

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

2018-2019 Newsletter

Meet our Graduate Students

Our graduate students represent a diverse group of talented future historians. As you will see below, they are pursuing creative and exciting projects that will shape the next generation of historical scholarship.

Arielle Alterwaite

Arielle Alterwaite is a first year PhD student studying intellectual history and the history of medicine and race in the Atlantic world, with a focus on the French Caribbean and the urban United States.

Arielle received her B.A. in Philosophy and History from Columbia University, where she was awarded the Lily Prize for the best senior thesis in history on a non-US topic, titled, "Medical Imaginaries and the Emergence of Biopolitics on the Saint Domingue Plantation." She is currently working on a project that looks at how humor and race appear in nineteenth-century medical literature of New York City's bourgeoisie.

Hannah Anderson

Hannah Anderson specializes in early British North America and the Caribbean. Her dissertation analyzes non-elite British settlers' use of plants in daily life, and how natural historians translated ordinary peoples' plant knowledge into recognizable scientific idioms. She is currently a fellow of the Wolf Humanities Center at Penn. Her research has also been funded by the Library Company of Philadelphia, the American Antiquarian Society, the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium, and she has received a Penfield Dissertation Research Fellowship from the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her undergraduate training at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada.

Juan Ignacio Arboleda

I have a BA in History and an MA in Geography. I'm interested in studying the writing of Constitutions in Latin America during the twentieth century, especially at the end of the Cold War and the third wave of democratization. Combining legal, social and cultural history, I seek to understand how the struggles for social and cultural recognition, the popular political mobilizations, the economic reforms and the circulation of constitutional ideas in the region shaped the writing of the constitutions. I'm also interested in public history and digital humanities as tools to connect the academia with public debates.

Juan Pablo Ardila

My dissertation, "In the Name of Fear: A History of Emotions and Citizenship in Early Nineteenth-Century Colombia," explores the experience of fear in the former Viceroyalty of New Granada between 1808, when the monarchical crisis erupted in the Iberian Peninsula, and 1830, when the first Republic of Colombia broke up into three independent nations (Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela). I examine the different ways people at the time experienced fear, the propagation of fear through written and non-written means, and fear's political impact. I hope to gain a deeper understanding of peoples' motivations as well as of the causality of fear in driving some actors to support restrictive practices of citizenship and republicanism.

As an undergraduate and MA student at the Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá), I developed an interest on US-Latin American relations. I was particularly interested in examining the ways in which these relations shaped Colombia's economic and social policy during the first half of the twentieth century. In my time at Penn, I have developed an interest on the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries as well as on fields such as Iberian Atlantic History, Cultural History and the History of Material Texts.

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Amber Armstrong

Amber Armstrong is a JD/PhD student studying antebellum U.S. legal history. Her current project focuses on children's place within state penal administration in Pennsylvania. This project features her broader interests, which are childhood incarceration and transportation, age-consciousness, and criminal responsibility.

Nimrod Ben Zeev

Nimrod Ben Zeev is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at the University of Pennsylvania. His dissertation, titled "Foundations of Inequality: Construction, Political Economy and the Senses in Palestine/Israel, 1918-1993," focuses on the intersections between labor, sensory history, the body, and political economy in construction work, the construction industry, and the built environment in 20th century Israel/Palestine. Nimrod is particularly interested in the ways in which inequalities, racial hierarchies, and gender are produced and sustained through labor practices and divisions of risk and harm. His dissertation research has been supported by the Social Sciences Research Council. Nimrod holds an AM in History from the University of Pennsylvania and a BA in Middle Eastern and African History from Tel Aviv University. He has published and forthcoming articles, reviews and forum pieces in the *Jerusalem Quarterly*, *the Journal of Palestine Studies*, *SCTIW Review*, and *the International Journal for History, Culture and Modernity*. Additionally, Nimrod is the editorial coordinator of the Social History Workshop, a Hebrew-language public history platform intended to make cutting-edge research on Middle East history accessible to a broad audience. He is also involved in initiatives to combat construction work accidents in Palestine/Israel.

Anders Bright

Anders Bright is a first year PhD student studying early American intellectual and cultural history. His research focuses on the development of scientific institutions in the early republic, the production of scientific knowledge over the long eighteenth century, and the emergence of new forms of scientific authority during this period.

Anders' current work revolves around analyzing the processes by which, during the first decades of the nineteenth-century, a consciously American scientific community developed. His current research focuses on a network of naturalists operating in and around Philadelphia during the period.

