

HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

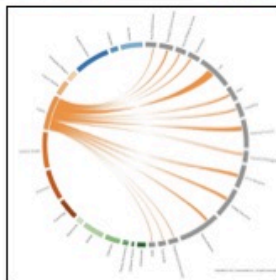
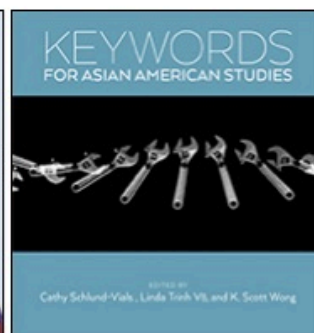
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All *History Department Newsletters* can be viewed from the Department's home website page, from where all links are active.

Do you have ideas or material for the next edition of the *Newsletter*? Please send to Professor Chris Waters (<mailto:cwaters@williams.edu>).

Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Williams College *History Department Newsletter*! The hope is for the *Newsletter* to be an informative (and even entertaining) source of information about many and sundry things historical – in the Department, at the College, and beyond.

For the launch of the *Newsletter*, we thank Professor Chris Waters, our Student Liaison, for all of his efforts as the editor of this debut issue; and Linda Saharczewski, our Administrative Assistant, for her work to bring us into the digital age. If you have any ideas or material for the next edition of the *Newsletter*, please send them to Professor Waters (cwaters@williams.edu). And now, happy reading!



Eiko Maruko Siniawer
Chair, Department of History

Upcoming Events

DEPARTMENT RECEPTION – Tuesday, April 28, 7:00-8:00 pm, Dodd House living room

History Department reception for all majors, potential majors, and students interested in History. Pizza and refreshments provided. Come and meet members of the History faculty and other History students, and learn about courses for next year.

TALK – Monday, May 4, 4:15 -5:30 pm, Griffin 6

Mapping Early American Frontiers - a presentation of a data-mining and GIS-mapping project supported by the Hellman Foundation with Professor Patrick Spero. The project had a team of Williams students scour the early American newspaper database to identify where colonists believed frontiers existed at any given point in early American history. The findings have helped reconstruct the way colonists imagined their place in the world and shown the effect the American Revolution had on perceptions of the nation.

THESIS COLLOQUIUM – Tues. May 5, 7:00-9:00 pm; Wed. May 6, 7:00-9:00 pm, Griffin Hall

Come to hear your friends discuss and defend their senior theses this year – especially valuable for juniors contemplating writing a thesis next year. The full schedule of presentations is available from this year's thesis program director, Professor Sara Dubow: sld1@williams.edu.

TALK – Thurs. May 7, 7:00-8:30 pm, Griffin 3

Talk and book signing by Professor Jonathan Schneer, Georgia Institute of Technology: "Ministers at War: Winston Churchill and His War Cabinet." Sponsored by the History Department and the Leadership Studies Program.

DEPARTMENT BBQ – Tues. May 19, 5:30-7:30 pm, Hollander Courtyard

Annual History Department Spring BBQ. All welcome!

New Chair Announced



After a distinguished three-year term as chair of the History Department, Professor Eiko Maruko Siniawer will be stepping down at the end of June. Recently awarded a prestigious fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, Professor Siniawer will devote next year to working on her current book manuscript, a study of the concepts of waste and wastefulness in post-World War II Japan.

Professor Karen Merrill, former Dean of the College, Frederick Rudolph '42 - Class of 1965 Professor of American Culture, and historian of the modern United States, with a particular focus on the American West and US environmental history, will begin her term as chair of the Department on July 1.

Changes to the Major Requirements

Earlier this year the History Department changed the group requirements for the major. Students, as before, are still required to complete one course in each of three different geographical regions of the world. However, the option now exists to complete one of those courses in the new Group G, "Global History", a series of courses that transcend customary geographical distinctions. The group requirements now include the following:

- Group A: The History of Africa
- Group B: The History of Asia
- Group C: The History of Europe and Russia
- Group D: The History of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Group E: The History of the Middle East
- Group F: The History of the United States and Canada
- Group G: Global History (NEW)*

In addition to completing at least one course in each of three of the above groups, students are still required to complete one course that focuses primarily on a pre-modern period. Pre-modern courses are now designated as "Group P" in the course catalog.

