

# Past Perfect

New Series

Volume III: Number 2 – May 2023

**Preface:** Please send information for *Past Perfect* to my email address by December 1, 2023 for the December 2023 issue. [benwhisenhunt@comcast.net](mailto:benwhisenhunt@comcast.net)

## Awards:

2023 Shirley A. Bill Award for Excellence in Teaching: **John Abbott**

Gordon Lee Goodman Award for Distinction in Undergraduate Studies: **Noe Gallegos**

Lilian Edinger Scholarship: **Krystian Kuprowski**

David Stahl and Karol Weigelt Prize: **Lucero Rojas-Torres**

**Sunil Agnani** (UIC Associate Professor), published “Edmund Burke and Hannah Arendt: Decolonization, Resentment, and the Social Question.” [boundary2](#) 49:4 (Nov 2022): 33-65. DOI 10.1215/01903659-10045146

**Kimberly Phuong Beaudreau**, (UIC Ph.D. Candidate), was awarded a 2023 OAH John Higham Research Fellowship. The fellowships are given annually to two graduate students writing doctoral dissertations for a Ph.D. in American history for her dissertation entitled “Economic Migrant or Refugee? Externalizing American Refugee and Asylum Policy, 1975–2000.”

**Ismael Biyashev** (UIC Ph.D., 2023), defended his PhD dissertation “Beyond Myths and Ruins: Archaeology and Nomadism in the Russian Empire and the Early Soviet Union 1850-1920s” on March 10, 2023, under the supervision of Professor Marina Mogilner. In Spring 2023, he was also the recipient of the ASEEES Internship Grant from the Association for Eastern European and Eurasian Studies to work on a translation project of primary sources alongside the editorial board of a leading journal in the field of Empire and Nationalism Studies, *Ab Imperio Quarterly*. Ismael will take part in the ongoing *Ab Imperio* Syllabus Project. Starting in the 2023-2024 academic year, Dr. Biyashev will begin a three-year term as Postdoctoral Fellow in the University of Michigan Society of Fellows, one of the most sought-after postdoctoral positions in the nation.

**Jennifer Brier** (UIC Professor), appeared on [WBEZ's “Reset”](#) as part of a panel discussion on the Food and Drug Administration’s proposal to ease blood donation restrictions for gay and bisexual men.

**Jon Connolly** (UIC Asst. Professor), published “Antislavery, ‘Native Labour,’ and the Turn to Indenture in British Colonial Natal, 1842-1860,” in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. Jon also gave “Indenture as Free Labor: Migration and Freedom in the Era of Emancipation” at the Institute for the Humanities at UIC in March 2023. Jon published an article he previously workshopped at one of our brown bags in 2021. The piece is called ["Re-Reading Morant Bay:](#)

[Protest, Inquiry, and Colonial Rule,"](#) and appears in the upcoming *Law and History Review*. It takes a colonial rebellion from 1865 and demonstrates how legal debate transformed the popular uprising from one premised on of colonial protest to one that creating, as he puts it, a "new justification for further and more centralized imperial control."

**Jonathan W. Daly** (UIC Professor), published two works: 1) *Seven Myths of the Russian Revolution* (Cambridge, MA, and Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2023) [with **Leonid Trofimov**, UIC, Ph.D., 2004], and 2) "Richard Pipes: etnichnost', kul'tura, rusofobia i antisemitizm" [Richard Pipes: Ethnicity, Culture, Russophobia and Antisemitism], *Neprikosnovennyoi zapas*, no. 3 (143) (2022): 148–91. [Available online](#).

**Anindita Ghosh** (UIC, Graduate Student), published a great piece called, "[Nationalism without a Nation: What Being Indian Means for Residents of Merged Bangladesh Residents](#)" in *Scroll*, a premier newspaper in India.

**Fredy Gonzalez** (UIC Associate Professor), was awarded a grant from the [Japan Foundation Los Angeles](#) to spend the fall semester in Kansai, just outside Osaka, in an intensive Japanese language program! The language skills he will acquire in Japan will assist his amazing research on Japanese migration to Latin America. Fredy also a distinguished Silver Circle Award for Excellence in Teaching, one of UIC's highest honors recognizing teaching. Among other fancy recognitions, Fredy's name will be engraved on a silver plaque on the first floor of Daley Library.

**Adam Goodman** (UIC Associate Professor), Adam reported on March 14, 2023 "We're happy to share the joyous news that, on the morning of Friday, March 10, Hilda gave birth to our baby boy: Pablo Goodman Vázquez. Mom and baby are well, resting and recovering at home. We look forward to introducing you to Pablo when we return to Chicago."

