI offers a new annual theme and produces thematic issues within this general framework. The role of the editors and contributors thus reminds me of a think-tank where new research agenda is being suggested, tested and discussed. Hence AI editors’ presence on the pages of the journal is much more visible than in other academic periodicals: we write thematic annual programs and introductions; moderate round tables; we work toward making each issue a multi-disciplinary and multi-rubric thematic narrative and we think along with our contributors. This is a live and very intense (alas extremely time-consuming) intellectual process that directly influences the way I frame my own research questions and do my research.

My graduate courses benefit from my affiliation with AI. I taught the Encounters Writing Seminar where we experimented with different genre of academic writing and focused on issues such as crafting articles for particular journals, including AI. In general, I believe that editors, especially those who are deeply involved with day-to-day business of their journals, are the best instructors for graduate writing seminars as they can share a very real, very practical knowledge and set realistic tasks for students leading to their first publications.

Are UIC faculty colleagues and students involved with the journal?

Fink: A UIC graduate student, currently Adam Mertz, serves as Labor’s Editorial Coordinator. This is a demanding position, involving coordination and communication



<http://www.abimperio.net>

with all our contributors as well as light editing of the manuscripts themselves. Next to the editor, the EC is the face (or at least the eyes and ears) of the journal and inevitably becomes well known in the larger intellectual field, attending conferences as well as interacting with most of the major players. In addition to the EC, other graduate students occasionally are tapped for specific editing or research tasks. In addition, several of our WRGUW PhD students have contributed major articles including: Sarah Rose, Joshua Salzmann, Sam Mitrani, Lara Kelland, Tom Dorrance, and Tom Alter.

Johnston: We have a wonderful grad assistant, Tim Herbert. Tim this year replaced Luke Staszak a 2014 MAT graduate now teaching at Westinghouse High School, who not only was our assistant but did some writing for the journal. Faculty and students periodically write articles for JGAPE. In the April issue, for example, we have a forum on John Green’s wonderful and eccentric “Crash Course US History” series. Leon Fink contributed, as did recent MA grad John Schmidt, who teaches at Homewood-Flossmoor High School.



<http://labor.dukejournals.org/content/current>

Mogilner: AI plays a very important role as a co-sponsor of the UIC Russian-East European seminar, SEE NEXT (SEMINAR: EAST EUROPEAN AND NORTHERN EURASIAN CROSSTALK). This seminar not only brings together UIC faculty and students interested in the history and culture of the Eurasian/Eastern European region, but creates a name for UIC as an important center for regional history in Chicago area. Over the last two years, SEE NEXT hosted many brilliant guest-speakers. Many came because they knew and collaborated with AI. Our graduate students were able to establish useful connections with these leading authorities in their fields, and our undergraduates had a unique chance to talk to these scholars appreciate different views and styles of academic work.

What exciting work will be in the next issue? Are there plans for special theme issues in the near future?

Fink: We're excited about our next edition, a special double issue on Food and Labor, guest-edited by UIC Professor Susan Levine and Steven Striffler from the University of New Orleans. This is a good example of the increasing thematic

range of the field of labor history, the issue spans the hemisphere in coverage, featuring discussion of Native-American foodways and resistance; food, hunger, and the civil rights movement; and Latin American fair-trade complexities.

Johnston: We are excited about the next October issue that will be about Native Americans in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, and we are also planning a special issue in 2016 on the history of capitalism.



<http://journals.cambridge.org>

Mogilner: The most recent issue of AI features a major round-table “Ukraine and the Crisis of ‘Russian Studies’: Participant Observations of History in the Making” (the issue is available through Project Muse).

The next issue’s theme is Spontaneous Bricolage, Masters of Assemblage, and Their Contested Blueprints (within the annual theme: Assemblage Points of the Imperial Situation: Places and Spaces of Diversity). Among other materials, the issue will feature a very interesting thematic block on psychiatry in the early Soviet Union (prepared by a group of French and US historians).

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He’s most proud, though, of his younger son Isaac, who will be going to play baseball next fall at the University of Chicago.

Deirdre McCloskey finished the manuscript of the third volume of her economic-historical trilogy *The Bourgeois Era* for the University of Chicago Press: *Bourgeois Equality: How Betterment Became Ethical, 1600-1848, and Then Suspect*. It is in production at the Press, and will emerge it seems in the spring, 2016 list. She cut off the series at three, making this last volume by far the longest of the three—weighing in at some 260,000 words—because, she explains, “A trilogy might be seen as self-indulgent, but a tetralogy is an abomination.” She spent the month of November 2014 at the *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin* where (speaking of “equality”) she wrote a long and critical review of Piketty’s *Capital in the Twenty-first Century*. Earlier in 2014 she had been pegged in London as the “anti-Piketty,” appearing on the BBC and in the pages of the (London) *Times* and the *Financial Times* in that role. The BBC is trying to organize a debate between her and Piketty in April 2015, but it is unlikely to come off. If her own volume sells a quarter of what Piketty’s did she will die rich as well as happy. Her next historical project is *The Prudent and Faithful Peasant: Open Fields and Enclosure in England, 1200-1800*, which will begin with articles she wrote on the subject in the 1970s and 1980s. She’ll get going on it this summer.

Zinon Papakonstantinou gave an AIA sponsored lecture, “Games for All Mankind: Cities and Sport in the Hellenistic World” at Loyola University in November 2014. He plans to present a paper at the Hellenistic Age Conference, University of Mannheim, Germany, in June. He published several articles and was granted an extension of Humboldt Fellowship for Experienced Researchers for Spring 2016.

Junaid Quadri presented a paper on the relationship between law and morality in medieval Islam at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in

Washington DC in November and a paper on the impact of science on reform attempts in modern Islam at the Islamic Reformulations Conference, held at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and Queen Mary University in London in January.

Jeff Sklansky gave an invited presentation in October at the Harvard Business School, entitled “The Ideological Origins of Opposition to Paper Money: Medicine, Natural History, and Political Economy in Colonial New England”; and delivered a paper at the Huntington Library in November, entitled “John Wise and the Natural Law of Commerce.” He served as chair and commentator on a panel at the AHA annual meeting in January entitled “Calculating the Future: Capitalism and Predictive Statistics” and participated in a round-table on “New Histories of Capitalism in and beyond the Atlantic.”

Support History

Important Dates

Spring Semester 2015

February 13, Language examination

February 27, Application deadline department and college financial awards

March 20, Deadline to Submit Formatted Approved/Defended Dissertation to the Graduate College

March 23–27, M.A./M.A.T and Ph.D. Exams

May 1, Instruction ends.

May 4–8, Final examinations.

Summer Semester 2015

May 18- June 12 4-Week Session

June 15- August 7, 8-Week Session

August 8, F Last day for Graduate College to receive certificates of approval for master’s and professional doctorate project for graduation this term.