

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

HISTORY

DIVE INTO THE PAST. SHAPE THE FUTURE.

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University
of Victoria
History

A FAREWELL FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIR

Dr. Jason Colby



Since you have all heard from me plenty in the past five (18?) years, I'll keep it brief. It was the great honour of my career to serve as department chair over the past five years. Together, we survived Covid-19, three rounds of budget cuts, and the serpentine twists of UVic administrative whims, and we emerged stronger than ever.

There is no other group of scholars I would have been prouder to support and represent. As I said at the wonderful farewell party at Jill's, I love this department. You all mean the world to me.

A special thank you to Consuela, Heather, and Alison for keeping things running and making my life easy. I'll miss working with you, but I look forward to seeing you all as I return to civilian life. #

FACULTY AWARDS



Dr. Christine O'Bonsawin

ᑭᐃᑦ ᑎᐃᐃᐃ ᑭᐃᑭ | ÍY,NEUELIST | Moving forward together for the good of all
| Indigenous Scholar Award for Excellence in Research 2024

Dr. Cynthia Milton

King Charles III Coronation Medal for service to the
historical profession, 2024



University
of Victoria

History

MESSAGE FROM INCOMING CHAIR

As I step into the role of chair, I gratefully acknowledge the vital support of our office team who sustain the department's daily life. **Consuela Covrig**, **Alison Hogan**, and **Heather Waterlander** and have guided me through the transition with patience and expertise. This newsletter itself reflects Alison's thoughtful editorial and design work. I also thank **Kristin Semmens** and **Christine O'Bonsawin** for their steady leadership of our undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as our dean and past chairs whose counsel I greatly value.

This year brought significant transitions and achievements. We bid a sad farewell to **Elizabeth Vibert**, whose scholarship, mentorship, and community engagement will leave a lasting imprint. She will be deeply missed. At the same time, we are excited to welcome the new intellectual and creative strengths of colleagues **Jaipreet Virdi** and **Geoff Bil**. Jaipreet's launch of the **Critical Humanities Commons** exemplifies our department's commitment to collaborative work. We also celebrate the achievements of **Christine O'Bonsawin**, recipient of the ʔə́y nəwəł ʔist | ÍY,NEUELIST Indigenous Scholar Award for Excellence in Research, and **Cynthia Milton**, recipient of the King Charles III Coronation Medal for service to the historical profession.

And our faculty has yet again produced an impressive array of books, films, websites, and collaborative projects advancing scholarship and reaching broad audiences. We welcomed distinguished visitors such as **Lauren Benton** and **Peter Beinart**, while outreach efforts like *Past Wrongs*, *Future Choices* and *Café Historique* connected our work to wider publics. Innovative



Martin Bunton 2003
(no longer a sessional!)

courses continued to attract strong enrolments while reflecting the diversity of historical study. The creativity and collaboration of our students were equally visible: the **Graduate History Students' Union** (GHSU) and **History Undergraduate Body** (HUB) enriched our community with dynamic academic projects and social events, including HUB's "Most Valuable Professor" awards (see page 18).

As always, our annual newsletter showcases the breadth and depth of the department's remarkable contributions. I look forward to building on these strong foundations in the years ahead. ☪

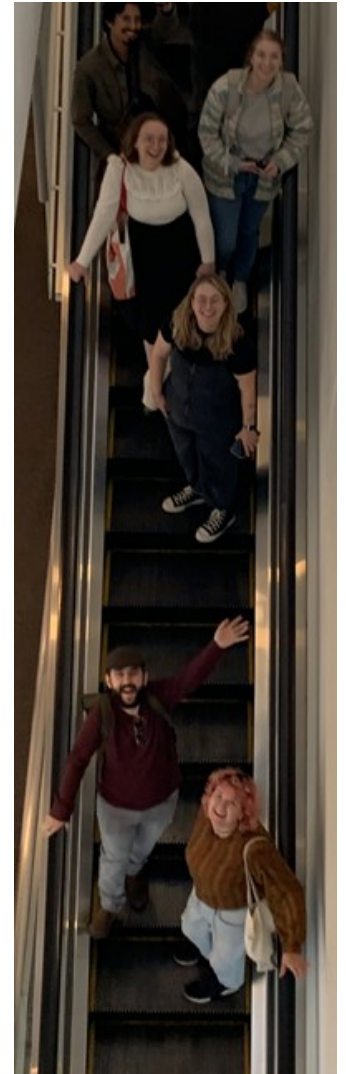
TAKING IT TO THE STREETS



HSTR 324B out on the town with guide/alumnus **Chris Adams**.

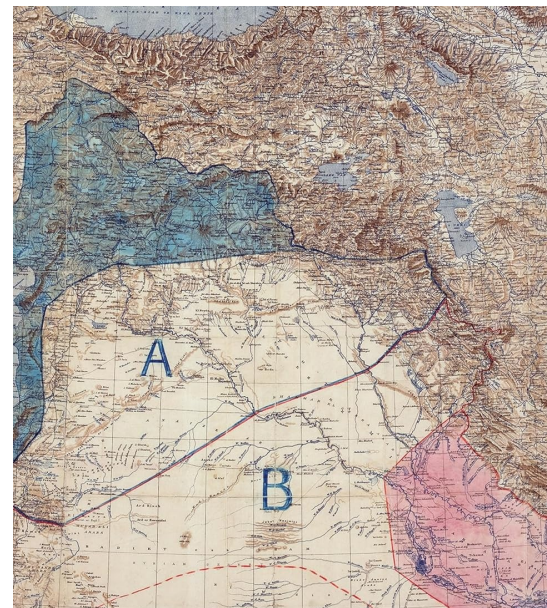
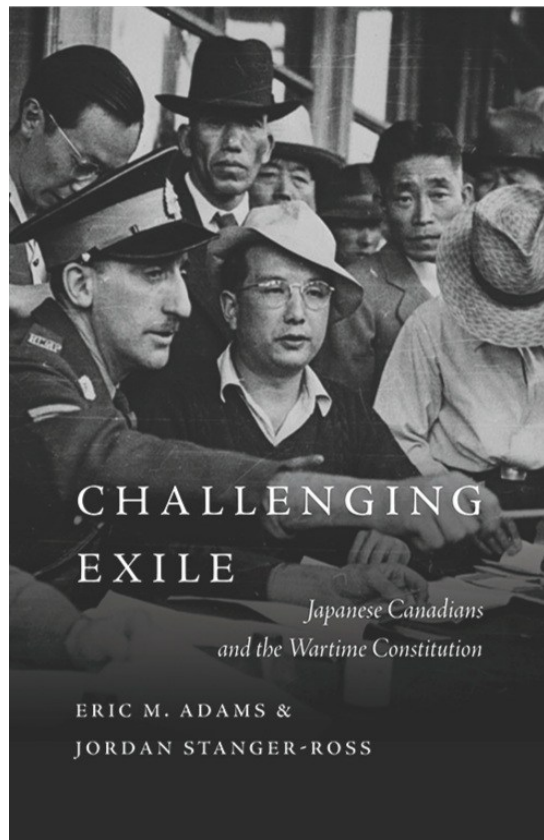


Grad student **Santiago Domingo** presents his project to RCBM staff.



HSTR 515A visits the Terry Fox support van at RBCM.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

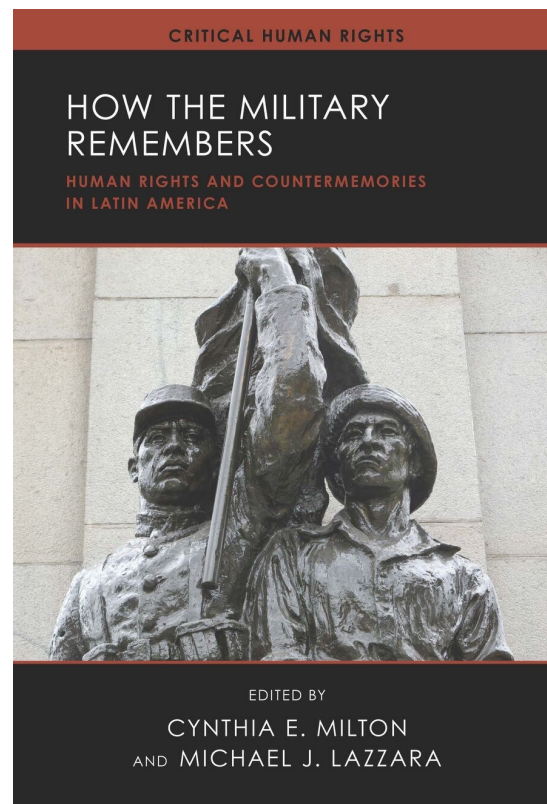


THE END OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE
and the Forging of the Modern Middle East

A Short History with Documents

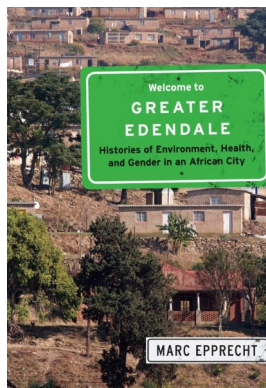
Martin Bunton and Andrew Wender

Passages: Key Moments in History

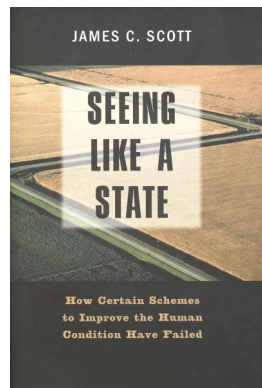


PROF PICKS:

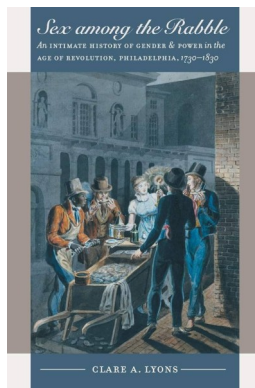
For our display last spring, we asked: “What *ONE* work of academic history – book or documentary – shaped the way you think about an area of your expertise? How?”



