

Past Perfect

New Series

Volume IV: Number 2 – May 2024

Preface: Please send information for *Past Perfect* to my email address by December 1, 2024, for the December 2024 issue. benwhisenhunt@comcast.net

Special Note: The current UIC history department is very active. It would be great to hear from more emeritus faculty and UIC history department alumni about their activities!

UIC History Department News – All are invited to this year's Gilbert Osofsky Lecture, the Department of History's annual end-of-year celebration, held on Wednesday, April 24 at 2:00 p.m. This year, in addition to welcoming friends and giving out awards<<https://hist.uic.edu/resources/departmental-awards/>> and championing our department, our featured speaker will be Premilla Nadasen<<https://history.barnard.edu/profiles/premilla-nadasen>>, a professor of history at Barnard University. She will give a talk from her new book, *Care: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*<<https://www.haymarketbooks.org/books/2098-care>>. The event will be live and in-person at UIC in the Cardinal Room of Student Center East (SCE) at 750 S. Halsted.

Exciting Undergraduate News!

First, congratulations to **Bernadette Pitt-Payne**, who won **FIRST PLACE** in this year's [UIC In/Between Undergraduate Research Forum](#). Her research was based on a paper she wrote under the guidance of Prof. Junaid Quadri and was titled, "The Face of an Empire: Material Culture and the Image of Queen Victoria in the British Raj, 1857-1901." Bernadette received a cash prize contributed by the Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Effectiveness. It's nice to take a College-wide humanities prize! Those who attend this year's [Osofsky Lecture](#) will see there is more to come for Bernadette. Bernadette is off to Queen's University Belfast next year to pursue a Master's in public history. Congrats Bernadette!

Second, congratulations to **Victor Leal-Painter**, who, on Thursday, April 11, gave the **keynote address** at this year's LAS Scholarship and Awards Luncheon in front of a packed house of donors, faculty, the Dean, and scholarship winners (see the attached image). Victor, well known in these parts as a founder and past president of The History Club, spoke as a [Davee Award winner](#). He spoke highly of the department as perpetuating his love of history, helping him develop the several local history projects he is pursuing in his hometown (including creating a local history museum), and helping him become a future history teacher.

Faculty, Alumni, Graduate Student, and Emeritus News:

Kenny Allen (UIC MAT student) just published a co-authored piece in Truthout, entitled "Chicago Ballot Amendment Would Tax Real Estate Moguls to Fight Homelessness." <<https://truthout.org/articles/chicago-ballot-amendment-would-tax-real-estate-moguls-to-fight-homelessness/>> Kenny offered both historical and comparative perspective to a Chicago ballot amendment considering adding a progressive tax on real estate transfers and using that income to build more affordable housing. The article was co-written with UIC's **Anna Guavarra** and **Gayatri Reddy** for the Dis/Placements project <<https://displacements.com/>>, a digital public history project bringing together scholars, students, and community members to trace a People's History of Uptown, the northside neighborhood of Chicago shaped by multiple forms of displacement and urban renewal, as well as active resistance to such processes.

Jon Balzerak (UIC Visiting Lecturer), is having his *Calvinism: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2017) translated into Polish.

Katie Brizek (UIC Ph.D. student and HGS president) just won a 2024 Mother Theodore Guerin Research Travel Grant <<https://cushwa.nd.edu/grant-opportunities/guerin/>> from the Cushwa Center <<https://cushwa.nd.edu/>> at Notre Dame. The grant is designed for "scholars in any academic discipline whose projects seek to feature Catholic women more prominently in modern history." Brizek's proposal is to investigate the little-studied archives of Hélène Iswolsky, one of the most fascinating mid-twentieth century immigrée Catholics who, among other things, ran a salon and magazine pushing Catholic ecumenism. Its list of attendees and authors is a who's who of twentieth-century Catholicism, yet we know very little about the woman who brought them all together.

Jon Connolly (UIC Assistant Professor) just published *Worthy of Freedom: Indenture and Free Labor in the Era of Emancipation* (University of Chicago Press, 2024). <<https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/W/bo214752216.html>>. The blurbs are amazing ("an invaluable addition to our understanding of the problematic meanings of "free" after slavery" --Catherine Hall).

