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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

In many ways this seems like a quiet time in the Department of History. However, some of our most important work as scholars and as teachers can be accomplished during these apparently “dormant” periods.

Under the topic “Personal Voices in History,” my History 300 class has been exploring immigrant narratives and the role of activists, focusing on how personal voices both record and shape history. Last week the students wrote about a pivotal experience in their own lives. Many reflected on how a past experience has shaped their own personal history. A number of students recounted transformative moments during visits to extended family in Slovenia, Nigeria, Guatemala, and Mexico. Others told of forging paths to arrive at UIC from places as diverse as Romania, Russia, Chicago, and Nebraska. A BAT student described blossoming under past teacher who opened up new intellectual vistas for her, and her own commitment to a vocation in teaching in order to enhance the confidence and broaden the horizons of others in turn. I am humbled by their life experience, and honored to guide them in researching the past as they seek to better understand our present, and to tell stories that will help to create better possibilities for all of our tomorrows.

Professor Laura Hostetler

FACULTY NEWS

Hasia R Diner, along with her colleague Gennady Estraikh, won the National Jewish Book Award for their edited work, “Mapping the Jewish World: 1929” by NYU Press.

Daniel Green left his position as VP for Research and Academic Programs at the Newberry Library in order to curate an exhibition on “Americans and the Holocaust” for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. He will remain living in Chicago while he works on the exhibition, which is slated to open in spring 2018.

Fidelis Malgorzata book, “Women, Communism, and Industrialization in Postwar Poland” just came out in a paperback edition (Cambridge University Press, January 2014). It was originally published in 2010.

Rama Mantena is organizing the showing of “Red Ant Dream,” by Sanjay Kak on March 20th, 2014. She is also organizing a public lecture by Partha Chatterjee scheduled for April 28th at the Institute for the Humanities.

Julie Peters has received a Faculty Fellowship from the Illinois Board of Higher Education for Spring 2013. She continues full time with her teaching, but the fellowship provides research support to investigate teacher preparation of history teachers in secondary schools. In addition she will be included in regular meetings of the IBHE in Springfield and other locations in Illinois.

Junaid Quadri is assisting in organizing a conference on Science in Judaism and Islam at the Institute for the Humanities: <http://huminst.las.uic.edu/ifth/events/all-events/2014/01/09/conference-science-in-judaism-and-islam>

Kevin Schultz – Visiting Research Fellow presented “A Friendship that Defined a Decade” at the University of Utah’s Tanner Humanities Center. Throughout the 1960s, William F. Buckley Jr. and Norman Mailer were go-to personalities in American intellectual life. Appearing in venues across the public

spectrum, their ideas were discussed, debated, and argued throughout the United States. Buckley’s sure-fire conservatism set the stage for the resurgence of the American political right, while Mailer’s existential skepticism helped form the predominant outlook on the left. What’s more is the way they were close friends, having what Mailer once described as a “difficult friendship.” Through their letters, debates, and conversations, discussed this friendship while nonetheless seeking to understand the contours of one of the most dynamic decades in American history.

Elizabeth Todd-Breland was recently awarded a Faculty Fellowship from UIC’s Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy (IRRPP). She will use the fellowship to work on her book manuscript during Fall 2014.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dr. Laurie Green

**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 5**

3:30pm-5pm

**University Hall, 950
UIC**

STARVATION POLITICS: Women, Race and Gender in the 'Discovery' of Hunger in America

The 'discovery' of hunger by Robert F. Kennedy and other senators in the Mississippi Delta in 1967 set off a decade of turmoil about the very existence, the causes, and federal solutions to what a team of doctors termed starvation. Professor Green's lecture will challenge this representation of the struggle as one centered on white politicians, while also exploring the gendered and racialized politics that represented hunger as a Mississippi problem.