Michael Brinley

I study the political, social, and cultural history of the Soviet Union and Russia with an emphasis in urban history. My dissertation project will explore the evolution of city planning practice in the period between 1960 and 1985. I am particularly interested in using urban policy as a way to explore the relationship between a growing professional class tasked with orchestrating and coordinating a planned economy and society and the people subjected to their vision. The Soviet state was the centralized state par excellence, and yet the curious tenacity of regional and local specificity has been posited as a central cause of the break-up of the Soviet Union, usually with an emphasis on the rise of national movements in the republics. By beginning with capital city attempts to coordinate planning across the entire union and tracing the successes and failures of these attempts in various regional urban settings, both within the Russian Republic and outside of it, I hope to shed greater light on social conflicts that reflected responses to a Soviet vision of modernity in its final iterations and help to understand the enduring importance of the category of post-Soviet in contemporary analysis.

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Chelsea Chamberlain

Chelsea Chamberlain is a PhD Candidate specializing in the nineteenth and twentieth-century United States with a focus on disability studies, law, and medicine. Her dissertation, "Diagnostic Clinics and the Problem of Human Defect in Progressive America" explores the tense relationship between progressivism's grand vision for society and everyday people's hopes for themselves and their children. Her work considers how families leveraged processes of diagnosis and institutional segregation to meet their own emotional, medical, and financial needs during the rise of eugenics. These families' intimate experiences of impairment, she argues, shaped the bounds of medical and legal possibility in struggles over acceptable human bodies, minds, and behaviors and the power of the state to segregate people based on their perceived ability. Before coming to the University of Pennsylvania, Chamberlain received a BA from Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington and an MA in History from the University of Montana. She is a member of the Lilly Graduate Fellows' eighth cohort.

Emma Curry-Stodder

Emma Curry-Stodder is a third-year student with interests in Native American history, religious history, the history of witchcraft, and the social and cultural history of early America. Her current interests include missions to Native Americans and Native American converts to Christianity. She received her undergraduate degree from Smith College and an MPhil in Early Modern European history from the University of Cambridge.

Conor Joseph Donnan

Conor Joseph Donnan is a doctoral student in the History Department at the University of Pennsylvania under the supervision of Professor Walter Licht. He received his B.A. in History from Ulster University in Ireland. Afterward, Conor moved to the United States where he obtained a Master's degree in Historical Studies from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). Conor's current research at Penn focuses on labor and immigration in nineteenth- and twentieth-century America. His dissertation reconstructs the interactions of Irish Catholics and Native Americans against the backdrop of American imperial expansion, industrialization, and questions of citizenship in the trans-Mississippi West from 1841 to 1924. He is currently a graduate fellow at the Perry World House and the Collegium Institute in Philadelphia. He is an active public historian and a board member of the Irish Railroad Workers Museum. In this capacity, he has developed a historical video game, appeared as a guest speaker on the U.S. National Parks Service's Heritage Area podcast, and appeared on a documentary about railroad history for LifeFM radio.

Wendy Doyon

Wendy Doyon specializes in the global history of archaeology, museums, and the field sciences since 1800, with a particular focus on the history of modern Egypt and Egyptian archaeology, and the relationship between labor and capital in the production of knowledge. Her dissertation (in progress) is a history of archaeology and its political economy in modern Egypt.

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Geoffrey Durham

Geoffrey Durham is a third-year PhD student in the department. He studies the history of Modern Europe, with a special focus on the nineteenth-century Russian empire. Theoretically, Geoffrey is interested in state formation, infrastructures of information, and the relationship between economic thought and practice. His dissertation, provisionally titled “The Standards of Evaluation: Weights, Measures, and the Politics of Building a Russian Imperial Economy, 1775-1857,” explores the state’s drive to achieve metrological uniformity across the empire. This project approaches these reforms as technologies of both state- and economy-building that demanded imperial subjects place their faith in new units of measurement. The dissertation is at once an examination of a convergence of official aspirations and a study of the vocal non-state interest groups that engaged with them. Before coming to Penn, Geoffrey received his BA in History from Skidmore College and an MA in Russian and East European Studies from Indiana University.

Laura Eckstein

Laura Newman Eckstein is a first-year Ph.D. student in history at the University of Pennsylvania. Her studies focus on Jews in the early Atlantic world (17th-19th centuries) with specific interests in trade networks, material culture, and digital humanities methodologies. Prior to her doctoral studies, Laura worked as the Judaica Digital Humanities Coordinator at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries. Laura holds a bachelor's degree with the highest honors in religion from Haverford College. Laura's senior thesis at Haverford focused on Jewish peddlers, their business networks, and their religious practices along the Lower Mississippi River between 1820-1865. Laura is the recipient of a 2014 Tri-College, Mellon Foundation Digital Humanities Fellowship where she worked with Professor Ryan Cordell in his lab for Viral Maps, Texts and Networks at Northeastern University, mapping the spread and reprinting of 19th-century newspapers and magazines. Laura is also the recipient of a John B. Hurford Arts and Humanities Center Summer Research Fellowship.