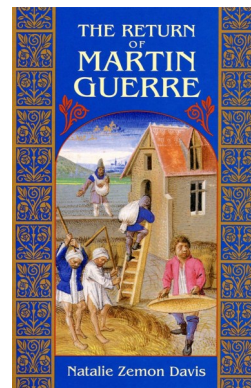
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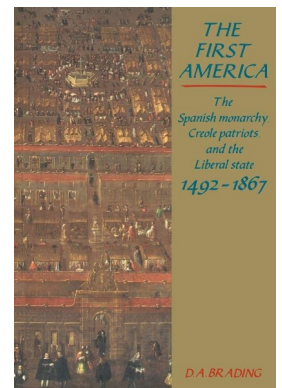
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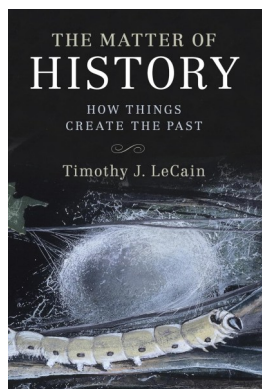
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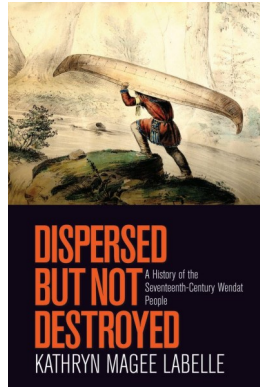
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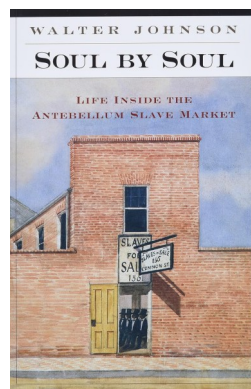
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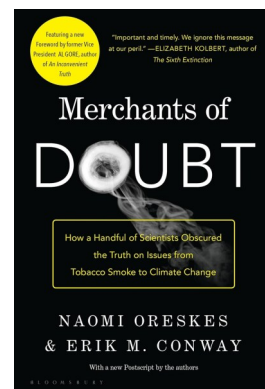
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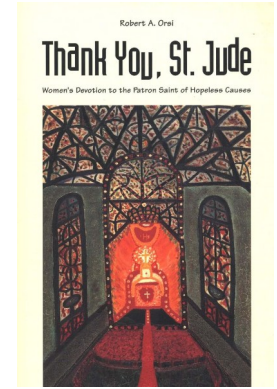
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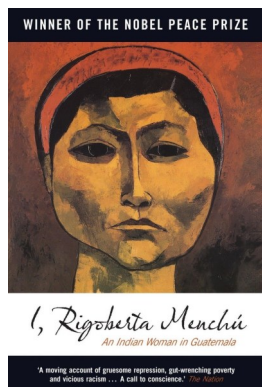
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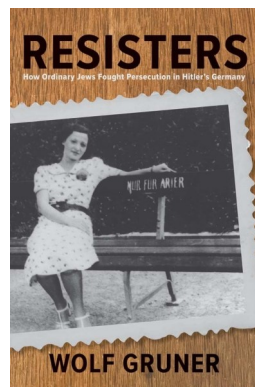
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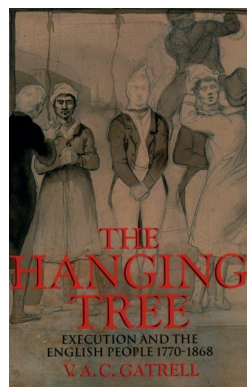
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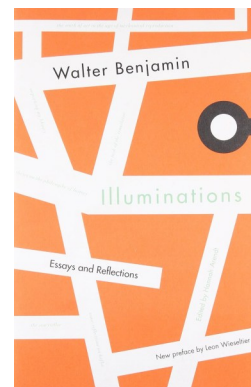
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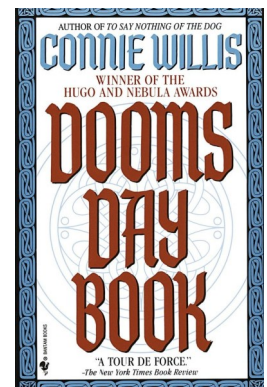
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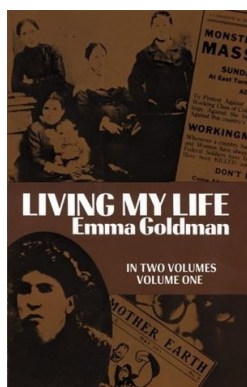
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14



15



16

Try matching the title with the professor
(answer key hidden somewhere in the newsletter).

Alade
Beam
Bunton
Cleves

Colby
Cook
de Alba-Koch
Devereaux

Marks
McClenachan
Milton
K Semmens

Sitara
Stanger-Ross
Vibert
Walshaw

NEW FACULTY A warm welcome to Jaipreet Virdi and Geoff Bil!



We are thrilled to welcome [Dr. Jaipreet Virdi](#) and [Dr. Geoff Bil](#) to our department. Although they are moving to UVic from the University of Delaware, they have roots closer to home. Jai grew up in the Toronto area, and Geoff is a former history honours student with our department. A specialist in the history of disability, science, and technology, Jai will direct the new Humanities Commons. Geoff is a scholar of empire and science with expertise in the British Empire and the Indigenous history of the Pacific. We could not be happier with their arrival to the UVic History Department and look forward to working with them and getting to know them as colleagues and friends. ☎



An artifact from the 2006 Honours Defense Schedule...

5 Geoff Bil geoffbil@UVic.CA	Tom Saunders	Greg Blue	Serhy Yekelchyk	how the past was 'feminized' in European avant-garde literature from Nietzsche to 1914.	APRIL 24	1:30	Clearihue B415
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It was a long drive west, with detours for fires along the way.

AISHA'S STORY: THAT'S A WRAP!

Elizabeth Vibert



Elizabeth Vibert, Salam Barakat Guenette, Isaac Hatfield, and Chen Wang



Aisha viewing the film with her grandchildren

Our Canadian and Palestinian team's documentary film [Aisha's Story](#) has been a labour of love since 2018, when I began oral history research with Palestinian grain miller **Aisha Azzam** in Baqa'a refugee camp, Jordan. It was lovely to have the opportunity to launch the film "at home" at UVic in February. The university and particularly the Humanities Dean's office have been very supportive of our [Four Stories Project](#); dozens of UVic students and numerous faculty have been involved in the project. *Aisha's Story* is a key part of the Four Stories research initiative, which examines food justice activities in colonized spaces and vulnerable communities on four continents.

The Humanities Week screening was the start of the film's journey into the world. Our world premiere festival was Hot Docs International Documentary Festival in Toronto in April, quickly followed by DOXA Film Festival in Vancouver. We were honoured to receive the Audience Favourite Award in our category at Hot Docs. Sold-out audiences fell in love with Aisha's warmth, intelligence, and steadfast connection to her homeland, a story she tells through the beautiful cuisine of her people. At DOXA we received honourable mention for the Vancouver Film Studios Award. In July co-producer **Salam Barakat Guenette** and I head to Jordan to screen the film at the Amman International Film Festival. This will be especially exciting, since Aisha and her family, our film crew, and many community members will finally have the chance to see the film on the big screen. After Amman *Aisha's Story* will continue its journey in Europe, the US, Asia and elsewhere. We are in discussions with broadcasters and educational distributors, so after the festival circuit the film will become widely available. Please stay tuned.

The fourth of the Four Stories, with Indigenous communities on the west coast of the Island, is just getting underway in collaboration with the Balance Co-Lab SSHRC Partnership project. The film rooted in that community-engaged research is a few years in the future. The South African film is out in the world, and the Wayuu Indigenous Colombian film is nearing completion. ☺



Charlotte Cass and Elizabeth Vibert

PAST WRONGS, FUTURE CHOICES

Mike Abe

In July 2024, PWFC ran another successful Canada's Internment Era Field School with 14 UVic students, in-service teachers, and international educators participating in the Nikkei National Museum's Internment Era Bus tour. Visiting the sites of internment, engaging with community members, and building connections helped inform and inspire our participants from Canada, US, Brazil, Japan and Australia.

In the summer, in conjunction with UVic Libraries, PWFC hosted an interactive multi-media exhibit, **Kintsugi** from August 7 to November 7, 2024. **Kintsugi** tells the personal history of the Japanese Canadian internment of two young Japanese Canadian musicians, **Brian Kobayakawa** and **Annie Sumi** through song and animated videos, powered by the foot treadle and projected from Brian's grandmother's sewing machine preserved since the internment

The Archives team was able to meet and give one-on-one demonstrations on how to navigate the Landscapes of Injustice Research Database at ensoku 2024 in August in the former site of Tashme, the largest internment site. Over 100 people made the journey and participated in the first Obon ceremony and Bon Odori dancing in over 80 years. The Archives team also did public outreach in the Yukon in May and at the *Connections* conference in Toronto in December.



Brian Kobayakawa and Annie Sumi closing the show

On November 7, the *Kintsugi* interactive art installation on exhibit in the McPherson Library since August 8 came to a close with a live performance by co-creators and musicians **Annie Sumi** and **Brian Kobayakawa** followed by a fireside chat with Jordan and questions from the audience of over 130 people.

Brian and **Justin Waddell** were artists-in-residence in the fall of 2024 along with scholars-in-residence **Midori Ogasawara** and **Yukari Takai**. This residence was supported by the Department of Visual Art and Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives. In addition, many of our former artists-in-residence including those funded by CFGS and CAPI attended our 2024 Banff Symposium that brought together over 70 members of our research collective to plan, present and network over a beautiful weekend in November at the Banff Centre for the Arts. There were lively presentations, meetings and discussions related to the project. Annie, Brian and former artist in residence, **Rachel Iwaasa** performed live during the opening gala evening.

In January 2025 Project Director, **Jordan Stanger-Ross** and Nikkei National Museum's Director | Curator, **Sherri Kajiwar** attended a global Nikkei Museums Conference in Lima, Peru and presented on *Connecting Global Nikkei Communities* through the Past Wrongs, Future Choices project. It was also a great opportunity for them to learn more about the experiences of Nikkei communities in other Latin American countries during WWII.



Rachel Iwaasa at the Banff Centre

PWFC hosted an online artist presentation in September 2024 by Victoria-based photographer **Ken Mizokoshi** and **Reina Takeuchi**. Reina is a Japanese Australian artist-researcher, dance maker and curator.