**Ralph Keen** (UIC Professor), edited the volume called *Reading Certainty: Exegesis and Epistemology on the Threshold of Modernity, essays honoring the scholarship of Susan E. Schreiner*, and included in it an essay of his own called, "Melanchthon and the Utility of the Liberal Arts."

**Young R. Kim** (UIC Associate Professor) published "Cypriot Hagiography and the Long Late Antiquity." In *Cyprus in the Long Late Antiquity: History and Archaeology between the Sixth and Eighth Centuries*, edited by Panayiotis Panayides and Ine Jacobs, 27-34. Oxford: Oxbow, and "Paparrigopoulos on Continuity, Constantine, and the Council of Nicaea." *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* 41, no. 1: 1-23.

**John Kulczycki** (UIC Professor Emeritus), taught a course entitled "Nationalism: Myth and Reality" in the Adult Education Program at the Newberry Library, Chicago, in the winter term.

**Robert Johnston** (UIC Professor) put together a fantastic section in the most recent edition of the *Journal of American History*, relying on the theme, "[Teaching in Alternative Spaces.](#)" (The entire section is attached.) As Robert writes, "You'll see that the heart of the section, as well as

its most distinctive contribution, is an interchange title "Abolition and Liberation: An Interchange on Teaching behind the Walls." This interchange brings to a broad audience all kinds of critical issues related to the politics and pedagogies of teaching within prisons. And in what seems to be a first for the *JAH*, two of the contributors are currently incarcerated (with another one formerly incarcerated)."

**Deirdre Nansen McCloskey** (UIC Professor Emerita) who taught History from 2000 to 2015, has made one of her moves, this time at age 80 to a fulltime job at the Cato Institute in Washington, DC. Cato is "liberal" in the classical, John-Stuart-Millian sense. She scribbles away at various books still, but is happy as a clam (why are clams judged to be happy?) in the job and her condo next door and a new city to explore. Her recent books are chronicled at [deidremccloskey.org](http://deidremccloskey.org), but her big project for the next year is to finish a bog book on medieval open fields and early modern enclosure in England.

**Rama S. Mantena** (UIC Associate Professor and Associate Chair) just published *Provincial Democracy: Political Imaginaries at the End of Empire in Twentieth-Century South India* with Cambridge University Press. One review said in part, "*Provincial Democracy* unearths a political genealogy of the Indian Union that has been obfuscated by ideas of Indian nationalism. It provides an inspiring model for writing and recognizing lost histories of anti-colonial political futures that are ever present."

**Sohini Mukhopadhyay** (UIC Graduate student), published the article, "[A 'Fallen' Woman's Autobiography](#)" in the 2019 proceedings of the Indian History Congress. The article focuses on the nineteenth-century Bengali actress Binodini Dasi and her attempts to craft an identity between classes in order to open up more public spaces for women.

**Hayley Negrin** (UIC Assistant Professor) published "Cockacoeske's Rebellion: Nathaniel Bacon, Indigenous Slavery, and Sovereignty in Early Virginia," in *William and Mary Quarterly* which tells the amazing story of how Cockacoeske, a Powhatan weroansqua, avoided capture and enslavement by Nathaniel Bacon and went on to use English colonial courts to fight for sovereignty in order to protect her people from future enslavement.

**Jeff Nichols** (UIC Ph.D. student) had a piece featured in Business Insider and had a photo go viral. See the link. <https://www.insider.com/history-photo-man-begging-wife-forgiveness-chicago-divorce-court-2023-3>

**Sekordri Ojo** (UIC Graduate student), won an [American Educational Research Association seed grant](#) to continue her research into the history of American education. Sekordri's research focuses on the intellectual history of African American women educators of the nineteenth century, specifically focusing on how African American women have used education as a tool to redefine what it meant to be free and citizens of the United States.

**Julie Peters** (UIC Professor and Associate Director of Teaching of History Program) reports news from the MAT/Teaching of History program:

This past semester, six graduates from our MAT and Teaching of History programs served as cooperating teachers, agreeing to host and mentor a student teacher:

**Dan Bender** (MAT) hosted **Matt Schlifke** (BAT) at Lake View High School

**Laura Koroski** (MAT) hosted **Carmen Salgado** (BAT) at Kennedy High School

**Brian Revor** (BAT) hosted **Jacob Jauregui** (BAT) at Acero High School

**Stephanie Gladstein** (MAT) hosted **Andrew Swiatly** (BAT) at CICS Northtown

**Saul Garcia** (BAT) hosted **George Fleissner** (MAT) at Social Justice High School

**Ryan Fishman** (MAT) hosted **Haden Kersting** (MAT) at Bowen High School

**Nena (Grubisich) Milanovic**, (BAT) hosted **Zaid Vohra** (BAT) at Taft High School

We are so grateful for the service our graduates continue to provide as they help support and nurture the careers of future teachers.