Dahlia El Zein

Dahlia El Zein is a first-year Ph.D. student working on transregional histories of the twentieth-century Middle East and Islamic Africa. She is interested in publishing networks and school textbooks, both as a type of educational-commercial enterprise, and especially as this focused publishing industry intersected with various post-colonial independence movements in the Middle East, North and West Africa. Dahlia plans to investigate the influence of colonialisms, new forms of Islamism, and nationalisms on the design, publication, and distribution decisions associated with school textbooks intended for instruction in (mainly) state educational institutions. She has a Masters in Arab Studies from Georgetown University and a bachelor's degree from Webster University in International Relations. Prior to her doctoral pursuits, Dahlia worked for the Middle East Institute and Center for Palestine Studies at Columbia University and taught courses on the Middle East and Immigration at a Princeton University annual precollege summer program. She has also worked in human rights for several years covering the Middle East and North Africa region.

Lacy Feigh

Lacy Feigh is a 4th year PhD candidate researching the entangled histories of Northeast Africa and the Middle East. Her dissertation, “Navigating Labor: Networks of Slavery, Migration, and Commodities in the Northwest Indian Ocean, 1919-1974” examines the complex racial, social, and economic hierarchies of labor, migration, and bondage across the region in the 20th century. This year Feigh’s research is supported by the US Fulbright Student Research Fellowship and the Social Science Research Council’s International Dissertation Research Fellowship which will allow her to visit archives and conduct oral histories in Ethiopia, Oman, Qatar, and Italy. Before graduate school, Lacy served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Yirgalem, Ethiopia and worked as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Amman, Jordan. Fun, non-history related fact: Lacy is also a certified yoga instructor!

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Samuel Finkleman

Samuel Finkelman is a second-year PhD student specializing in modern Russian/Soviet and modern Jewish history. His recent research has explored war crimes trials in Soviet Lithuania against Jews who served prisoner-functionary roles in Nazi camps and ghettos. His research interests include the Holocaust in the East, nationalist-dissident movements in the postwar Soviet Union, and the historical relationship between socialism and Zionism. Sam received a BA in Russian literature at Middlebury College in Vermont and spent the following year at Siberian Federal University in Krasnoyarsk, Russia on a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Award. He received an MA in Russian Studies from the University of Amsterdam, where he wrote his thesis on the Jewish-Soviet dissident and historian Mikhail Agursky.

Lila Rice Goldenberg

Lila Rice Goldenberg is a first-year doctoral student studying Late Medieval/Early Modern Europe. She is particularly interested in book history and female readers in England, the Low Countries, and France during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Lila received her B.A. from Cornell University in 2015 where she majored in History and Classics (Latin); she then went on to gain an M.A. in Medieval and Renaissance Studies from Columbia University. Her master's thesis identified that a hybrid codex (containing manuscript and print materials) had been produced in Dutch, Franciscan women's community. With the guidance of her advisors, Prof. Margo Todd and Prof. Roger Chartier, Lila is currently working on a project about Beguines and Dutch exchange in Norwich, England during the fifteenth century.

Timothy Holliday

Timothy Kent Holliday is a PhD candidate, an historian of the body, and a native of Ohio. His dissertation, tentatively titled "Morbid Sensations: Intimacy, Coercion, and Epidemic Disease in Philadelphia, 1790-1840," examines the role of intimacy and intimate care practices in public health and carceral institutions during epidemics. In the past he has worked on projects regarding language revitalization among the Klallam people of the Pacific Northwest, post-Civil War Gullah medical practices, and slander and social networks in seventeenth-century Marblehead, and has contributed the entry on "Burlesque" for the Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia. His first collection of poetry, *Sonnets for the Eschaton*, was released by Displaced Snail Publications in February 2018. In his spare time, he watches too much television (especially Flemish reality shows and other unrelatable subgenres) and has difficulty deciding whether to refer to himself in the first or third person.