Project director, **Jordan Stanger-Ross** and project manager, **Michael Abe** tag-teamed to attend and present at the multi-day, multi-themed National Association of Japanese Canadians' Northern Lights Conference as sponsors in association with CAPI in Edmonton October 4-6, 2024.

Project Co-director **Audrey Kobayashi**, **Sherri Kajiwar** and Project Manager **Michael Abe** travelled to Sao Paulo, Brazil in April to attend the opening ceremonies of the *Roots of Perseverance* museum exhibit at the Historical Museum of Japanese Immigration in Brazil that opened April 27 and ran until June 30, 2025. This is the first museum output of the Past Wrongs, Future Choices and was opened with great fanfare and garnered wonderful reviews. #



Past Wrongs
Future Choices

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Dr. Penny Bryden — Works in Progress Coordinator

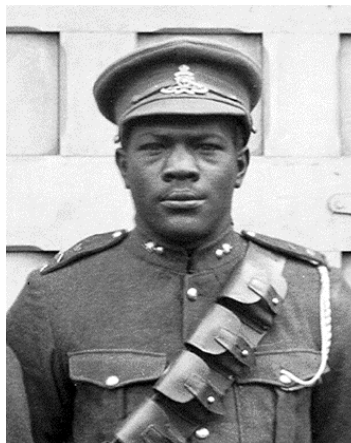
Jordan Stanger-Ross
**The Day the Canadian Historical
Association said “Genocide”**



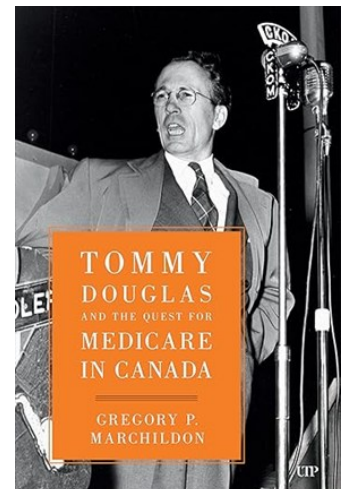
Oliver Schmidtke
**Mobilizing the Past: Competing Historical
Narratives, National Identity, and
Democracy in Germany and Poland**



Professor Saje Mathieu
Fulbright Canada Distinguished Research Chair
University of Minnesota
**Men of Steel: Rediscovering Canada’s Great
War Black Combatants**



Gregory Marchildon
**Tommy Douglas and the
Quest For Medicare in Canada**



Neilesh Bose
**Lands of Liberty, Countries of License:
Inter-Asian Consciousness and “Overseas”
Nationalism in Taraknath Das, 1884 – 1958**

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE CAFÉ HISTORIQUE SERIES

Dr. Jill Walshaw | Café Historique Coordinator

Café Historique
Russia's War on Ukraine: The First Ten Years

with Dr. Serhy Yekelchuk
Hermann's Jazz Club
Wednesday, October 2
7:00 - 9:00 pm / doors at 5:30 pm (All Ages)
In Person \$5 at the door

A full decade of warfare in the heart of Europe has transformed both Ukrainian and Russian societies, as well as the global security landscape. A longer perspective on the war offers a clearer understanding of when and how peace may be possible.



Information: clio@uvic.ca

Café Historique
**Germany's Weimar Republic:
The moral of the story is?**

with Dr. Tom Saunders
Hermann's Jazz Club
Wednesday, November 6
7:00 - 9:00 pm / doors at 5:30 pm (All Ages)

The Weimar Republic has been a popular reference point for consideration of the achievements and limits of democracy. The kinds of crises Weimar experienced, from its proclamation in 1918 to its demise in 1933, offer a case study in the conditions under which democratic politics are sustainable. The talk will revisit the question of lessons Weimar might offer to the present by considering the kinds of stories the 1920s might tell about the 2020s.



To reserve your seat, please register on Hermann's website

Café Historique
Climate Change: The Human Story

with Dr. Jason Colby
Hermann's Jazz Club
Wednesday, December 4
7:00 - 9:00 pm / doors at 5:30 pm (All Ages)

Climate change is a virtually inescapable topic in our media and politics. Yet it is invariably framed as a scientific and technical problem set in the present and moving toward the future. This talk will explore the history of humans and climate change, with particular attention to how people have understood and responded to climate change in the past. In doing so, it will provide new perspective and hope on the climate challenges currently facing us.



To reserve your seat, please register on Hermann's website

Café Historique
**The Exile of Japanese Canadians:
A Failure of Law and Citizenship**

with Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross
Hermann's Jazz Club
Wednesday, February 5
7:00 - 9:00 pm / doors at 5:30 pm (All Ages)

In September 1945, after the close of the Second World War, the Canadian government threatened over 10,000 people of Japanese descent with exile to Japan, a country that many of them had never visited. This talk explores how this attempted mass banishment came about, how Japanese Canadians fought exile, and why this story still matters today.



Information: clio@uvic.ca

Café Historique
**Growing Up in the Ice Age:
Were Children Drivers of
Human Cultural Evolution?**

with Dr. April Nowell
Hermann's Jazz Club
Wednesday, March 5
7:00 - 9:00 pm / doors at 5:30 pm (All Ages)

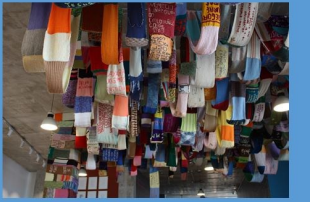
It is estimated that in prehistoric societies children comprised at least forty to sixty-five percent of the population, yet by default, our ancestral landscapes are portrayed by adults who hunt, gather, fish, know tools and make art. But these adults were also parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles who had to make space physically, emotionally, intellectually, and cognitively for the infants, children and adolescents around them. The economic, social, and political roles of Paleolithic children are often understudied because they are assumed to be unknowable or negligible. Drawing on the most recent data from the cognitive sciences and from the ethnographic, fossil, primate, and archaeological records, including new research on children in makers of Upper Paleolithic ceramics, this talk challenges these assumptions. (Pre)history matters and by rendering these "invisible" children visible, a new understanding will be gained of the contributions that children have made to the biological and cultural entities we are today.



Café Historique
The Human Rights Paradox in Historical Perspective

with Dr. Cynthia Milton
Hermann's Jazz Club
Wednesday, April 2
7:00 - 9:00 pm / doors at 5:30 pm (All Ages)
In Person \$5 at the door

Human rights are inalienable and universal yet only actualized locally and unenforceable globally. Called a "utopia" by some and an "invention" by others, this talk argues that despite human rights' irresolvable contradictions, the concept has concrete meanings in its application. From the French revolutionaries of the late 18th century to present-day justice seekers in Latin America, the history of human rights is a complex story of fragility.



Information: clio@uvic.ca

Café historique is now entering its second decade and is still going strong. This wonderful tradition of public lectures down at Hermann's Jazz Club on View Street was started by John Lutz in conjunction with his popular course, "Ten Days that Shook the World", and has embraced many different themes over the years as different coordinators have taken on the role of emcee.

In 2024-25, we launched the 10th season with a timely theme, given the prevailing sense that the Humanities need to make their relevance clear – six speakers responded to the prompt, "Why History Matters". Each discussed a key historical event or development and asked the twin questions: what is the purpose of history in making sense of the past, and can it play a role in charting a course for the future? In October, Serhy Yekelchuk brought us directly to the present-day relevance of history with his talk, "Russia's War on Ukraine: The First Ten Years." In November, Tom Saunders followed up with "Germany's Weimar Republic: The Moral of The Story is?", prompting audience members to reflect on the classic example, in the last century, of democracy threatened. In December, Jason Colby reminded those assembled at Hermann's that a historical perspective is essential for understanding the current climate crisis, in his talk, "Climate

Change: The Human Story."

In the new year, our theme continued. Jordan Stanger-Ross presented some of his research from his far-reaching Past Wrongs, Future Choices project, with a talk entitled "The Exile of Japanese Canadians: A Failure of Law and Citizenship." In March, we were treated to a talk from a colleague in Anthropology, celebrated scholar April Nowell, who took us back in time and showed us that pre-history, too, matters: her talk was entitled, "Growing Up in the Ice Age: Were Children Drivers of Human Cultural Evolution?" Finally, a recent addition to our department, Cynthia Milton, rounded out the series with her lecture "The Human Rights Paradox in Historical Perspective." Our talks this past year were regularly filled to standing room only, and the audience certainly walked away each month with a clear sense of why history matters!

Join us this fall for a new season – *What If? Counterfactuals in History*. The first talk exploring this topic will be given by Jill Walshaw on Wednesday, October 15th; thereafter, talks will take place on the first Wednesdays of the months of November and December 2025, and of February, March and April 2026. Email Alison Hogan at abh@uvic.ca for registration information or to get on our mailing list for future talks. We hope to see you there! ♣

GRADUATE AWARDS

SSHRC Awards

Tim Cunningham, Ursula Dhillon, Jamey Jespersen, Pia Russell

Presidents Research Scholarships

Tim Cunningham, Ursula Dhillon, Jamey Jespersen, Pia Russell

UVic Graduate Fellowships

Ursula Dhillon, Santiago Dominguez, Noah Easton, Adam Fairgrieve, Yixiong Fu, Laura Gillis, Rye Green, Joan Ilevbaoje, Anna Irwin, Jamey Jespersen, Andrew Johnston, Sydney Kadagies, Maria Kalmykova, Emilia Koehn, Sarah Madsen, Elena Senecal, Ethan Small, Claire Sutherland, Carlanna Thompson, Natasha Walden, Guochen Wang, Milan Zec

UVic Graduate Entrance Awards (GEA)

Jonah Burkart, Tim Cunningham, Joan Ilevbaoje

British Columbia Graduate Scholarship (BCGS)

Dyna Sanderson

David F. Strong Research Scholarship

Ursula Dhillon

Dr. Angus McClaren Scholarship in Social History of Medicine, Sexuality, Reproduction, and/or Gender

Emilia Koehn

Falkenstein Fellowships

Jonah Burkart, Yixiong Fu, Joan Ilevbaoje, Emilia Koehn, Sarah Madsen, Elena Senecal, Claire Sutherland, Conner White, Milan Zec