Graduate School Admissions and Graduate School Advisor

For those students thinking about possibly pursuing a graduate degree in History or related fields, the History Department is happy to announce the appointment of a Graduate School Advisor. Obviously, all members of the Department have experience of graduate school and would be happy to talk with students about their experience. But for those interested in preliminary discussions about possible options, one of the most useful things to do might be to set up a time to meet with the Graduate School Advisor, who is customarily the member of the Department who also heads the program for seniors writing theses – this year Professor Sara Dubow (sld1@williams.edu).

Several graduating seniors this year (and recent graduates) will be starting graduate programs in the Fall, including the following individuals

Matthew Conway '15	Yale University	MFA/DFA in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism
Zachary Grady '15	St. Mary's University	Sports Psychology
Charlotte Kiechel '12	Yale University	PhD in History
Aidyn Osgood '15	University of Michigan	PhD in History and Women's Studies
Alexander Pena '15	Yale University	PhD in Medieval Studies
Eilin Perez '14	University of Chicago	PhD in History (Korean History)
Catherine Treesh '15	Princeton University	PhD in History
Sungik Yang '13	Harvard University	MA in Regional Studies East Asia (Korean History)

New Courses in History for 2015-16 (Fall)

The list of courses being offered by the History Department next year – over sixty in all – is now available on-line in the course catalog. The Department is offering a number of new courses in the Fall. Descriptions can be found by clicking on the course title below:

First-Year Seminars and Tutorials:

HIST 137 – Victorian Britain and the Anglo-Afghan Wars (Waters)

<http://catalog.williams.edu/catalog.php?&strm=1161&subj=HIST&cn=137&sctn=01&crsid=020233>

Advanced Electives:

HIST 303 – A History of Islam in Africa (Mutongi)

<http://catalog.williams.edu/catalog.php?&strm=1161&subj=HIST&cn=303&sctn=01&crsid=020234>

HIST 307 – A History of an African City

<http://catalog.williams.edu/catalog.php?&strm=1161&subj=HIST&cn=307&sctn=01&crsid=020235>

HIST 370 – African American Urban History (Long)

<http://catalog.williams.edu/catalog.php?&strm=1161&subj=HIST&cn=370&sctn=01&crsid=020236>

HIST 390 – Transforming the New World and the Old: The Haitian and French Revolutions (Singham)

<http://catalog.williams.edu/catalog.php?&strm=1161&subj=HIST&cn=390&sctn=01&crsid=011392>

Advanced Seminars and Tutorials:

HIST 438 – Religion and Secularism in Modern Europe and Russia (Wagner)

<http://catalog.williams.edu/catalog.php?&strm=1161&subj=HIST&cn=438&sctn=01&crsid=019657>

HIST 483T – Freedom in Africa (Mutongi)

<http://catalog.williams.edu/catalog.php?&strm=1161&subj=HIST&cn=483&sctn=T1&crsid=011526>

The Department's Junior and Senior Advisory Groups

The Junior and Senior Advisory Groups (JAG and SAG) play a major role in the life of the Department, advising the chair and other members of the Department on such matters as the History curriculum, the structure of the major, advising within the major, and public events, both social and intellectual. In years when the Department is hiring new professors, the members of SAG and JAG participate in the hiring process, meeting with the candidates and evaluating them from the perspective of students and History majors. This year members of the advisory groups played an important role in the external review of the Department that has just been completed, meeting with the three faculty members from other institutions who came to Williams to assess the work of our Department.

Do you have ideas about the major or the Department and its undertakings? Are there things we should be doing, or should do differently? Reach out and share your ideas with members of the advisory groups, who are listed below! Better still, apply to join an advisory group. At the beginning of each academic year a call is sent out for self-nominations for new junior History majors who would like to be considered for the Junior Advisory Group. Watch this space, or contact the Department chair early in September!