Xiaobai Hu

Xiaobai Hu is a Ph.D. candidate in pre-modern Chinese history and world history. His Ph.D. dissertation, tentatively titled "Unruly Mountain: Religion, Environment and Violence in the making of the Sino-Tibetan borderland" discusses how the affordance of various environmental settings resulted in peculiar social mechanisms in the eastern fringe of the Himalayan Plateau from the late 14th to the early 18th century. It examines how new communities emerged, new social classes and economic relations sprouted, and new perceptions of sovereignty and rulership took shape. To achieve a bottom-up perspective in his research project, Xiaobai conducted extensive field work in Gansu, Qinghai, Sichuan and Yunnan, where he collected numerous primary sources in both Chinese and Tibetan. Xiaobai is broadly interested in the history of borderland, trans-regional knowledge exchange and urban culture in the Eurasian context. His past research also includes papers on urban landscape construction in late imperial China from the art history perspective. Xiaobai received a B.A. in Chinese literature from Nanjing University (2012), and his M.Phil. in History and Anthropology from Hongkong University of Science and Technology (2014). Before coming to Philadelphia, he also worked as a research assistant in City University of Hong Kong for one year.

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Razan Idris

Razan Idris is a first year student whose research area is the intersection of Middle Eastern and African Muslim history, with a focus on the dynamics of social hierarchy and religion in Afro-Arab Muslim communities and diasporas. Razan is currently researching the role of "paternal bloodline"-based hierarchies and colorism within doctrines of "marriage compatibility" in Islamic legal texts, court cases, and religious discussions in nineteenth-century Egypt. Her undergraduate work at Duke University focused on religion, race, and bloodline in Sudan, Morocco, and Mauritania. Razan is also the curator of the #SudanSyllabus, an open project collecting resources about Sudan for academics, journalists, and interested readers.

Tina Irvine

Tina Irvine is a seventh-year Ph.D. candidate in the final stages of her dissertation, which she defended on February 14, 2019. That work, titled "Americanizing Appalachia: Mountain Uplift and the Preservation of White Citizenship, 1890-1929" considers turn-of-the-century reformers' efforts to culturally and politically integrate Appalachian mountaineers into the mainstream American fold, and contextualizes that process as part of the burgeoning Americanization movement. Her research interests include women and gender, social reform in Appalachia and the South, immigration, eugenics, citizenship, race and race making, as well as the history of science and medicine.

Toshiki Kawashima

Toshiki Kawashima is currently working on a PhD in history at the University of Pennsylvania. His main research interests include global economic history, transnational history of language, and intellectual history, with a special focus on Japan and central Europe from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. He was a Marie Curie Early Stage Researcher for the MACROHIST project at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva, Switzerland) from 2015 to 2017, after receiving his master's degree in economics from the University of Tokyo. His recent publications include "A European Political-Economic Space That Embraced Japan: The International Context of the Conventional Tariff Network, ca. 1892-1914," *European Review of History: Revue européenne d'histoire* 25 (2018).

Rich Lizardo

Rich Lizardo is a Ph.D. candidate who focuses on the history of early-modern Spain. He received his B.A. in History at Yale University and his M.A. in History here at the University of Pennsylvania. His research interests include the study of poverty, charity, and poor laws; theories and practices of punishment; Spanish empire and colonialism; national, cultural, religious, and ethnic identities; and intellectual, religious, and cultural history. Rich has presented conference papers on gendered violence in the laws and literature of Spain's "Golden Age" of the seventeenth century, on labor and economic reform of the Spanish Enlightenment of the eighteenth century, and on intellectual responses to the "Hispano-American problem" of the nineteenth century. His dissertation will focus on the ideas and institutions developed to address Spanish poverty from the Reformation to the Enlightenment.

Philip Mogen

Philip Mogen is a PhD candidate in history primarily focused on the society and culture of the seventeenth-century British Isles. His dissertation, "Unstable Pasts, Uncertain Presents: Rethinking the Past and Recognizing the Present during the British Civil Wars, 1638-1660," explores the way political and religious upheaval and the rise of new media shaped perceptions of history in the British Isles and English Atlantic during the mid-seventeenth century. It draws on archival collections in England, Scotland, Ireland, and the United States to consider how readers engaged with historical texts, navigated conflicting representations of the past, and began to craft new historical narratives, many of which remain central to conceptions of British history even today. His work more broadly focuses on the history of written cultures throughout the early modern period, with projects focusing on the relationship between intaglio printing practices and handwriting as well as on the book trade between Scotland and the colonial Chesapeake. Philip holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and English from the College of William and Mary and a Master of Letters in Book History from the University of St. Andrews.