Francis Woods Memorial Scholarship

Dyna Sanderson

Humanities Strategic Research Grant

Jamey Jespersen

Hutchinson Graduate Scholarship

Adam Fairgrieve, Wenjuan Lu

Indigenous Scholarship

Dyna Sanderson

Leon J. Ladner British Columbia Historical Scholarship

Conner White

Lieutenant-General S.F. Clark Cd Scholarships

Andrew Johnston

Otto and Joan Bekius Scholarship

Andrew Johnston

Robert W. Ford Graduate Scholarship

Joan Ilevbaoje

Sam & June Macey Graduate Scholarship in English or History

Ethan Small

St. Andrew's & Caledonian Society Endowment in Scottish Studies

Adam Fairgrieve, Theresa Mackay

Stephen and Harriet Wender Scholarship

Natasha Walden

The 1990 Learned Societies Scholarship

Jonah Burkart

Victoria Historical Society Scholarship

Claire Sutherland

Winnifred E. Lonsdale Scholarship

Laura Gillis

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Beth Boyce (Class of 2008)

Beth Boyce graduated with distinction from the University of Victoria in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts in History, and a minor in Medieval Studies. She then attended courses in Organic Chemistry and Fine Arts at Camosun College, while volunteering at the Royal BC Museum (and also completing a textile conservation workshop in Lima, Peru). She graduated with a MA in Art Conservation from Queen's University, Artifact Treatment Stream, in 2012, focusing her research on the treatment of waterlogged archaeological cedar bark basketry.

Beth worked as Curator at the Museum at Campbell River for the following 11 years. During that time, she also took on conservation contracts with the U'mista Cultural Centre in Alert Bay and guided historic boat tours through the Discovery Islands and coastal inlets, sharing the stories of the peoples who have called those remote areas home. Her exhibit *Standing in the Gap*, in collaboration with artist and hereditary Chief Cecil Dawson, won the BC Museums Association Award of Merit for Social Impact in 2022. This exhibit explored the painful impact of colonization through the experiences of one family, and one artist, Kwakwaka'wakw artist and Hereditary Chief G̓ixkastallasame-gi, or Cecil Dawson. His contemporary artworks interpret this hurtful history, and its continuing impact upon our society today, as well as the roles that museums have played in colonization.

In early 2024 she took on the role of Conservation Manager at the Royal BC Museum; she also volunteers for the Canadian Association for Conservation's Reconciliation Working Group, and the BC Heritage Emergency Response Network. ☸



JCURA

Congratulations 2025 JCURA Winners!



Patrick Behie

Supervisor: Dr. Kristin Semmens

["Stunned, Bewildered, and Groggy with Disbelief": The German and Soviet Reactions to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact](#)



Julianne Hofstede

Supervisor: Dr. Kristin Semmens

[Textual Catalysts: The Formation of Queer Identity and Community through Literature in 1918-1932 Germany and Britain](#)



Alicia Singh

Supervisors: Dr. Martin Bunton and Dr. Simon Devereaux

["How much I have loved that part of the world": Agatha Christie and her mysteries in the Middle East](#)

HONOURS PROGRAM

Dr. Jill Walshaw, Honours Advisor

The 2024-25 year saw a strong cohort of incoming Honours students, with 14 sharp, perceptive minds debating the finer points of epistemology in the Honours seminar. This was my first year teaching the seminar, and I found great joy in working with such bright young people. We explored topics together, we were not afraid to challenge things that didn't make sense and to challenge ourselves to read from different vantage points, and we all felt a tremendous achievement at the end of the course.

Additionally, in April, 8 students completed their Honours program requirements with the successful defense of their theses. Supervisors and examiners were treated to an extraordinary range of research. Individual theses explored the question of agency in a 17th-century French witchcraft trial, the place of role-playing games like Dungeons and Dragons in identity formation in the late 1980s, and economic and political change in BC's Elk River Valley. The media was a topic of great interest this year: the Nootka Crisis (1789) off the coast of Vancouver Island was examined using contemporary British newspapers; a second student looked at attitudes to the international press by both sides in the Spanish Civil War; and a third student used literature, pamphlets and propaganda to argue for the existence of a transnational queer identity in early 20th-century Britain and Germany. Finally, three students revisited the interwar years and the Second



Honours class enjoying the Grad House lounge

World War with new questions, examining American nationalism and isolationism surrounding the Treaty of Versailles, the evolution of a conscription crisis in Canada after 1939, and the differing perceptions, among Germans and Soviets, of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. We are extremely proud of our honours students: their hard work and innovative ideas make the program what it is! #

GRAD PROGRAM

Dr. Christine O'Bonsawin, Graduate Advisor

In September 2024, the Department of History welcomed 16 new graduate students to the program, including one PhD and 15 Master's students. To mark the occasion, in late September, History faculty member **Loren McClenachan** graciously hosted a welcome gathering at her home, bringing together faculty, staff, instructors, and current and new graduate students.

In February 2025, four UVic History graduate students presented their research at the **Shifting Tides Conference**, held at The Nest on UBC's Vancouver campus from February 1-2. Shifting Tides is an interdisciplinary forum where graduate and senior undergraduate students in history and related fields present their research to colleagues from other institutions.

This past February, first-year UVic MA students, **Joan Ilevbaoje** and **Santiago Dominguez** shared early-stage thesis-related research. Joan presented "*Exploring the Socioeconomic Impact of Idanre Hills on Sustainable Tourism in Western Nigeria*," and Santiago's presentation was titled, "*From Slaves to Liberators: The Role that Free and Enslaved, Black Soldiers and Leadership Played in Colombian Independence*." Additionally, second-year UVic History MA students **Alyssa Talley** and **Ursula Dhillon** presented research that emerged from their Master's work. Alyssa presented a paper titled "*Perpetrators and Their History*" and Ursula presented on "*Cartography, Colonialism, and Kelp: Navigating the Intersections of History and Ecology*." The 2025 conference marked the first time that Shifting Tides was hosted off Vancouver Island, and in a shared organizing relationship between the UVic, UBC, SFU, and UNBC History departments. #



Alyssa Talley



Ursula Dhillon



Santiago Domingo



Joan Ilevbaoje

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Alexander and Helen Stafford MacCarthy Muir Scholarship

Sofia Spiteri

Alexander & Phyllis MacLeod Baird Memorial Prize in Scottish History

Jude Lovell

Allan and Elizabeth McKinnon Scholarship

Sophie Marra

Barry Gough Scholarship in History

Jared Mavretic, Finlay Pike, Eric Springgay-Daubeny

Canadian History Scholarship

Jared Mavretic

Charlotte S.M. Girard Book Prize in French History

Zoe Garson

Churchill Foundation Vancouver Island's Shirley Burstall Scholarship

Kym Aerts, Rebecca Meitz, Alexander Steinitz

Doreen and John Windsor Scholarship

Keely Collins

Dr. Shawn Cafferky Scholarship in Military History

Coco Cunningham, Finlay Pike, Austin Follestad

Dr. Toby Jackman Book Prize in British History

Andrea Johnson

Frank Sylvester Scholarship

Alice Eckert, Jakob Svorkdal

Gregory Blue Scholarship in Global History

Zoe Garson, Hallie Seeklus, Henry Watt-Walter

Grotius Award in Modern History

Kieran Poirier

Harper Scholarship in History

Zoe Garson, Eric Springgay-Daubeny, Adriana Wilson

Hendrickson Prize in B.C. History

Alice Eckert

Hutchinson Bekius Scholarship in History

Alexander Steinitz

Inspiring Historians Legacy Scholarship

Patrick Behie

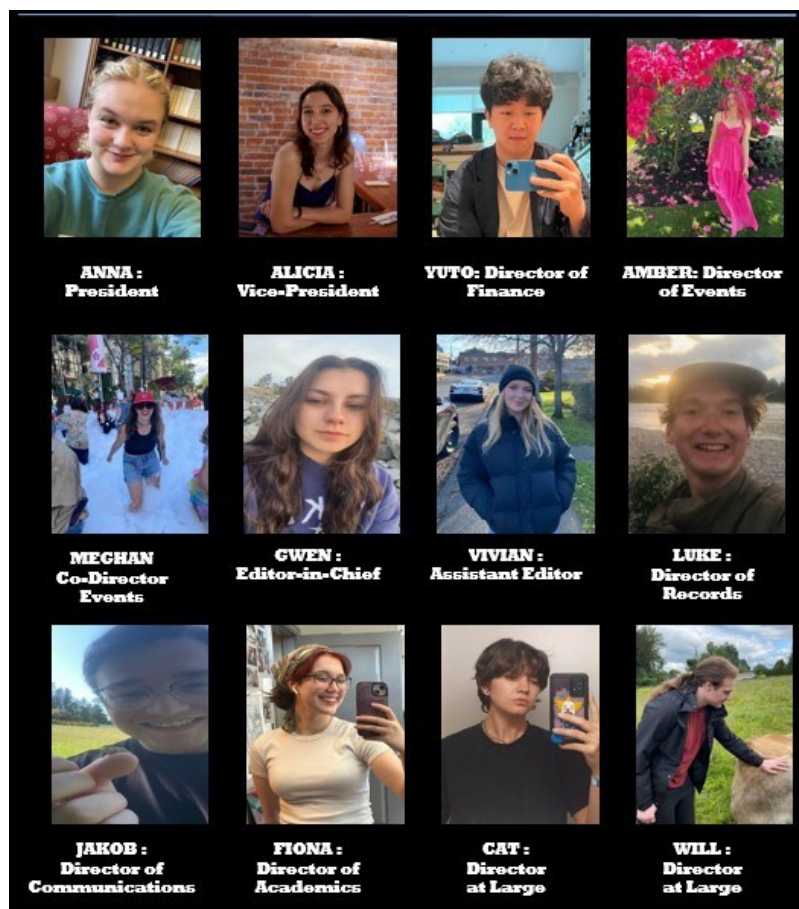
J. Walter Grant Book Prize in British Columbia History

Alice Eckert

John Gough Scholarship for Studies in the History of the Environment

Alice Eckert, Amber Fill

HUB



The 2024-2025 academic year was an amazing one for the History Undergraduate Body. We had some returning members, but also had many new faces join our executive this year. In the past year we hosted a festive Mardi Gras party, and two of our popular HUB crawls.