Senior Advisory Group

Aseel Abulhab	Aseel.Abulhab@williams.edu
Samuel Chapin	Samuel.R.Chapin@williams.edu
Matthew Conway	Matthew.C.Conway@williams.edu
Long Dang	Long.P.Dang@williams.edu
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Junior Advisory Group

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Katherine Pollan	Katherine.L.Pollan@williams.edu

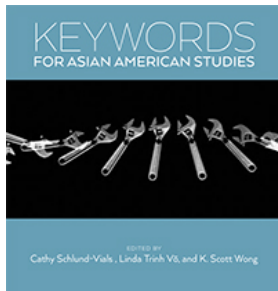
Course Trip to Vietnam

Students in Professor Jessica Chapman's HIST 465, "War and Remembrance in Vietnam," set sail in Ha Long Bay toward the end of a two-week spring break field trip to Vietnam. The trip, sponsored by the Global Initiatives Venture Fund, allowed students to study firsthand the ways the country's wars of decolonization have been memorialized, remembered, and reconciled, both officially and unofficially. For the course blog, with student reflections on various aspects of the trip, see: <http://sites.williams.edu/hist465-s15/>.



Pictured here, from left to right: Samuel Hine ('15), Professor Chapman, William Colvin, Nata Kovalova ('15), Gillian Miller-Lewis ('16), Long Dang ('15), Aseel Abulhab ('15), Laurel Jarombek ('15), Katie Westervelt ('16), Rachel Nguyen ('16), Sara Hassan ('15).

Recent Publications by Department Members

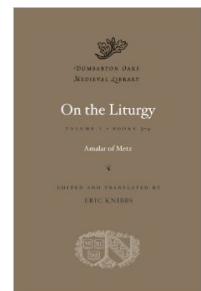


Professor Scott Wong, along with co-editors Cathy J. Schlund-Vials and Linda Trinh Vũ Trinh, has just published a new book, *Keywords for Asian American Studies*, a book that reconsiders and recalibrates the ever-shifting borders of Asian American Studies as a distinctly interdisciplinary field. For further information, see:

<http://nyupress.org/books/9781479803286/>.

Professor Eric Knibbs has just translated and edited in two volumes *On the Liturgy* by Amalar of Metz, one of the most widely read and circulated texts of the Carolingian era. For further information, see:

<http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674060012>.



Congratulations to Professors Knibbs and Wong!

Dear Clio



With this newsletter the History Department is proud to introduce a regular column, 'Dear Clio'. Clio, the Muse of History, will be happy to answer all of your questions. If you have a question you would like addressed, please send it to: dearcliothemuse@gmail.com. The answer to your questions will appear in the next edition of the *History Department Newsletter*.

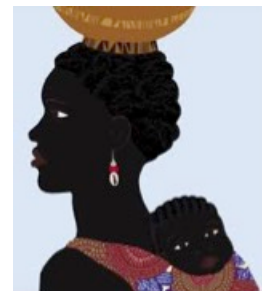
Already, in advance of going to press with this first newsletter, Clio has been busy answering your questions!

*Dear Clio,
I want to go to grad school: What should I wear?*

Sadly, I was last enrolled in a graduate program 578 years ago. As an ethereal being, I was excused from the dress code and allowed to permeate the lecture halls unclothed. For mortal students that path is perhaps less advisable. In any event, the Director of Student Life at my university was a bearded yet humorless man, and mainly concerned himself with what my classmates weren't supposed to wear. Puffed sleeves, pointed shoes, and red or green tights were all specifically prohibited, and so of course everybody wore them. (When will green tights for men make a comeback? Alas for my bygone student days.)



Director of Student Life,
University of Bologna, 1437



Also he very specifically insisted that everybody wear shoes, which are apparently important accessories for the protection of human feet. I am not entirely devoid of fashion advice, however, as in recent decades I have had the deep pleasure of holding several Visiting Museships at modern universities. There I observed a profusion of informal dress habits, many hipster tendencies, and no clear pattern of differentiation from the undergraduate population. Clio would simply advise her readers to avoid dressing like their doctoral advisers (if your doctoral adviser starts dressing like you, then you have real problems), and to steer clear of any graduate student whose attire seems to have come ready pressed out of a P.G. Wodehouse novel.