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Ciruce Movahedi-Lankarani

Ciruce A. Movahedi-Lankarani is a doctoral candidate working on the intertwined histories of energy and development in 20th-century Iran. His dissertation, *The Domain of Gas: Gas Energy, the Environment, and the Creation of Modern Iran, 1940-1990*, is a techno-social history of gas energy, its infrastructure, and the environment, exploring how the interactions between human and non-human factors, domestic and international concerns, and the everyday experiences of gas utilization shaped Iranian development and its politics. Prior to coming to Penn, Ciruce completed his master's degree in the social sciences at the University of Chicago, bachelor's degrees in science and engineering at the Pennsylvania State University, University Park, and worked as a professional software engineer. His work has been supported by the Social Science Research Council.

Kelsey Norris

I am a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Pennsylvania's history department, and I focus on modern Russian history. I received my B.A. in History and Slavic Languages & Literatures from the University of Chicago in 2013 and my M.A. in History from the University of Pennsylvania in 2015. I am currently writing my dissertation, entitled "Lost and Found: War-torn Soviet Families and the Politics of Family Reunification in the World War II-Era and the Postwar USSR." My dissertation investigates World War II-era population displacement in the Soviet Union and the durability of Soviet kinship ties in the context of wartime upheaval. It explores the degree to which the Stalinist suspicion of the nuclear family as a source of autonomous authority influenced the Soviet regime's response to the crisis of war-torn families and explores whether the Soviet Union engaged in the broader postwar European project to reunify families in order to rebuild the war-devastated nation.

Paige Pendarvis

Paige Pendarvis is a second-year PhD student studying modern European intellectual, political, and cultural history. She is particularly interested in the history of modern France, the historical construction of norms, the history of epistemology, the history of concepts of nature and environment, the history of historical thinking, and the legacy of the Enlightenment in modern French thought and politics. Prior to Penn, she completed a B.A. in History at the University of Chicago in 2016.

Gabriel Raeburn

Gabriel Raeburn is a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate in History and Religious Studies. Originally from England, Gabriel previously attended The University of Sussex and the University of Oxford. His fields of interest are twentieth century U.S. political and religious history, specifically the relationship between the "Prosperity Gospel" and American conservatism. When not focusing on his academic work, he can be found getting thoroughly out-classed in Philadelphia's amateur soccer leagues.

Yi Ren

Yi Ren is a fourth-year PhD student focusing on twentieth century China. Concentrating on those villagers who experienced the Cultural Revolution not as a continued series of violent struggles, but a form of continued everyday life, Yi's dissertation "Popular Entertainment in Countryside China: Rural Daily Life and the Cultural Revolution" argues that the profound impact of the Cultural Revolution was not only experienced as intense political struggles, revolutionary upheavals or violent conflicts, but also permeated daily through cultural activities like popular entertainment. It further investigates the important roles of Chinese villagers in shaping their own lives as well as the process of the Cultural Revolution in localities. Besides, Yi's research interests also include various countries' information management in China during and after World War I. Prior to Penn, Yi completed undergraduate studies in history at Sichuan University in 2011 and a Master's in history at Peking University in 2014 in China.

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Makiki Reuvers

As a PhD student in the department, my primary research interests center on borderland spaces in Colonial & Early America. In some of my previous work I examined how cross-cultural physical and ideological conflicts manifested as spectral threats in settler narratives in the 18th century Mississippi River Valley. My current research at Penn expands on my geographic exploration of borderlands by looking at transformations of race, empire, and colonial rule in seventeenth century New England and Iroquoia during King William's War.

Brett Robert

Brett Robert is a historian of Latin America and the Caribbean who investigates the effects of and responses to hurricanes during the twentieth century, particularly in Puerto Rico. His research takes advantage of interdisciplinary approaches to examine and analyze national, regional, and local bureaucratic records alongside art, music, sports, and the popular press. His recent paper topics included the accuracy of the official death toll for the 1928 San Felipe hurricane in Puerto Rico, the role of the United States Weather Bureau in San Juan, the intersection of art and history in the landscapes of contemporary Cuban artist Roger Toledo Bueno, and the role of Panama Canal in the growth of Los Angeles, California. Robert completed undergraduate studies in history at Sonoma State University in 2012 and a Master's in History at California State University Northridge in 2017 before beginning at the University of Pennsylvania.

Peter Roethke

Peter Roethke is PhD student in the History Department. He studies early modern European history, particularly the history of German-speaking Europe and the Holy Roman Empire. In addition to an interest in legal and economic history, Roethke has a specific interest in perceptions of corruption in early modernity. This past semester, he was a TA for the course "Africa Since 1800." Roethke holds a JD cum laude from the American University Washington College of Law and an MA in International Affairs from the American University School of International Service. He received his BA magna cum laude in History and Politics from Brandeis University. He can be reached at roethke@sas.upenn.edu.