Throughout the year we also got the chance to collaborate with other Humanities course unions, and hosted a trivia night with the English, Greek and Roman Studies and Medieval Studies Course Unions, as well as a Hot Chocolate Social with the MSCU. Our peer-tutoring also had an exceptionally successful year, and our annual journal is hot off the press.

Our year-end celebration gave us the chance to commemorate a great year, and give recognition to those who made it possible through our "Most Valuable Professor Award". This year, we awarded four outstanding professors; **Kristin Semmens, David Dolff, Serhy Ykelchyk and Sara Beam** for their amazing contributions to the university and their students.

The HUB executive would like to thank those who make our activities possible every year. We thank the History department professors for all the support they give to their students, and for teaching the classes that we're excited to take each year. We'd also like to thank the department administrative staff, Consuela, Alison and Heather, who help the department run everyday. Last, we'd like to thank all the students for whom we host all our events, and support the union with their love of history. We can't wait for the upcoming year. #

GHSU

Ursula Dhillon

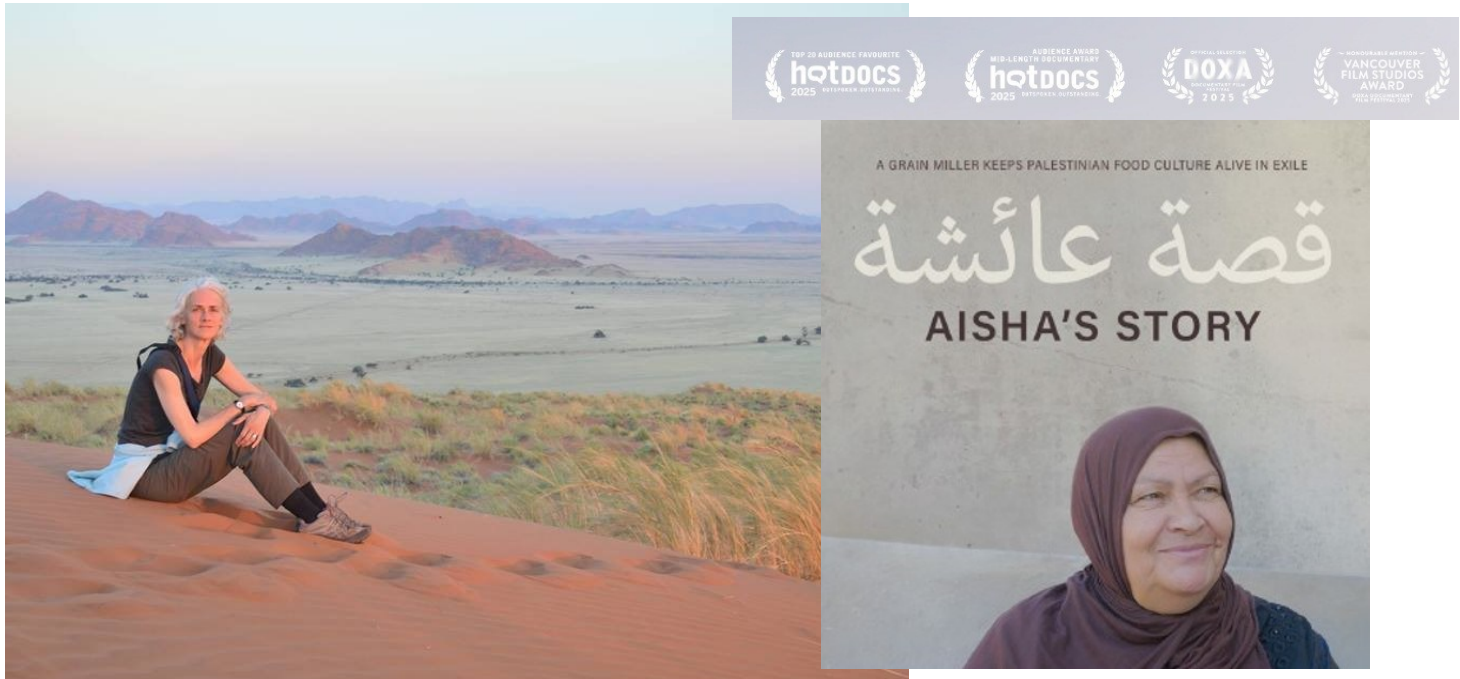
The 2024-2025 school year was a renaissance for the Graduate History Students' Union. After a few years of inactivity, we were able to rebuild a community of engaged and passionate graduate history students. Weekly meetings helped to forge bonds between students as they progressed through their coursework and developed their theses. With the support of the GSS, we enjoyed events such as karaoke, a murder mystery dinner party, and laser tag. Thank you so much to all who participated!

It is my honour to pass on the torch to this year's committee. I have full faith that they will make this next year an incredible success for the GHSU. #



ELIZABETH VIBERT RETIREMENT

Lynne Marks



In the dim and distant past (1992 to be exact), I was hired in the UVic History department to teach Canadian history and gender history. I was thrilled to have been offered the position, and appreciated being welcomed by my colleagues. At the same time, the fact that women, particularly younger women, were very rare in the department at the time was sometimes challenging. I was therefore very pleased when the following year the department hired **Elizabeth Vibert**, fresh out of Oxford, to teach Indigenous and Canadian history. We have been friends ever since. I have always admired Elizabeth, as a brilliant scholar, exceptionally fine writer, and a wonderful, rigorous, kind and generous teacher. I have also always appreciated her passion for social change. While her passion has made a difference on broader stages, as I will discuss here, I also very much appreciate having been able to work together with Elizabeth over the years to gently nudge the department forward on certain fronts. Yes, we plotted together!

Elizabeth was hired as a historian of Indigenous and Canadian history, and published a major award-winning book in this area – *Traders' Tales: Narratives of Cultural Encounters in the Columbia Plateau, 1807-1846*, (University of Oklahoma Press, 1997 and 2000) — as well as the highly respected anthology, *Reading Beyond Words: Contexts for Native History* (University of Toronto Press, 1996 and 2003) with **Jennifer Brown**. Unlike many of us, Elizabeth has also demonstrated an impressive capacity to broaden her research and teaching areas, so that in recent years she has taught not only Canadian history, but also World History and African history. Her research has similarly shifted and broadened, to include major works on South African history, as well as work on Indigenous histories of Israel-Palestine and Colombia. While Elizabeth has written impressive scholarly books and articles, she has also moved beyond the comfort zone of most historians by making two internationally acclaimed documentary films, with more coming.

The broadening of Elizabeth's scope, both in subject matter and methodology, reflects an ongoing consistency in her scholarly interests and her imperative to make historical work accessible to broader audiences. Food, particularly its social construction and gendered and

material roles in colonial and (post)colonial contexts, has been a central concern of her research since her doctoral studies. *Traders' Tales* analyzed British explorers' and traders' narratives about the Indigenous societies of the Columbia Plateau in the Pacific Northwest. Central chapters examined racialized narratives about what the British labelled "fishing" and "hunting" societies, in this way exploring how the British understood Indigenous food cultures. In this book and more recent work, Elizabeth has explored how food was a key locus of representation of "otherness" in colonial encounters, in ways profoundly shaped by gender, race, class, and other axes — and in ways that had major implications for Indigenous land dispossession.

As Elizabeth moved her scholarly focus towards Southern Africa, she remained focused on food issues — both food security and the cultural importance of different foodways. Her move towards South Africa drew on earlier interests. Her doctoral supervisor was an historian of Southern Africa and *Traders' Tales* drew on histories from that region to help illuminate the mental worlds of British imperial travellers in the Pacific Northwest. During a sabbatical in South Africa in 2011, she worked with women farmers in Limpopo Province, directing her research focus to rural women's lived experiences of poverty. The collaborative oral history and participatory research project she co-created with the twenty-seven women farmers of Hleketani Garden convinced her that threats to local and global food systems, wider ecosystems, and livelihoods arising from climate crisis and ongoing colonial relations are a foremost challenge of this century. Elizabeth has made major contributions by providing a crucial historical perspective, which is often missing from analyses of such challenges.

It was the women of Hleketani Garden who convinced Elizabeth to disseminate their community-engaged research through film. With no prior experience in filmmaking, she set about making this happen. Elizabeth joined with Indigenous film director **Christine Welsh**, and wrote and co-produced the internationally acclaimed documentary *The Thinking Garden* (2017). The film was competitively selected for festivals on four continents, had community screenings all over the world, and

Continued on page 26

MOST VALUABLE PROFESSOR AWARD CONGRATULATIONS!



Most Valuable Professor Awards 2025:

This year, we had two winners:
David Dolff + Kristin Semmens

In addition, we celebrated two runners up:
Sara Beam + Serhy Yekelchyk



Alade (1) Beam (4) Burton (2) Cleves (3) Colby (6) Cook (7) de Alba-Koch (5) Devereaux (13) Marks (10) McClenachan (9) Milton (11) Semmens (12) Sitara (16) Stanger-Ross (8) Vibert (14) Walshaw (15)

FACULTY YEAR IN REVIEW



Sara Beam

Sara Beam

It was a pleasure to return to full-time teaching this past year. I worked with a wonderful group of undergraduate and graduate students in my Torture and Execution in the Renaissance seminar in particular. I was also fortunate to be able to attend a conference of sixteenth-century specialists in Toronto last October where I presented research from an almost completed monograph on the practice of torture in early modern Europe. Gruesome but fascinating! #

Neilesh Bose

During the 2024-25 academic year, I finally oversaw the completion and final submission of my book, *Chips from a Calcutta Workshop: Comparative Religion in Nineteenth Century India*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2025. I continued work on a variety of research projects, including my monograph on the life and times of Taraknath Das (1884 – 1958), an anticolonial nationalist who devoted much of his life to Indian independence movements while based in the United States of America. I completed a final leg of research in Ann Arbor, MI, with plans to submit a full manuscript by the end of summer 2025. I delivered lectures on this topic, especially in relation to overseas nationalism in colonial India, at University of Victoria in March 2025 and the University of California Santa Barbara in April 2025. I also delivered the 2025 Kedia-Tayur Distinguished Lecture in South Asian American History as part of the South Asian



Neilesh Bose

American Digital Archive's programming, in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University in May of 2025. I also delivered a lecture for the UVIC Continuing Studies program titled "Punjab in the World: Histories, Migrations, and Politics" in April 2025.