Jonathan Daly (UIC Professor) presented "Richard Pipes and Soviet Militarism," Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), Annual National Meeting, Philadelphia, December 2, 2023. He also presented "Intelligence, the Russian Security Police, and the Threat of Revolution," Police Intelligence, from Local to Global, 1750-Present, January 25–26, 2024, Brussels, Belgium. And, he published "Frontier Agriculture and the Creation of Global Neo-Europes," in *The Oxford Handbook of Agricultural History*, ed. Jeannie Whayne (New York: Oxford University Press, 2024). Pp. 552–69.

John D'Emilio (UIC Professor Emeritus) is busy at work on a second volume of memoir, one that will cover the 1970s, 80s, and 90s. He hopes to have a full draft completed before the end of the year.

Gosia Fidelis (UIC Professor) whose 2022 book, *Imagining the World from Behind the Iron Curtain: Youth and the Global Sixties in Poland*

<<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/imagining-the-world-from-behind-the-iron-curtain-9780197643402?cc=us&lang=en&>> (Oxford), has just won the Oskar Halecki Award <<https://polishamericanstudies.org/text/30/halecki-prize.html>> in Polish and East-Central European History from the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences. Named for an eminent historian and founding member of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, the Oskar Halecki Award recognizes a scholar in the field of Polish and East-Central European history who has written a book of particular value and significance dealing with the Polish experience or including the Polish experience within a larger East-Central European context. Gosia will receive the prize at the 9th World Congress of the Institute in Warsaw this summer.

Rick Fried (UIC Professor Emeritus) reported that “one of the hotter speaking gigs for area historians is at the Wyndemere retirement community in Wheaton. On first Wednesdays of the month at 11 a.m. the History Group hears from historians on a broad variety of topics. In 2023/4, we've heard from current UIC faculty Jeffrey Sklansky and Neal McCrillis and former UIC faculty member Dominic Candeloro. To honor America's oldest ally, we even listened to Prof. Emeritus Peter Conroy of the French Department. Ph.D. graduates of UIC also gave talks: Karen Johnson (Wheaton College), Dominic Pacyga (emer., Columbia College), David Veenstra (St. Francis Univ.), and Mark Friedberger (emer. Texas Tech). We're always looking for fresh talent. Consider this Du Page County's answer to the Harmsworth Lectures.”

Adam Goodman (UIC Associate Professor) won this year's UIC Rising Star Award for Humanities, Arts, Design, and Architecture.

<<https://emails.uofi.uic.edu/newsletter/29/1437547629.html>> The Rising Star Award is "bestowed on individuals who show exceptional promise to become future leaders," and Adam certainly fits the bill. He was, last year, a 2022-23 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. And his 2020 book, *The Deportation Machine*, was a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize in History and received the PROSE Award in North American History from the Association of American Publishers, the Henry Adams Book Prize from the Society for History in the Federal Government, and Honorable Mention for the Theodore Saloutos Book Award from the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. He has also written articles, essays, and reviews for publications such as the *Journal of American History*, *The Nation*, and the *Washington Post*, and discussed Latino history and immigration policy in Spanish- and English-language interviews on Latino USA<<https://www.latinousa.org/2020/10/23/deportationmachine/>>, Univisión<<http://www.univision.com/shows/noticiero-univision/la-huella-latina-en-estados-unidos-video>>, BBC Radio 4<<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000pgj5>>, CSPAN's Book TV<<https://www.c-span.org/video/?473186-1/the-deportation-machine>>, Mexico's TV UNAM<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f10BRPE3k20>> and Canal 22, and

BackStory<<http://backstoryradio.org/shows/border-patrols/>>, among other programs and outlets.