Marlén Rosas

Marlén Rosas is a historian of Latin America with a focus on twentieth century Ecuador and the Andes. Her dissertation, entitled "Recording Resistance: Indigenous Activists' Archives and Power in Twentieth-Century Ecuador" brings critical archive studies, oral history, and intellectual history approaches to the study of indigenous mobilization in twentieth century Ecuador, arguably the most organized indigenous movement in the history of the Americas. It argues that indigenous activists remade literacy for themselves, expanding it to include radical forms of community-based archiving and the writing of history. They recorded oral histories, printed books and visual images, and positioned their local leaders as political icons for the next generation of community activists.

Marlén is a co-founder of the Thinking Andean Studies Interdisciplinary Conference and the Seminario de Investigación Andina, two colloquiums that convene emerging and established scholars across disciplines whose research focuses on the Andean region. The aim is to develop a network of scholars in this emerging academic field of Andean Studies, and to connect scholarship with indigenous language initiatives and cultural advocates from the Andes and around the U.S

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Alex Royt

Alex Royt examines how economic and cultural history intersect to provide new ways of interpreting the Soviet experiment. He completed his undergraduate studies in history at Binghamton University and his dual-degree masters at Columbia University and the London School of Economics. Focusing broadly on the late imperial Russian and early Soviet periods, his research has explored Bolshevik responses to international monetary crisis through diplomatic, political and economic archival sources. His recent research has expanded the parameters of this earlier work, concentrating on how economic knowledge altered the state-society relationship as well as how economics as a science was itself altered by shifting institutional arrangements.

Francis Russo

Francis Russo is a second-year PhD student in American history with a focus on the political, intellectual, and social history of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. He has particular interests in the history of sound, the sensory history of democratic life, and the history of human duties and obligations.

Francis is a graduate of the dual M.A./M.Sc. program in International and World History at Columbia University and the London School of Economics, and received a B.A. in History and Music from Trinity College, where he was a Presidential Fellow.

Kelsey Salvesan

Kelsey's project, "The Word Became Thread and was Stitched Among Us: Gender, Empire, and Religion in Early North America," examines women's intellectual and religious history in early North America and the broader Atlantic world through the lens of feminine material culture produced through needlework. She looks at needlework as both practice and product and how it shaped and reflected the lives of girls and women in the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries. As stitchers grappled with ideas about faith, race, class, and personal and national identity, these struggles played out in their needlework. They also stitched themselves into gendered networks of exchange, which circulated not only the technical expertise necessary to instruct girls in needlecraft, and ideals about appropriate content to stitch, but the physical items themselves. Items like embroidered samplers and other sources of stitched text--made by female hands, typically under female instruction and supervision, and circulated among networks of female friendship and descent--provide unique insight into how girls and young women thought about themselves and their places in their families, their wider world.

Rolf I. Siverson

Rolf I. Siverson came to Penn in 2014 with a B.A. in Japanese Studies from Pacific University (2006) and an M.A. in International Studies, Korea focus, from the University of Washington (2013). His dissertation, *Running an Empire, Building a Nation: Korean Bureaucrats and the Manchurian Legacy, 1931–1961*, explores the careers of ethnic Korean officials serving in the Japanese client state of Manchukuo and their subsequent impact on state development in post-colonial North and South Korea. In 2017 he spent nine months conducting archival research in Seoul, South Korea as a Korea Foundation Research Fellow at the Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies and a Visiting Research Fellow at the Academy of Korean Studies. In 2018 he conducted additional research in Japan as a Japan Foundation Research Fellow at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies. His research interests include: de-colonization in the Japanese Empire, socio-cultural militarization, global Cold War studies, and migration history.

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Grant Stanton

Grant Stanton is a first-year PhD Student in the History department studying early American and Atlantic intellectual history. His research interests generally focus on the role of political-legal discourse in shaping and motivating revolutionary conflict in the long eighteenth century. He also has a keen interest in the theory of historical practice itself.

Currently, Grant is studying the role of political insults in revolutionary American argumentation and crowd action. Through this study, he hopes to understand the ways in which insults functioned in framing and escalating the imperial crisis as well as what they reveal about colonial Americans' moral ontology.

Grant received his B.A. in History and Political Science with Honors from the University of California – Santa Barbara, his M.A. in the Social Sciences from the University of Chicago, and he has taught courses in US and World History at Bakersfield College.