Dr. Emanuele Colombo

**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 19**

4pm-5:30pm

**University Hall, 950
UIC**

THE WORLD IS OUR PLACE: Pope Francis and the Jesuit Missionary Tradition

Emanuele Colombo received his PhD in the history of Christianity from the University of Milan-Padua, Italy, and is assistant professor of Catholic Studies at DePaul University. His research is focused on religious history in the early modern period: theology and politics, Jesuit missions, and Christian-Muslim encounters.

Please contact Professor Ralph Keen at rkeen01@uic.edu for more information.

**MONDAY,
MARCH 10**

9am-5pm

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

CONFERENCE: SCIENCE IN JUDAISM AND ISLAM

Figuring out the proper role of religion in public culture has been one of the defining debates of modernity, appearing and re-appearing in different guises at different places and times. This conference brings to light some important episodes in the history of science in the Jewish and Islamic worlds. <http://huminst.las.uic.edu/iftth/events/all-events/2014/01/09/conference-science-in-judaism-and-islam>

**THURSDAY,
MARCH 20**

3pm-5pm

**Daley Library
UIC**

Come view the film: RED ANT DREAM by Director: Sanjay Kak

Please contact Dr. Rama Mantena at rmantena@uic.edu for more information.

Dr. Kirk Hoppe

**FRIDAY,
MARCH 14**

7pm-9pm

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

A COLONIAL REBELLION THAT NEVER HAPPENED? The Mau Mau Uprising in 1950s Kenya

- Was the Mau Mau uprising a rebellion?
- A military action?
- A political conspiracy?
- A white settler panic?

Join us and learn more about this important moment in the history of decolonization and colonial propaganda in Kenya. RSVP to history.uic@gmail.com by March 3rd.

**Wed-Thursday,
APRIL 9+10**

9am-5pm

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

PRECARITY: Labor, Violence, Immigration, and the Environment

As a political term, precarity refers to living and working conditions without any guarantees. Since the 1980s, the term was increasingly used by scholars of labor to describe a variety of forms of flexible exploitation in the neoliberal era. This series of events aims at exposing scholarly and non-scholarly audiences to recent work on the troubling relationship between capitalism and the creation and reproduction of vulnerability, marginality and suffering under neoliberalism. <http://huminst.las.uic.edu/iftth/events/special-events/2013-2014/precarity-series>

**MONDAY,
APRIL 28**

3pm-5pm

**Institute for
the Humanities
UIC**

Partha Chatterjee THREE ROADS TO RADICAL DEMOCRACY in INDIA

Please contact Dr. Rama Mantena at rmantena@uic.edu for more information.

Dr. Robert Brenner

WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 30
2pm-4pm

Institute for the
Humanities
701 S. Morgan Street

OSOFSKY LECTURE

THE ROOTS OF THE GREAT RECESSION: Finance and the Real Economy

Dr. Robert Brenner will argue that the Great Recession has deep roots in a long term weakening of the advanced capitalist economies (ACCs) going back to the early 1970s, ultimately resulting from the fall and failure to recover of the rate of profit, focused on the international manufacturing sector. The reduction of the rate of return on productive investment manifested itself in a chronic problem of insufficient demand. This left the economy dependent upon the growth of borrowing and, ultimately, on government-nurtured asset bubbles for its dynamism.

ALUMNI & STUDENT NEWS

This past summer **Melissa Hibbard** participated in the Sixth Session of the International Forum of Young Scholars on East European Jewry in Odessa, Ukraine, July 1-4, 2013. It is an ongoing forum of 15 PhD students and recent PhDs that meets periodically to allow young scholars to meet and discuss their work among peers and with senior scholars in the field of Eastern European Jewish Studies. In October she presented a paper entitled "A Family Home for Poland's Children: The Development of Foster Care in Interwar Poland," at the International Workshop, Paupers in the Midst of Others: Orphans and Abandoned Children in Europe, 18th-20th

centuries held in Bucharest, Romania, October 3-4, 2013. In November she organized and presented on a panel for the 45th Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) held in Boston MA, November 21-24, 2013. The panel was entitled "Rescue and Relocation: Protecting Children in East-Central Europe during the World Wars."