Laura Hostetler (UIC Professor), edited *Reimagining the Globe and Cultural Exchange: The East Asian Legacies of Matteo Ricci's World Map*. Vol. 9. Studies in the History of Christianity in East Asia. Brill, 2024. <https://brill.com/edcollbook-oa/title/68461>. Aside from wrangling eleven other authors, Laura also wrote the volume's marvelous introduction <<https://brill.com/edcollchap-oa/book/9789004684782/BP000012.xml>> and a chapter on "China's Nine-Dash Line: Cartographic Science and the Adoption of New Map Languages in the Transition from Empire to Nation State," <<https://brill.com/edcollchap-oa/book/9789004684782/BP000022.xml>> continuing the department's deep strength in studying Empires, Ethnographies, and Encounters.

Ralph Keen (UIC Professor) won the 2023 Distinguished Teaching Award from the American Catholic Historical Association<<https://achahistory.org/distinguished-teaching-award/>>. Meanwhile, Ralph is racking up these awards, having been named the 2022 Instructor of the Year from the UIC Honors College for his course *The Uncommon Good: Social Thought in a Diverse Society*.

Clare S. Kim (UIC Assistant Professor) was just named a UNESCO DMRCP Fellow.<<https://dmrcp.cipsh.international/fellows.html>> DMRCP stands for "Diversity of Mathematical Research Cultures and Practices," and the fellowship is managed by the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences within UNESCO<<https://dmrcp.cipsh.international/index.html>> (her notification came from the University of Hamburg). The fellowship comes with no formal obligations aside from offering publishing and research funding support, so: outside funding and a great title--perfect. She joins an international cadre of scholars who also won the accolade. She also presented "The Modern Subject: Transpacific Exchanges and the Racial Politics of Mathematics in America" at the Institute for the Humanities at UIC on February 22, 2024.

Young R. Kim (UIC Associate Professor) has assumed duties as the book review editor for the *Journal of Early Christian Studies* and has joined the advisory board of a new journal, *Public Humanities*, to be published by Cambridge University Press. He also presented papers at the Byzantine Studies Conference and Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity. He was also named a Faculty Fellow for the 2024-2025 academic year at the UIC Institute for the Humanities to pursue research on his project, "Cyprus and the Historiography of Late Antiquity."

Frankee Lyons (UIC Ph.D. student) accepted a two-year Fulbright US Scholar Postdoctoral Fellowship to complete her project entitled, "What Homeland?: Polish Jewry and the Second Repatriation, 1953-68," at the University of Haifa's Interdisciplinary Unit for Polish Studies. She hopes to defend her dissertation sometime this year and will take the fellowship next year, moving to the relatively peaceful university town of Haifa, where she can focus on Polish migration to Israel after 1956.

Liliana Macias (UIC Ph.D. student) **1.** led the development and implementation of public programs for the Pilsen Latina Legacies Chicago Monuments Project funded by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Mellon Foundation. A short documentary of the public programs will premiere in Paris for a conference on monuments in 2024 and **2.** was invited to be in the Advisory Committee for the Cultural Heritage and Historic Markers Program which will build on the work of previous City initiatives (Chicago Monuments Project, Black Chicago Heritage Initiative, Chicago Tribute Markers) and is supported by generous funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and **3.** co-founded the organization [Raices Chicago Story Coalition](#), a non-profit that collaborates with Latine/x organizations and communities of Chicago to cultivate the visibility and accessibility of these stories.

Elizabeth Maher (UIC Ph.D. student) just had a peer-reviewed article come out in *Disability Studies Quarterly*, the journal of record in the field of Disability Studies. Elizabeth's article, "Wolf Girls and Mechanical Boys: Whiteness and Assimilation in Bruno Bettelheim's Narratives of Autism," <<https://dsq-sds.org/index.php/dsq/article/view/9648/8002>> revisits Bettelheim's defining work on autism, highlighting forgotten articles that help us problematize "contemporary and historical formations of autism as a white, middle-class, male 'disorder' by making explicit the role of race in the construction of early narratives of autism." The article also forefronts the importance of Jewish masculinity in postwar America.