*Dear Clio,
What did the past smell like?*

Mythological sources do not attest to the olfactory capacities of the muses, and so I am not, strictly speaking, allowed to smell things. But just as it seems highly probable that the world was colorless until the 1970s, when photographs begin to witness the Color Revolution with consistency, so too does it seem likely that the world before about 1960 smelled primarily of dusty shoes, and more intensely so the further into the past one recedes. Another school of thought would posit that multifarious odors infused the past as they do the present. This is wild speculation indeed, utterly unsupported, but it can be adopted for the purposes of argument. In this view, we might imagine that much of the premodern countryside smelled like wood smoke during the winter and manure during the growing season, much as Williamstown smells today. Cities, most of them without pretensions to plumbing, would have smelled simultaneously of urine, shit and (wherever there were butchers) rotting entrails. Perhaps this is why incense and perfume were so coveted. Perhaps it is also why wealthy aristocrats of yesteryear preferred to suffuse their food with the digestive bi-product of sperm whales known as ambergris. Better that your eggs smell vaguely of the sea and wet dog than rotten pig intestines.



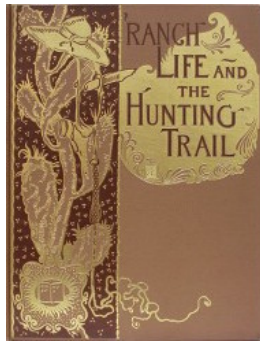
*Dear Clio,
Most of the movies made in the past are in black and white. Did they not
have color back then?*

Very likely not. See above.

In the Chapin Corner

by Karen Merrill

As a historian of the North American West, I love bringing my students to the Chapin Library to show them the remarkable historical sources about the region. Here are two of my favorites, both of which contributed significantly to the central stories that most white Anglo-/Euro-Americans told themselves about the West at the end of the nineteenth century.



Theodore Roosevelt's *Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail*, published in 1888, contributed to the myth-making around TR and also of the West. The Chapin's edition is the first edition and is in beautiful condition, featuring the illustrations of famed "cowboy" artist Frederic Remington (and the Chapin in fact has a whole collection by and about Roosevelt). Roosevelt wrote the book after he'd spent two years as a cattle rancher in North Dakota, following the death of his first wife Alice. I've long been fascinated by this book, in part because it's such a weird hybrid of a text, featuring what would become iconic stories of western characters, along with extensive musings on animals and big game hunting in the West. All of it is told, like many narratives from Eastern Americans at the time, with a tone of nostalgia, with a sense that the "frontier" had already passed, and

with no reference to the most important story on the Plains and elsewhere in the West: America's brutal wars against indigenous peoples and the massive dispossession of their land. Analyzing this book helps us to understand the power of that narrative Roosevelt told, and the profound forgetting that Americans did in the late nineteenth century as the nation created a set of stories about settling the western "frontier."



The other volume I'd like to highlight is Clarence Dutton's *Atlas* to accompany his *Tertiary History of the Grand Cañon*, published in 1882. Dutton was a geologist who worked for the U.S. Geological Survey, and this large format book with 52 plates is absolutely gorgeous. Historian Stephen Pyne has written that Dutton "recast a rocky peninsula into geo-poetry, reshaped an amorphous panorama of Time into narrative History, and transformed an American scene into a universal symbol." At the same time such panoramas - like so much of the landscape painting and emerging photography of the American West at the time - helped create the sense of the Grand Canyon as a place of pure nature, devoid of any people, despite the long and richly diverse history that indigenous peoples brought to the area. Often putting the explorers on a rocky point in the foreground, as if seeing the country for the first time, these plates give the viewer the impression that the Grand Canyon was only just then in the process of being discovered.

Both these books, then, are beautiful volumes to hold and read, but are also valuable as ways to explore how the myth-making about the West evolved.

Internships for History Majors

There are a good number of History and History-related summer internships around the nation that are available for History majors. With this column we are beginning to create a comprehensive list, adding more postings with each newsletter. Obviously it is too late to apply for most of these internships for the coming summer, but not too early to start thinking about the next summer! This list has mostly been compiled by Professor Leslie Brown and relies on constant updating from our readers! The following organizations customarily offer summer internships; most are paid and/or offer free housing. Some of these sites are umbrella groups that list internships in many different organizations.