Cat Jacquet (PhD 2012) is guest curating an exhibit with the National Library of Medicine on the history of nursing and the identification, intervention, and prevention of domestic violence. The exhibit will be on display at the NLM

in 2015 and will also include a traveling exhibit and an interactive website.

Karen Fricke Johnson would like to announce that there are now three Johnson's in their house - on Sunday, December 29, Eric and Karen welcomed Jack Lawrence Johnson into the world. They named him Jack in honor of C.S. Lewis. Jack was Lewis's nickname, and Eric and Karen love Lewis's work and joke that he brought them together (they got to know one another in a C.S. Lewis class at Trinity while in seminary). She will be on maternity leave until the middle of March and is grateful for the time to get to know this new little one!

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT: HISTORY GRADUATE SOCIETY (HGS)

This semester History Graduate Society instituted some changes in its leadership. HGS members elected new officers for the year in December: Monte Carpenter, Eliot Fackler, Louis Mercer, and Marie Rowley. HGS' constitution was recently amended to make the officers an executive council who share responsibilities in the organization equally.

The new executive council is helping coordinate some exciting activities among our members this semester. UIC's history grad students are organizing and hosting the Midwestern Labor and Working-Class History Colloquium on April 4 and 5, with young scholars from around the midwest coming together to network, share ideas, and get feedback on their work. A new initiative for this semester, HGS is organizing a series of monthly student-run workshops on teaching and pedagogy. HGS is also excitedly gearing up to welcome prospective students for Visiting Day, and beginning to look ahead to next semester's Windy City Graduate Conference. And HGS is happily carrying on the tradition of coming together to celebrate and relax at Jaks Tap on the first

Friday of each month for the aptly-named First Fridays!

All graduate students in the History Department (MA, MAT, and PhD) are members of the History Graduate Society and are welcome and encouraged to attend our bi-monthly meetings or any HGS event. We are also happy to support any project or goal any member would like to suggest- if you have a great idea for HGS, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact any of the new executive council members or come share your idea at the next meeting.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Louis Mercer - lmerce3@uic.edu
Marie Rowley - mrowle4@uic.edu

MARINA MOGILNER: THADEN LECTURE SYNOPSIS

RUSSIAN HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE AND THE POSTCOLONIAL MOMENT

In this lecture I attempted to elaborate on the Russian case in the context of academic debates on postcoloniality. I began with the case of Slavophiles of the 1830s, 1840s, which shows that a colonial situation can be identified as an acute epistemological problem regardless of the actual colonial experience. The discussion continued with the case of Eurasians of the 1920s, 1930s, which illustrates that a colonial situation can be experienced regardless of the actual figure of the colonized, and that a post-colonial theory can espouse deeply conservative scenarios of emancipation and have a hidden restorationist agenda. The next case was the Soviet experiment highlighting that even when the figure of

the colonized and oppressed are objectively present, the most powerful political intervention alone cannot change the structural relationships of domination and control. The Soviet postcoloniality essentially shows that the colonial situation tends to reproduce itself, only changing hegemonic discourses and identifying different hegemonies and subalterns, or their different combinations. Finally, I turned to “post-Soviet postcoloniality” which, unlike the South Asian Subaltern Studies project that aspired to bring back historical agency and subjectivity to the most oppressed categories of the colonized, serves the goal of claiming essentially subaltern status for the nation as a desirable historical position

of zero agency and hence responsibility. I concluded that the colonial situation will continue to reveal itself in other “unexpected” and “paradoxical” examples for as long as the preceding “imperial situation” is not “disenchanted” and deconstructed. The last part of the talk introduced the concept of “imperial situation” (instead of the essentialized “empire”) that can emerge (or be identified) not only in empire, but also in modern nation-states. This will not turn them into “empires.” However, such an identification can provide an impetus to a local school of postcolonial analysis and explain its “unexpected” emergence in the absence of any formally recognizable “colonial situation.”



Matthew Kaplan Photography