Sam Stark

Sam Stark studies modern European intellectual history, mainly in Germany, with a special interest in the history of history and the history of socialist thought. His dissertation in progress is a history of Karl Marx's 1852 essay, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*, from its first publication in New York City through its reception in the social and political thought of interwar Europe, in the form of studies of its reproduction and use in different local, national, and transnational contexts. His recent and forthcoming publications include a study of Marx's reading on the history of women, and a composition history of Walter Benjamin's 1937 essay, "Eduard Fuchs, Collector and Historian." He is currently a visiting fellow at the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies.

Drew Starling

Drew Starling is a PhD candidate in history, focusing on the cultural history of eighteenth-century France. His work reflects a wide-ranging engagement with the histories of written cultures and of reading, with a particular emphasis on the material and sociological contexts of reading and idea exchange. His dissertation, entitled, "Theological Quarrels and Wars of the Pen: Jansenism, the Rise of Mass Media, and the Fall of the Old Regime," examines the publication and reception of the 1713 Papal Bull *Unigenitus*, perhaps the most read text of the first half of the eighteenth century in France. It attempts to understand how publics in eighteenth-century France were formed sociologically and intellectually by the texts they consumed and the contexts in which they consumed them, and how authorities and commentators regarded these new publics that were more popular and more potentially radical than the ones they, themselves, desired. This work has been supported by Fulbright, CLIR Mellon, and Bradley research fellowships that have enabled research in France, the Netherlands, Belgium, and the United States. Before pursuing his PhD, Starling received a Bachelor's in History from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master's in Political Thought and Intellectual History from the University of Cambridge.

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Jing Sun

Jing Sun is a Ph.D. candidate studying modern Japanese history at History Department of University of Pennsylvania. She received B.A. of international politics and international liberal studies, respectively from Peking University and Waseda University. She received M.A. of Asia-Pacific studies and M.P.P., respectively from Peking University and University of Tokyo. Her research interests include: political and military history of modern Japan, food politics, interwar world history, history of nutrition and medical science, East Asian diplomacy.

From 2015, she has presented her studies at International Conference on History and Archaeology, British Association of Japanese Studies conference, Japan Studies Association conference and will present at the upcoming Mid-Atlantic Region Association of Asian Studies conference. She received Beijing University Japanese Research Fund in 2013 and graduate thesis award in 2016 from Peking University. At University of Pennsylvania, she has been awarded 5-year Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, SAS Dean's travel subvention in 2017, GAPSA research travel grant and Annenberg Dissertation Travel Grant in 2018. She was also a visiting research fellow of Graduate School of International Culture and Communication Studies at Waseda University from May to July of 2017. She is currently working on her dissertation on history of nutrition science in modern Japan.

Genevieve Tan

Genevieve is a Ph.D. student focusing on modern Japanese history. Prior to Penn, she pursued her B.A. in Cultural Studies at Nagoya University, Japan. Her current project examines discourses of Han Chinese-Japanese intermarriage in colonial Taiwan. She previously worked on the promotion of ryōsai kenbo ("good wife, wise mother") through popular women's magazines, and is also interested in urban print and material culture, biopolitics, and comparative gender.

Anna Todd

Anna Leigh Todd studies the history of gender and family in early America. Her dissertation will explore the circumstances and meanings of illegitimacy in early British North America through a combination of social and cultural history. This current work draws inspiration from an earlier project on female sexual recidivism and utilizes methodological skills Ms. Todd honed as a researcher at the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Prior to her arrival at the University of Pennsylvania, Ms. Todd completed undergraduate studies at the University of Southern Mississippi in 2013 and earned a Master's in History from the University of Connecticut in 2014."

Paraska Tolan-Szkilnik

Paraska Tolan-Szkilnik is a PhD candidate at the University of Pennsylvania. Her dissertation, tentatively entitled *The Black Maghreb: Creating Cultural Panafricanism in North Africa (1955-1980)*, considers three Maghrebi nodes of encounter between African and African Diaspora writers and filmmakers from the late 1950s to the late 1970s: the Journées Cinématographiques de Carthage (JCC), the Moroccan literary journal *Souffles*, and the Panafrican Festival of Algiers of 1969. Moving away from the political approach of much of the literature on decolonization and panafricanism, she argues that film and literature were politically crucial to the construction of a generation of anti-colonial and anti-imperial militants and revolutionaries from across Africa and the African Diaspora.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

2018-2019 Newsletter

Sarah Winsberg

Sarah Winsberg is a JD/PhD candidate in early U.S. legal history. In 2018-19, she is a clerk on the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Sarah's dissertation, "Making Work: Lawyers and the Boundaries of Labor, 1780-1860" explores legal writers' process of reorganizing legal categories of labor under capitalism. She tracks how lawyers redefined, and distinguished from each other, paid work, business ownership, slavery, and family labor. Sarah's article "Attorney "Mal-practices": An Invisible Ethical Problem in the Early American Republic" appeared in the journal *Legal Ethics* in 2016. Sarah received her J.D. from Penn in 2017. Before coming to Penn, she received her B.A. from Yale and worked as an AmeriCorps paralegal in civil legal aid in rural western New York.