American Association for State and Local History (listings of various jobs and internships):
<http://jobs.aaslh.org/jobs>

Civil War Trust: <http://www.idealists.org/view/internship/g2cMDJP67ccp/>

Faith and John Meem Preservation Trades Internship (Santa Fe, NM):
<http://www.historicsantafe.org/Internship.html>

HistPress.com (internship opportunities in historical preservation):
<http://histpres.com/opportunities/>

Martha's Vineyard Museum: <http://mvmuseum.org/internpositions.php>

Massachusetts Cultural Council (Hire Culture: database of various internships and jobs in MA):
<http://www.hireculture.org/findjob.aspx>

National Council on Foreign Relations:
<http://www.idealists.org/view/internship/pMsHnSJz6N2D/>

National Council on Public History: <http://ncph.org/cms/careers-training/>

National History Center: <http://nationalhistorycenter.org/resources/the-national-history-center-internship-program/>

National Park Service Internship Program: <http://www.nps.gov/tps/education/internships.htm>

National Park Service Heritage Documentation Program:
<http://www.nps.gov/hdp/jobs/HDPEmployment2015.pdf>

National Trust for Historic Preservation: <http://www.preservationnation.org/>

New England Museum Association (internship and volunteer portal):
<http://www.nemanet.org/resources/career-center/internships/>

Smithsonian Museums: <http://www.smithsonianofi.com/internship-opportunities/>

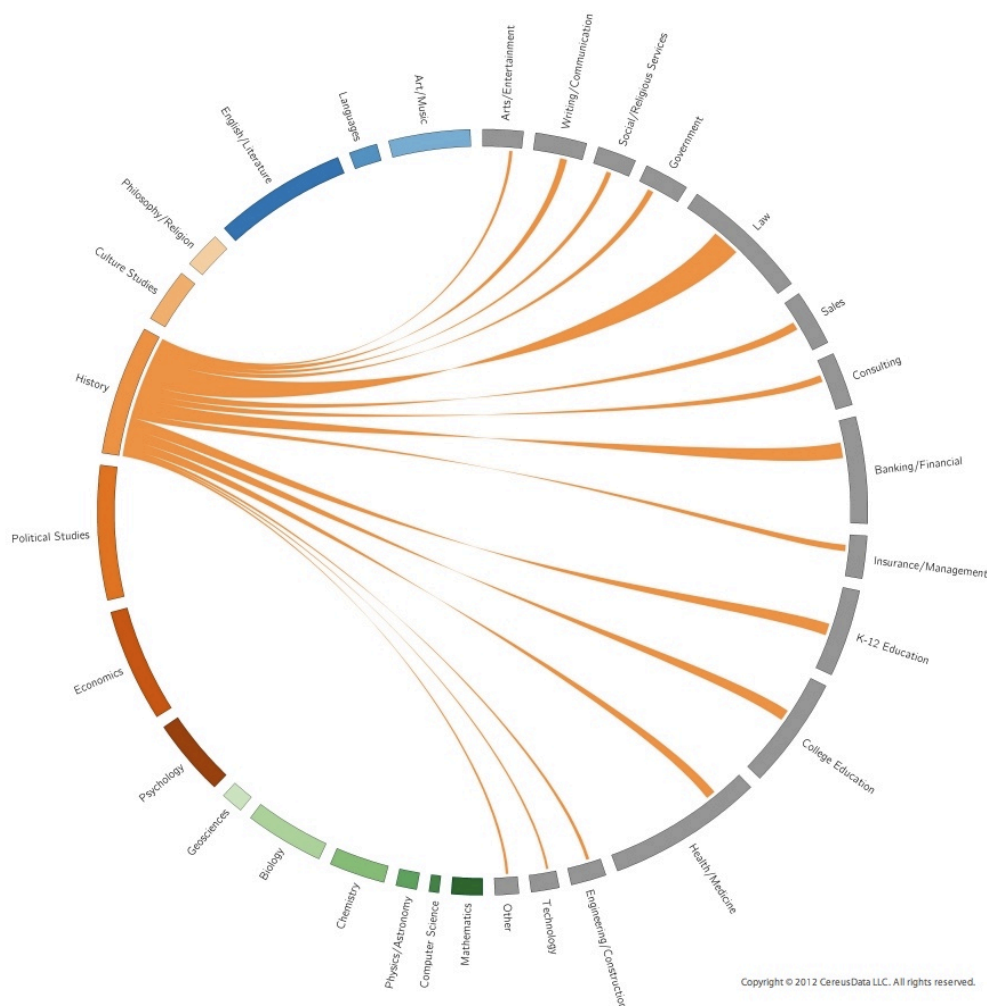
Internships are also available at many living history sites (ie Colonial Williamsburg and Hancock Shaker Village) and notable museums (including smaller museums like Hull House in Chicago or the Lower East Side Tenement Museum in New York), as well as at the various presidential libraries, state humanities councils, and local history societies.