**Polina Popova** (UIC Ph.D. student), published a blog post for the Princeton University Library Blog titled "An Image of Japan and Its People in 1920s Soviet Children's Literature": <https://blogs.princeton.edu/cotsen/2023/01/an-image-of-japan-and-its-people-in-1920s-soviet-childrens-literature/> and hosted two episodes of on the New Books Network podcast:

In one, Polina interviewed Elena Goodwin about her book *Translating England into Russian* - <https://newbooksnetwork.com/translating-england-into-russian>

And in another one – Polina spoke to Megan Swift about her book *Picturing the Page* - <https://newbooksnetwork.com/picturing-the-page>

**Junaid Quadri** (UIC Associate Professor), was selected for the UIC Teaching Recognition Program.

**Caterina Scalvedi** (UIC Graduate student), presented "Rethinking Colonialism in Interwar Europe: Legal Scholars, Education, and the 'Native Question' in Fascist Italy's Empire," at UIC's Institute for the Humanities in February 2023.

**Jeff Sklansky** (UIC, Professor), published "[The Work of Retirement](#)," in the *International Review of Social History*. The article, which Jeff circulated at one of our brownbags not too long ago, details the tremendous growth of retirement funds and the pension system during the past half century and how the managers of those funds sometimes did the work of enriching investors rather than the care workers they were designed to support. Jeff also published a really interesting piece in *American Prospect* on "[The Working Class Roots of 'Woke Capital.'](#)"

**Sandy Sufian** (UIC Affiliated Faculty, History of Medicine and Disability, Health Humanities) published an op-ed piece in *Inside Higher Ed* entitled "[The Prejudicial Logic of Productivity](#)," which how measures of academic productivity can be used to harm disabled faculty members.

**Ben Whisenhunt** (UIC Ph.D. 1997), Professor Emeritus at College of DuPage taught History 244: Native American History at UIC in Spring 2023 with Teaching Assistant **Dylan Shearer**. He was very pleased to teach once again at UIC.

**Callisto Wojcikowski** (UIC BA, 2021) – John Abbott received this message. Normally, the length of entries here is short and sweet about publications, etc., but this message had a lot of enthusiasm so we decided to run the whole thing to remind us all about what the love of history is all about!

“My name is Callisto Wojcikowski. I graduated with the Class of December 2021 with a BA in History (minor Anthropology).

Since graduating, I’ve begun a career in public history and science communication through museum work — I started volunteering with Chicago’s own Museum of Science & Industry back in 2020-2021, and was hired into a full-time paid position in 2022 as a Guest Engagement Facilitator. We’re responsible for talking to thousands of museum guests every day, connecting them to exhibit content, and encouraging further exploration and curiosity about a whole number of subjects in science, engineering, and history throughout the museum, as well as leading guest tours on two of our headliner exhibits. Firstly, the U-505 Submarine exhibit — centered on a genuine Type IX-C German Unterseeboot, last of her kind and one of only 4 (or 3, depending on how you qualify it) fully-intact surviving U-boats from World War II and the only one captured at sea, now displayed within an underground exhibit recreating a WWII submarine pen — which takes guests through the interior of U-505 herself, giving guests a look into the day-to-day life of the 59 young men who — by choice, obligation, or force — found themselves aboard; we guide guests through the day of the U-505’s capture by U.S. Navy Task Group 22.3, her fate through the end of the war, and the incredible journey which brought the submarine to Chicago. Our second major tour is the Coal Mine, a museum staple since opening day in 1933 which has evolved over its 90 years to become a story about overcoming the challenges of the coal industry through innovation, the power of labor unions, and the question of fossil fuel use in our modern world of renewables and climate change, putting guests into the shoes — or in this case, steel-toed boots — of the miners of Old Ben No. 17, a coal mining company in Johnston City, Illinois, with genuine equipment from the mine and the wider mining industry featuring heavily.

Beyond my museum career, I’ve put my historical research chops to work in the world of speculative fiction and creative writing, on a collaborative longform alternate history work published by myself and two other writers and centering around NASA and space exploration (a long-time interest of mine) entitled *Small Steps, Giant Leaps: An Alternate History of the Space Age*, which recently entered its second book and is currently pushing 70,000 words. Through a combination of research into obscure NASA technical documents, analysis of our own history, and outright leaps of imagination, my team and I have crafted a world where the United States and Soviet Union both, in turn, put a man on the Moon, where Robert Kennedy dodges the bullet and takes the Oval Office in 1968; while purely fiction, it is an enjoyable exercise in what-ifs, and a continued use of knowledge gained in studying history in a way one might not initially expect.”