Regarding teaching, I served as a visiting professor at BITS-Pilani in Goa, India, for 2 months in the Fall 2024 semester. I also served on a panel titled "Religion and the Secular in South Asia: Perspectives from the Humanities" in Colombo, Sri Lanka, sponsored by the American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies, in October of 2024.

My programming efforts with the Global South Colloquium continued with two events in 2024-25. One was the second iteration of the Indian Ocean Perspectives workshop, held in late November 2024. This event featured participants from Leiden, Queen's University Canada, George Mason University, Victoria University Wellington New Zealand, the University of Hawaii-Manoa, the University of Chicago, as well as several respondents from the University of Victoria. The third and final iteration is scheduled for late 2025. Second, I organized a lecture series titled "Punjab in the World: Histories, Migrations, and Politics," coinciding with my seminar course HSTR 460/519A of the same title. Speakers from the University of Winnipeg, University of the Fraser Valley, Western Washington University, and the University of California Santa Barbara participated in the series. #



Penny Bryden

Penny Bryden

Over the past year, Penny Bryden has continued to shape the conversation around Canadian political history through her in-depth work on a forthcoming book examining the country's most consequential political scandals. Her research has brought new insights into the dynamics of power, accountability, and public trust, with several completed chapter drafts already generating interest in academic and public circles.

Looking ahead to the remainder of 2025, Penny is expanding her focus to include a digital companion project that will make key archival materials and commentary accessible to a broader audience. She is also preparing a series of public talks and academic presentations to share her findings and engage with scholars, students, and the public on the evolving legacy of political scandal in Canada.*

(*written by AI. In reality, I taught some super-interesting courses on scandal and Canadian-American relations in the age of Trump 2.0, and on Canada's past using graphic histories. I worked on a lot of projects, published a few articles, but didn't shape very many conversations). #

FACULTY YEAR IN REVIEW



Martin Bunton



Zhongping Chen



Rachel Cleves



Jason Colby

Martin Bunton

This past year, I was pleased to see the publication of *The End of the Ottoman Empire and the Forging of the Modern Middle East: A Short History with Documents* (co-authored with **Andrew Wender**) as well as the 7th edition of *History of the Modern Middle East* (co-authored with the late **William Cleveland**). I enjoyed lecturing in several colleagues' classes and giving multiple community talks, including an invited "teach-in" presentation at Indiana University, Bloomington. Helping facilitate the series of "Can We Talk?" discussions, organized by CSRS and CFGS, was a particular highlight.

I also began a term on the American Historical Association's program committee, meeting in Washington, and served on several UVic committees (History ARPT, History Pedagogy, CFGS Program, CFGS Director Search, Art History ARPT). It was especially rewarding to support a MITACS scholar from Oman, a JCURA project, and several graduate students, one of whom graduated in the fall. On a personal note, the highpoint of the year was my daughter's summer wedding. ☺

Zhongping Chen

At the end of 2024 and beginning of 2025, I successively published two books, a self-translation of my work released by Stanford University Press in 2023: *Kua-Taipingyang de Huaren gailiang yu geming, 1898-1918* [Transpacific Reform and Revolution: The Chinese in North America, 1898-1918] (Shanghai: Dongfang chubun zhongxin, 2024), and a co-authored volume, *A Chinese Reformer in Exile: Kang Youwei and the Chinese Empire Reform Association in North America, 1899-1911* (Leiden: Brill Press, 2025). Between October 2024 and January 2025, I delivered three invited speeches and presented two conference papers (either online or in person)

to audiences in Sidney, Vancouver (three times), and Hangzhou in China. In late October 2024, I was honoured to give online keynote speeches at two conferences: one on urban history in Shanghai, and another on social history in Hangzhou. In June 2025, I received a notice from Stanford University Press that it has accepted my new book manuscript, "The Transpacific Chinese Diaspora: Migration Networks from China to Canada and Beyond, 1788-1898," for publication in mid-2026. ☺

Rachel Cleves

After a decade of research and writing, my book *Lustful Appetites: An Intimate History of Good Food and Wicked Sex* was published this year by Polity Press. The best part of the experience has been speaking with readers and audiences at book store events and public talks in Victoria, Seattle, Portland, and Dublin. The book was positively reviewed in the Times Literary Supplement, the Irish Times, the Irish Independent, the Wall Street Journal and it received a shout-out in the Paris Review. Hurrah! On the teaching front, in fall 2024 I had a sabbatical, which gave me the opportunity to wrap up the research on my next book project, the true story of an American courtesan in nineteenth-century Russia who got into deep trouble with the secret police. In the spring I taught a session of my role-playing course, which led to the interesting experience of re-enacting Watergate while similar debates were roiling Washington. I also taught a course on Sex and Power in American History which gave me much to think about. And last but not least, I continued to supervise several wonderful graduate students through the MA and PhD programs. ☺

Jason Colby

I had an exciting past year, with regard to both research and teaching. I gave presentations on my Devilfish project in Oulu, Finland, and Merida, Mexico, as well as a number of interviews both on my research and on political events in the United States. I was a co-applicant on the successful NFRF Solid Carbon application, led by Kate Moran at Ocean Networks Canada — a project exploring a process of carbon sequestration and storage to halt and reverse anthropogenic climate change. In May 2025, I had the chance to give a public presentation and conduct research in Norway, including a trip to Bodø—my first trip north of the Arctic Circle. In early June 2025, I completed research in Seattle and started talks with the University of Washington Press for a contract on my gray whale book. (I'm pretty excited to publish with my hometown press.) I also had a terrific time teaching. In the fall, I offered a seminar on *Humans and Climate History* for the first time and benefitted from a wonderful group of students. I also taught HSTR 201: *Intro to Historical Research* in tandem with Jordan, which was a terrific experience. I'm thrilled that Kristin has agreed to take the baton and run with it this coming year. She and Jordan will be superb together. ☺

Beatriz de Alba-Koch

In the fall term of 2024, the Universidad de León again invited me to speak on the picaresque. My lecture addressed John Pocock's concept of the "Machiavellian moment" in the context of Mexico's struggle for independence. I analyzed José Joaquín Fernández de Lizardi's novel of 1819, *Don Catrín de la Fachenda*, focusing on his "Decalogue by Machiavelli" as a strategy to voice anticlericalism and advocate for freedom

FACULTY YEAR IN REVIEW



Beatriz de Alba-Koch

of speech. Lizardi suffered incarceration and excommunication because of his views.

I was excited to teach a new course in the spring term of 2025, “Nation, Ethnicity, and Identity in Latin America” (HSTR 476A /LAS 476). This interdisciplinary capstone seminar for the Program in Latin American Studies also served upper-level History students. Graduate students from History and Anthropology enriched our discussions that covered a variety of primary texts and theoretical perspectives on nation-building centering on ethnicity. That term I was also a guest lecturer for Adebisi Alade’s course “History, Power, and Justice” (HSTR 100); I spoke on Portuguese colonialism in Brazil.

The Program in Latin American Studies is marking its fifteenth year in 2025. As founding director of LAS, I was interviewed in February by Montréal-based journalist Paloma Martínez for Radio Canadá Internacional (<https://shorturl.at/7hXS7>). Paloma visited the university and also interviewed my students in “Voices of Diversity and Dissent in Latin America” (HSTR 276 / LAS 200).

I was invited to contribute to the forthcoming festschrift in honour of Rolena Adorno, my supervisor at Princeton. My chapter presents the military exploits and religious patronage of a captain general who was a key player in the Spanish conquest of what is now northern México, Juan Bautista Valerio de la Cruz. Our evidence concerning the career of this Nahua noble (1517-89) is found mainly in the *Codice de Jilotepec* and a few printed sources. I counterpoint these documents with my study of the extant atrium and roadside crosses he sponsored for the town

and church of Jilotepec. This contribution is an expanded version in Spanish of a chapter for my project “Crosses of Conversion and Resistance in Early Modern Iberian Global Culture,” under contract with University of Toronto Press.

Completing field work and drafting of the first volume, “The Hispanic World,” has occupied most of the summer of 2024 as well as that of 2025. #

Simon Devereaux

This was a year of “rounding off” things. I taught my execution seminar for the last time in autumn 2024, then spent a long time trying to figure out a topic to replace it – and an even longer time surfing the online bibliographies to whittle down a reading list! Also, in May 2025, I at last finished (i.e., compiled the index for) my forthcoming edition of the diaries of Horace Cotton, the prison chaplain of Newgate in 1823-38, which will be jointly published next year by the London Record Society and the Church of England Records Society. The publishers are hoping to launch it with a reception at the Old Bailey in September 2026. If this happens, it will be the first visit of a Devereaux boy to that court since my grandfather was convicted of smuggling in 1954 and sent to Wormwood Scrubs for five years. I hope my visit has a better ending. Stay tuned! The best times this past year (and a bit) were to be had on three research trips to the UK with McKenzie, during which – in addition to the usual happy sojourns in the British Library and the National Archives – we visited university libraries at Oxford, Cambridge and Nottingham, and local record offices in Derbyshire,



Simon Devereaux

Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, and Plymouth. We had to make two separate trips this past summer because McKenzie and I recklessly got ourselves signed up for conferences scheduled seven weeks apart: she presented at the scandal and corruption in early modern Europe meeting at the Institute of Historical Research, I one at University College London concerning Jeremy Bentham and the Panopticon. The latter ended with a visit to Bentham’s “auto-
-icon” – what a weirdo! #

John Lutz

Smallpox was officially declared eliminated from human populations in 1980 by the World Health Assembly, the only infectious disease ever to be defeated. It was a long, desperate battle; in the 20th Century alone 300 million people died of the disease. In the 18th and 19th Centuries it wreaked particular havoc among Indigenous people who were exposed to it the first time. Understanding the waves of smallpox, how they affected which Indigenous peoples in the Pacific Northwest and how those people responded to the devastation caused by mortality rates that exceeded 50% has been my preoccupation this year. The research turns up tragic and horrific details and the scale of the project covers a vast period in an era where we have very few records, so there are many challenges. With my colleague **Keith Carlson** at the University of the Fraser Valley and Indigenous partners, we are three years into a five-year research program tackling these issues, and this year I have been supervising research assistants, researching and presenting our results to academic and popular audiences. This spring alone I gave

FACULTY YEAR IN REVIEW



John Lutz

four different presentations on the topic to audiences in Victoria, Vancouver and Toronto.