Ting-chih Wu

Ting-chih Wu is a historian whose studies focus on borderlands spaces in middle-period and pre-modern China, with specific interests in political institution, military confrontation, environmental changes and digital humanities methodologies. His dissertation examines territorial perceptions, land use, and state formation at the Sino-Mongol borders in northern and northwestern Ming China (14th-17th centuries), especially in the regions of contemporary northern Shanxi, northern Shaanxi, and Ningxia. His research benefits from interdisciplinary approaches to examine national and local bureaucratic records, stone epigraphs, and historical remains, as well as GIS maps.

Mr. Wu received his BA and MA degrees in history at National Taiwan University before beginning at the University of Pennsylvania. His master thesis focused on the military confrontation at the Sino-Tangut borders in northwestern Song China (10th-12th centuries) and how wars shaped the Chinese state's political institutions. He also studied state formation at the Sino-Mongol borders in northern and northwestern Ming China (14th-17th centuries), especially in the regions of contemporary northern Shanxi, northern Shaanxi, and Ningxia. His research benefits from interdisciplinary approaches to examine national and local bureaucratic records, stone epigraphs, and historical remains, as well as GIS maps.

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Jennifer Yip

Jennifer obtained her B.A. (Hons., Highest Distinction) in History in her home country at the National University of Singapore, where she was also a part of the University Scholars Programme. She then completed a Master of Philosophy in World History at the University of Cambridge, where she studied the relationship between logistics and soldier morale in the Indian Expeditionary Force on the Western Front. She is now a PhD student in the History department at the University of Pennsylvania, with a specialisation in twentieth-century East Asian military history.

Under the supervision of Prof. Arthur Waldron, Jennifer has a strong foundation in the history of strategic thought. She is also pursuing comprehensive exam fields in the histories of modern China and modern Japan. Her primary research interest is in the historical phenomenon of war, and how violent conflict reshapes ideological, intellectual and cultural constellations. She has conducted research on Republican China's engagement with international law during the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945), and is now pursuing a project on the formation of social welfare and humanitarian relief policies under conditions of war and militarization in early twentieth-century China.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

2018-2019 Newsletter

Sarah Yu

Sarah Yu is a third-year PhD student focusing on early twentieth century China. Primarily, she investigates public interest in health reform and the regulation of individual behaviors deemed unsanitary or uncivilized. Taking both localized and transnational approaches to “Republican China,” her research compares efforts within China’s national boundaries and also in overseas diasporas. As a Graduate Associate at Gregory College House, Sarah also directs a language and cultural immersion program for undergraduate students across all of Penn’s schools, preparing them linguistically for jobs in Chinese-speaking environments and arming them with basic culinary skills to prepare Chinese delicacies. Prior to Penn, Sarah completed a MPhil at the University of Hong Kong, a BA at Brown University, and held an eclectic range of corporate and start-up positions in media, consulting, and education.

Seok-Min Yun

Seok-Min Yun is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at the University of Pennsylvania. He specializes in the political, religious, and intellectual history of early modern Europe, with special geographic concentration on the British Isles. He is presently completing his dissertation, entitled “Utopia Uncovenanted: James Harrington’s Commonwealth of Oceana (1656) and the Remaking of Anglo-Scottish Relations.” It sheds new light on the ways in which Oceana intersects with publication history, religious developments, new notions of empire, and the changing economy of the Interregnum, the tumultuous decade following the execution of Charles I and the abolition of monarchy and episcopacy. While traditional interpretations of Oceana have focused on Harrington’s ideas in a thoroughly English context, Seok-Min extends that analytical scope not only to an Anglo-Britannic context but also to the political milieu of early modern Europe more broadly. Prior to coming to Penn, Seok-Min did his undergraduate work in Philosophy and English and his M.A. in English at Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea. His work has been published in *Trans-Humanities*, and has been presented at the American Society of Church History and the North American Conference on British Studies in the United States, and other conferences in South Korea.