Celso Mendoza (UIC Bridge-to-Faculty Post-doc) presented at the "Radical Research from BIPOC Scholars at UIC" on his research on February 21, 2024. His talk "critically re-examined the supposedly legendary Spanish victory in the conquest of Mexico, in which the conquistadors are said to have killed a great Aztec leader, seized his banner, and routed the entire Aztec army in the Battle of Otumba. Using some of the earliest sources available, especially Indigenous accounts of the conquest, Dr. Mendoza demonstrated that the popular Spanish accounts of the battle is a complete fabrication. According to Indigenous sources, it was the Spaniards who left the battlefield defeated."

Hayley Negrin (UIC Assistant Professor) has just been awarded the Leopold-Hidy Award for the best article published in *Environmental History* in 2023! The award-winning article is Hayley's "Return to the Yeokanta/River: Powhatan Women and Environmental Treaty Making in Early America," <<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/725422>> which examines a 1677 treaty signed by an Algonquian Weroansqua named Cockacoeske in the aftermath of Bacon's Rebellion, arguing that the treaty was not in fact a sign of declining power but instead a story of Indigenous resilience and kinship with the environment, utilizing the concept of "environmental treaty making." As the editors of the journal wrote to Hayley, "The board members were impressed by your creative use of source material, which, as one board member wrote, 'allows us completely reimagine a pivotal moment in history by paying attention to fine details in the archival record.' Another called it an 'absolute tour de force' of 'creative interpretation.' They were similarly impressed by the story you told, calling it a 'compelling narrative that is fun and, frankly, moving to read.' And several pointed to its implications, not only because it offers a model that will prove 'useful to scholars working in a range of times and

places' but because of its 'potential for environmental activism in our own time.'" Wow, what amazing praise: a "tour de force"!

Julie Peters (UIC Clinical Professor) had her History 419 class host a Model UN event for Farragut Career Academy in Little Village <<https://hist.uic.edu/news-stories/uic-history-department-hosts-model-un-event-for-high-schoolers/>> and second, when the Department of History hosted the 2024 Illinois Academic Decathlon State Championships. <<https://hist.uic.edu/news-stories/uic-history-department-hosts-illinois-state-championship-of-academic-decathlon/>> The events brought hundreds of high schoolers to UIC, where they got swag bags and tours from the amazing Student Ambassadors, and meals from the UIC Dining Hall. More than 60 members of the UIC History community rallied to serve as judges, provide snacks and directions, and much, much more. Some volunteers even got t-shirts. Thanks everyone, for your help in making it all happen (and read the links above to see how the events went!)

Barbara Ransby (UIC Professor) had her book, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision* (University of North Carolina Press, 2003) selected by the *Wall Street Journal* as a "Five Best: Books on Women of the Civil Rights Movement."

Kevin Schultz (UIC Professor and Chair) was interviewed for (and might appear in) an upcoming PBS *American Masters* documentary on William F. Buckley, Jr., one of the subjects of his 2015 book, [Buckley & Mailer: The Difficult Friendship that Shaped the Sixties](#) (W.W. Norton & Co.). The documentary, "[The Incomparable Mr. Buckley](#)" — aired nationally on PBS on April 5, 2024, and will subsequently stream on the PBS website. Kevin appeared alongside an impressive list of historians and commentators interviewed for the documentary.

Jeff Shuhrke (UIC Ph.D., 2020) was quoted in the story about the Israel-Hamas War in the New York Times in January 2024. <<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/07/business/american-unions-long-backed-israel-now-some-are-protesting-it.html>> Shuhrke, a 2020 PhD who then taught at UIC for several years (winning the Shirley Bill Award in 2021) before becoming an assistant professor at SUNY Empire State, is quoted for his expertise on the global role of American labor unions, which was the topic of his UIC dissertation.

Ben Whisenhunt (UIC Ph.D., 1997 and Visiting Lecturer) was appointed Co-Series Editor of "Anthem Americans in Revolutionary Russia" with Dr. Lee Farrow of Auburn University Montgomery. He served as co-series editor of the series "Americans in Revolutionary Russia" with Dr. Norman Saul of the University of Kansas from 2016-2022 published by Slavica Publishers. The original sixteen volumes (Slavica) will be republished by Anthem Press in 2024 and 2025 while he and Farrow will edit another fifteen volumes over the next five years.