Supporting the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations in their litigation, treaty and specific claims work has resulted in two major reports this year and affirms what we already know: that history is important and historical research skills valuable.

While research is rewarding, the most fun part of my job is teaching. This year the graduate public history course did projects with the Royal BC Museum and several of them are now available to the public. I had a keen group of students in my Northwest History course that carried over into the BC History course that energized me every week. I learned along side **John Thomson** and **Milan Zec** in directed studies courses and it was great to witness the graduation of **Jesse Robertson** with his Ph.D, and **Natasha Walden** with her MA.

In sum, it has been another year which confirms my belief that I am very lucky to have this job! ♪

Cynthia Milton

Looking back on the past year, I am struck by the staccato-legato rhythm of time: sudden and flowing moments. One project, which took years from first thought to published page, one day appeared in my mailbox: *How the Military Remembers: Human Rights and Countermemories in Latin America* (Human Rights Series, University of Wisconsin Press, 2025). This co-edited volume, along with this year's Spanish translation, *Contramemorias: las intervenciones militares culturales en la era de los derechos humanos* (Lima: Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, 2024) are part of a deep reflection into how militaries in Latin



Cynthia Milton

America use the concepts and strategies of pro-human rights groups to refashion themselves in present-day democracies.

They do so through the successful presentation in public spaces of countermemories (memories that go against victims, the truth, and are often counterintuitive). Worryingly, such efforts to distort the past for present gain have picked up pace in many parts of the world.

I have also been slowly working on a lengthy report for government, which has been an interesting learning curve on how to write history for a different kind of audience and ends. I continue to learn from collaboration: interdisciplinary writing (for instance, on inequality), research summits (the RSC's on **Indigenous Engagement**), and conferences (the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation's on Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms), and, as always, from meaningful conversations with students and colleagues, a constant beat throughout the year. ♪

Lynne Marks

In August of 2024 I presented a paper on the political strategies of activist South Asian and Jewish women in 1970s and 1980s Canada at the International Federation of Research on Women's History conference in Tokyo, Japan. In the fall and spring of 2024-25 I focused much of my time, as UVic FA's President and Chief Negotiator, on working with the FA's staff and Negotiating Team in preparing for and beginning the 2025 bargaining round between the UVic Faculty Association and the University of Victoria. Formal bargaining began in April. I have worked with my wonderful colleague **Christine O'Bonsawin** during two rounds of bargaining. Over the



Lynne Marks

last two years we combined our academic and union work in writing up some of our bargaining experiences in "*Bargaining for a Transformative Vision of Decolonial Indigenization: The Critical Role of University Faculty Associations*," forthcoming in a special issue on equity and academic unions in the *CAUT Journal*.

In August of 2024 **Kristina Celli** completed her valuable major research paper on "*Child Welfare Initiatives in Stó:lō Téméxw, 1980-1997*." I very much enjoyed working as co-supervisor on Kristina's project with Christine O'Bonsawin. In December of 2024 another MA student, **Olivia Bachmann**, completed an insightful major research paper on women's experience of childbirth in late 19th and early 20th century British Columbia. I was pleased to co-supervise Olivia's work with Whitney Wood of VIU. Over the 2024-25 academic year I expanded my horizons by supervising **Nick Czerwonka's** Honours paper on the relationship between Christianity and Dungeons and Dragons gaming culture in 1980s Alberta. In May **Annalee Lepp** and I (as co-supervisors) were pleased and proud to witness **Wenjuan Lu** successfully defend her important and original doctoral dissertation, "*Reasoning Canada's Rights in Immigration Matters, 1867-1977: The Conceptual Labour of State Sovereignty*." In April I travelled to Edinburgh to present a paper on reproductive politics and activism among South Asian women in late 20th century Vancouver at the British Association of Canadian Studies conference. In June I presented a paper in Toronto at the Canadian Political Science Association on immigrant women's activism. ♪

FACULTY YEAR IN REVIEW



Loren McClenachan



Christine O'Bonsawin
Kelly Colby



Oliver Schmidtke



Kristin Semmens

Loren McClenachan

This year saw the completion of a few projects I started since arriving at UVic, including work that explored the climate history of Pacific cod in Alaska, the ecological legacy of Indigenous dispossession in BC's clam fisheries, and a systematic review of biases in historical marine ecology research. I was happy to have some of this work published this summer in a special issue of the journal *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*. Looking forward, two of my graduate students are scheduled to defend their Master's theses in September, and along with **Jason Colby** and **Iain McKechnie** (Anthropology), we will be hosting the 11th *Oceans Past* conference at UVic in June. It will be a gathering of environmental historians, marine ecologists, and others, and we welcome all to attend! ☎

Christine O'Bonsawin

Beyond having the honour of working with our exceptional graduate students in my role as graduate advisor, I am especially proud to have supervised two wonderful MA students, **Kristina Celli** (co-supervised with Lynne Marks) and **Kristen Fontaine**, who completed their Master's degrees in 2024. Congratulations!

Other highlights include presenting at the 2024 Global Sport University Network Summit in Eugene, Oregon, where I met leading international sport studies scholars and toured the impressive University of Oregon sports facilities.

I also had a productive year with multiple publications, including a chapter in *Winters of Discontent: The Winter Olympics and Half a Century of Protest and Resistance in/through Sport* and a chapter contribution to *Sport Through the Lens: Essays on 25 Iconic*

Photographs, which won the 2025 *Best Edited Collection* award from the North American Society for Sport History. Additionally, the Indigenous Hockey Research Network secured funding through our SSHRC Partnership Grant (Stage 2) application.

I look forward to collaborating with this inspiring group of scholars and community members from across the country in the years to come. ☎

Oliver Schmidtke

The 2024/25 academic year marked a period of transition and new beginnings. Following the conclusion of my transatlantic research project on memory politics, I was able to complete two special journal issues and finalize a co-authored book manuscript, scheduled for publication with Routledge in early 2026.

In parallel, we successfully wrapped up the Konrad Adenauer Foundation project on *Governing Irregular Migration and Refugees*, culminating in the publication of a comprehensive report on a complex policy challenge that continues to shape both European and American politics.

Beyond research-focused initiatives, one project stood out in my role as Director of the Centre for Global Studies (CFGs). In collaboration with the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, we hosted a three-part lunchtime series titled *Can We Talk?*—an exploration of how to foster productive conversations and meaningful debate in an increasingly polarized world. The series attracted nearly 300 participants.

Finally, an extended summer in Europe provided the opportunity to complete interviews for my SSHRC Insight Grant and to engage with a network of partners to plan future transatlantic collaboration—discussing

both the formats and funding mechanisms that will support this ongoing work. ☎

Kristin Semmens

In 2024/2025, I was more active than usual in Holocaust education. I gave talks at five different Victoria middle and high schools and served on the Holocaust Studies Graduate Committee to redesign this MA program within the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures here at UVic. I worked with Continuing Studies as the lead developer and subject matter expert for a new micro-certificate course, "Teaching the Holocaust", aimed at in-service and pre-service BC teachers, which ran between January and March 2025. Again with Continuing Studies, I helped organize and gave the keynote address ("Complicating the Perpetrators") at an in-person professional development event for local teachers.

I was honoured to have been invited to speak at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre twice this year. My first lecture, for the 12th Biennial Shafraan Teachers' Conference – Teaching the Holocaust: Multiple Perspectives and Best Practices in Holocaust Education, examined the value, challenges and dangers of using Holocaust photography in our classrooms. In the second, for a symposium aimed at secondary school students, I charted the history of the Holocaust through victims' acts of resistance.

I published one article this year ("Framing *Mein Kampf*: The Nazi Bible in International Cartoons (1925-1945)", *The Historian* 86, no. 2-3: 145-183). I enjoyed working with a new medium - cartoons - and, even more, having a research assistant, **Patrick Behie**, to help me track down complicated copyright information. ☎

FACULTY YEAR IN REVIEW



Georgia Sitara



Jordan Stanger-Ross



Jill Walshaw

Georgia Sitara

September 2024 began in a glorious way. After fifteen years of teaching seven or eight courses a year, I had my very first study leave. Usually, in late summer, my son and I need to say goodbye to my father in Greece and return to Canada for the start of the academic year. This year, I spent September reading Indigenous authors on decolonization while my 93-year-old father slept. It was powerful to do this reading in my father's ancestral home, the beloved place he left behind for decades so that I could get an education. At the heart level, the experience strengthened my understanding and commitment to the decolonization of Canada, the place where I was born and call home, and to sharing that learning with my students.

I had another dream come true when the Victoria Region's chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America invited me to give the keynote talk at their annual celebration of Austen's birthday. It was pure delight to work on love and feminism in film adaptations of Austen's work, one of my (now not-so) secret passion projects.

I am also blessed in my daily work of teaching on race, racism and colonialism. With the reading I did on sabbatical, I revamped HSTR329B (Race, Racism, and Ethnicity in Canada Since 1900) and transformed yet again GNDR332, formerly What's Race Got to Do with It? Theories of Race and Racialization, now Race, Gender and Power.

Then suddenly my beloved father passed away on December 18.

To honor him, I resumed my place at the front of the classroom in January and poured my broken heart into the work. I reinvented lectures and power points with new, cutting-

edge material and worked tirelessly to teach it. The term culminated with a display in the McPherson library of some of the best student antiracist factsheets from both courses. It took time and effort to edit and prepare undergraduate student assignments for publication and display. But mobilizing knowledge and having my students' work in the library hallway are wonderful achievements, for them and for me.