Careers for Historians

What do you do with your History major? Each issue of the *History Department Newsletter* will contain information on career patterns of former Williams students who have graduated with a BA in History, along with listings of various guides to careers for historians.

To begin with, we want to draw your attention to a really useful work published by the American Historical Association, *Careers for Students of History*. The lengthy document considers the kinds of occupational opportunities available for individuals with degrees in history, ranging from teaching (at all levels), to work in museums, libraries, and archives, to positions in public history and historic preservation, to careers in editing and publishing, to jobs in government and public service, to work as consultants, and so on. Each section of the publication is followed by profiles of several individuals who have chosen careers in this particular field, while at the end of the publication is a list of resources for further exploration. The report can be found here: <http://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/career-resources/careers-for-students-of-history>

In this first issue we provide an excerpt from a chart compiled by a team working with Professor Satyan Devadoss (Mathematics and Statistics) on the general career trajectories of 15,600 former Williams students. On the chart below, 'History' is located at around 9:30 pm on the circle, with arrows pointing out to the various career paths of Williams History majors over the years. For a more complete set of charts, including results for double majors and in different decades, see: <http://web.williams.edu/Mathematics/devadoss/careerpath.html>



The Alarming Expansion of the Past

The following article, entitled “Nation’s Historians Warn the Past is Expanding at Alarming Rate,” appeared in *The Onion*, issue 51.03, January 22, 2015. We thought the warnings were significant enough to warrant bringing the matter to the attention of the readers of this newsletter.

WASHINGTON—Painting a stark portrait of a phenomenon that appears to be irreversible, a report published Thursday by the American Historical Association has found that the past is currently expanding at an alarming rate.

The comprehensive 950-page study, compiled by a panel of the nation’s most prominent historians, warns that the sum total of past time grows progressively larger each day, making it unlikely anything can be done to halt, or even slow down, the relentless trend.

“We believe the past is larger now than it’s ever been before,” said College of William and Mary professor Timothy Gibbon, lead author of the report, observing that whole generations of people have already become a part of history, and that if nothing changes, an untold number more can expect the same fate. “Many things that are in the past today were, during our parents’ and grandparents’ time, still in the present—or even the future. Based on precise measurements of its size, we believe the past has subsumed every single person and event that has ever existed.”

“It’s shocking to contemplate, but in the relatively short stretch since 1984, when I first began tracking its growth, the past has expanded by more than 30 years,” he added.

The report predicted this disturbing pattern will only continue, with one occurrence after another becoming part of a “colossal” historical record that, by all indications, appears intent on seizing absolutely everything without any discrimination. To date, nothing, no matter how significant, has been able to escape the past, which historians say has taken hold of episodes as momentous as the invention of the printing press, the execution of Louis XVI, numerous ice ages, the westward expansion of the United States, and the year 1995, among billions of others.

“This massive, unrestricted accrual of time is quickly becoming unmanageable—it’s growing bigger and bigger even now as I speak,” said Gibbon, who confirmed the past grew by more than six months in the time it took to research and write the new report. “Presidential administrations, extinct species, ancient empires—all have been claimed by a relentless past. There was some speculation that World War II would end history, but it didn’t.”

“Neither did the moon landing, the signing of the Magna Carta, the formation of Pangaea, the extinction of the dinosaurs, the fall of the Ming dynasty, the breaking apart of Pangaea, or the discovery of the Higgs boson,” he continued. “Indeed, these events have only served to make the past even larger.” The report went on to state that concerns over the expanding past were outweighed only by fears about the future, which is assumed to become vanishingly small with each passing moment.🌱