I hope my dad would be proud. #

Jordan Stanger-Ross

Challenging Exile: Japanese Canadians and the Wartime Constitution is now available for preorder! The book examines a fundamental question of Canadian constitutional law in 1945: Could citizens be expelled on the basis of race? Canadian officials thought they could and proposed exiling Japanese Canadians to Japan, a country devastated by war. Thousands who had already experienced uprooting, internment, and dispossession were now at risk of banishment. *Challenging Exile* investigates the origins, administration, litigation, and aftermath of this attempt at gross injustice and shares the stories of resilience of those who faced it. A collaboration with my friend and colleague Eric Adams, at the University of Alberta, the book is written for a crossover audience of scholars and the wider public (read: readable) and can be found online at UBC Press or (if you want a hardcover or are partial to Ontario) The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History.

I also continued to Direct the Past Wrongs, Future Choices partnership, which draws together WWII internment histories across three continents. A highlight of the past year was a gathering in Banff where artists, scholars, museum professionals, archivists, filmmakers,

classroom teachers, and leaders of community organizations gathered from across the world to discuss what we can learn today from the harmful policies of the mid-twentieth century: rather a lot, it seems.

In the classroom, I stepped into teaching HSTR 201, a required course for all majors, which aims to inspire students to understand history as a dynamic research discipline. It was a delight to meet our students at this stage, just as they embark on careers as a Majors, and to see them embrace the idea of contributing to new historical knowledge. Finally, with the support of our department among many others, I was honoured last fall to host American journalist Peter Beinart at the University of Victoria for timely, difficult, and badly needed discussion of one of the most divisive political challenges of the day, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. #

Jill Walshaw

This past year was a challenge for me with respect to teaching, as I took on the Honours seminar, History 496, for the first time. For me this course had been something of a white whale – I had been the Honours Advisor for several years, but I found the theoretical and philosophical aspects of teaching 496 somewhat daunting, and so I had been happy to allow **Tom Saunders**, who has taught it for the better part of 20 years, to continue with the course. Tom's retirement in June 2024, however, forced my hand, and the notes I had been compiling under the rubric, "thoughts for if I ever teach 496" quickly became planning notes for that fall's syllabus.

In the end, while teaching any new course is work-intensive, I found 496 to be extraordinarily rewarding. Our Honours

FACULTY YEAR IN REVIEW

program is excellent at identifying strong young scholars and pushing them to strive and reach their utmost potential. I was especially lucky with the cohort this year: the 14 students registered in 496 were perceptive, thoughtful, and hard working. Each week I came to class excited to hear what they had made of the readings – and each week I ended the class on a high, impressed at what I had heard. I want to extend my thanks to everyone who made 496 a success this year – Tom for mentoring me through the early days and entertaining questions like, “what exactly am I supposed to be understanding from Hayden White??”; my colleagues who co-taught weeks in their area of specialty, including **John Lutz**, **Adebisi Alade** and **Kristin Semmens**; and most of all, the students themselves, for their excellent dedication and hard work.

In and around my teaching, I had a good year with respect to my research. With two articles on my counterfeiting project in press and the book manuscript underway, I have been devoting some time to a side-project which surveys the Châtelet court in Paris in the last half of the 18th century and asks whether the judges showed leniency and flexibility in their rulings. In July I gave two conference papers in France – one, on the Châtelet judges, in Paris, and a second in Rennes at a festschrift celebrating the work of pioneering women’s historian **Dominique Godineau**. I look forward to continuing these projects this fall – and to teaching 496 for the second time. ☿

Andrew Wender

In the first regard, I am grateful to History Department colleague **Martin Bunton** for the opportunity to co-author our book *The End of the Ottoman Empire and the Forging of the Modern Middle East: A Short History with Documents*, which was published in 2025 by Hackett. Further publishing over this past year included a piece in the journal *Indigenous Religious Traditions*, to which I was excited to be able to contribute.

On the teaching side, Fall 2024 brought one of the most stimulating teaching experiences of my career: the chance to experiment with presenting the *History 101A (Ten Days That Shook the World)* course in a “big history”-informed mode imagining “ten days” within a cosmic historical frame extending 13.8 billion years from the big bang, through the present, and



Andrew Wender

into an unknowable future. This approach underlay a teaching workshop that I delivered at the 2025 World History Association conference in Louisville, KY. Also during Fall 2024, I was happy to return to law and religion-themed teaching with the cross-listed History/Religion, Culture and Society course on *Intersections of Law and Religion from the Ancient to Modern Worlds*. On the Political Science side of my cross-Faculty Humanities/Social Sciences appointment, I offered a Fall 2024 course that tracked along in real time with the United States presidential election in which, of course, Donald Trump returned to office by defeating Vice President Kamala Harris. The fact that the very first half hour of the Tuesday evening course directly coincided with our classroom viewing of (still at the time candidate) Trump’s debate assertions concerning the fate of cats and dogs in Springfield, Ohio let us know that we were in for quite a ride.

During Spring term 2025, study leave featured a fascinating trip to Australia, focused on “big history”-themed study benefiting from the generosity of the field’s seminal figure, **Dr. David Christian** in Sydney; and seeking out learning about the extraordinarily deep history of Australian Indigenous religious traditions, especially around Uluru (Ayers Rock). I could not have imagined how much the latter experience, in particular, has ended up enriching my thinking about diverse historical experiences surrounding law, religion, and culture. ☿



Serhy Yekelchuk

Serhy Yekelchuk

The past year marked a return to relative “normalcy.” While Putin’s brutal assault on Ukraine continues, Western media now increasingly report from Ukraine itself rather than relying on North American pundits. This shift is both normal and welcome, giving me the chance to begin addressing the backlog of long-promised articles and hastily signed book contracts. Interest in Ukraine is also bearing fruit in the form of new PhDs defended at Western universities, often with me serving as an enthusiastic external evaluator. Our second Ukraine Emergency Doctoral Fellow, **Yulia Vatsyk**, has completed her stay at UVic but remains in touch as she prepares for her defense in Ukraine. I have also been working with non-residential programs in the West, advising Ukrainian graduate students.

This year included several trips for conferences and talks—Berlin, London, Princeton, Ottawa, Montreal, Edmonton, and Seattle—and I have finally begun work on the long-overdue third edition of my book on Ukraine in OUP’s “What Everyone Needs to Know” series.

I am especially grateful to colleagues who nominated me for the Faculty of Humanities Engaged Scholar Award. ☿

Continued from page 17

was translated into Arabic, French and German. The film has informed thousands of viewers of the challenges, and triumphs, of resource-poor women farmers in the Global South. In recognition of the film's impact and Elizabeth's other community-engaged research and knowledge mobilization work, which includes a field school in South Africa, many public talks as well as the organization of a local urban food-garden tour, Elizabeth received the 2018 UVic REACH Award for Excellence in Knowledge Dissemination.

In 2019 Elizabeth received two SSHRC grants for the transnational research project *Four Stories About Food Sovereignty: Transnational Crises and Local Action* (2019-25). As Project Director Elizabeth convened and headed the interdisciplinary team of seven core and ten collaborating researchers and numerous community partner organizations from Canada, Colombia, Jordan, South Africa, and the US. This project created a network of grassroots food producer organizations, and researchers who have long worked with them, to investigate the pressing question of how vulnerable communities will feed themselves in this era of proliferating impacts of climate crisis, land and water scarcity, deepening inequalities, political instability, and global economic and political pressures. Participants represent food justice initiatives from four continents: the struggle of west coast Indigenous communities to restore and reassert food pathways under the power of private property rights and state pressures; the struggle of Palestinians in exile to assert their distinctive food relations and culture in ways that contest appropriation of their lands; the struggle of the Wayuu people of Colombia to achieve greater autonomy over food production, even as their lands are degraded by the activities of multinational mining capital; and the struggle of peasant farmers in South Africa to reinvigorate sustainable knowledge and practice in a challenging post-apartheid context. Elizabeth and her co-researchers and community partners launched the research network at a workshop in T'Sou-ke First Nation territory in fall 2019. Community partners are involved at every step, from identifying research questions and challenges, to data collection, designing community interventions and actions, and participating in knowledge dissemination and mobilization. While COVID got in the way of some of the planned initiatives, a great



Dr. Vibert with her final HSTR 500 class
Back row L/R: Adam, Maria, Jonah, Elizabeth, Sarah, Dynah
Front row: Conner, Santiago, Claire, Joan.

deal has been completed to date. Most impressive is another documentary film, *Aisha's Story*, about an older Palestinian woman who runs a grain mill in a refugee camp in Jordan, and whose life story echoes the story of Palestinian displacement and *sumud* (steadfastness). This film premiered at Hot Docs International Documentary Film Festival in May, where it received audience favourite awards, and has since screened at festivals in Vancouver, Amman, Jerusalem, and Morocco, with others to come this fall and winter.

In 2019 Elizabeth piloted the new mandatory first-year course for history Majors and Honours students, History 100. In its many iterations since then, she developed a course focused on global empires, beginning with the contemporaneous Roman and Han empires, and ending with European empires and their legacies.

Elizabeth has also supervised and mentored dozens of graduate students in history and other disciplines. Since I have been very pleased to co-supervise a number of students with her, or serve on committees of her students, I can attest to the deep interest and guidance Elizabeth provides for all her graduate students, with detailed editorial comments to improve their writing, as well as incisive comments on strengthening research and analysis. A number of Elizabeth's graduate students have gone on to hold academic positions of their own in the UK and Canada. A current doctoral student, appropriately, is working in history and film.

My only frustration with Elizabeth over the years has been her frequent inability to fully recognize her own brilliance and impressive contributions, so I hope she isn't embarrassed by this most heartfelt tribute, that can't include nearly all of her major contributions to UVic, to academic life more generally, and to the cause of social justice locally, nationally and internationally. ☸

History Department Cookie Update

Thanks so much to all of those who bought Girl Guide Cookies! All those cookie sales helped get that huge smile on **Josephine Dolf**'s face.

They are the main fundraiser for her Sparks group, and helped with the craft supplies, site fees, camp treats, and badges for the much anticipated Rally Around BC. Josephine and her Sparks unit worked hard making crafts to trade with 1,000 other girls. Her camp hat with all her "traders" is her pride and joy, and she can't wait for the next big event!

Those minty cookie treats will be coming around again in November - cash and cards accepted! ☸



Keep in touch!

Online at [@uvichistory](http://uvic.ca/history)



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