

History Newsletter



Department of History
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



2023 Photography Contest Winners

FIRST PLACE (Cover photo)
Estela Gonçalves de Souza
Graduate Student
Local archive
Juiz de Fora, Brazil

SECOND PLACE (Featured on page 13)
Rashad Bates
Undergraduate Student
Nemea
Ancient site in Greece

THIRD PLACE
(Tie for third place)
Dani Willcut
Graduate Student
Maasai People
Ngorongoro Crater
in Tanzania



THIRD PLACE
(Tie for third place)
James Chrislip
Graduate Student
The Basilica Cistern
Istanbul, Turkey



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR: Dr. Michael Stamm



Dr. Michael Stamm. Photo
credit: Jackie Belden
Hawthorne

I am very pleased and proud to be part of this newsletter highlighting the achievements of the community of scholars who make up the Michigan State University History Department. We are a group of 41 faculty, five staff, 35 doctoral students, and 325 undergraduates. We devote ourselves to the honest consideration and presentation of the past, and we aim in doing so to serve the public interest.

As you will see in this newsletter, history faculty are engaged in research that is transforming academic fields of study and enriching the lives of communities. This includes work led by Professors Dr. Walter Hawthorne and Dr. Dean Rehberger on Enslaved.org, an amazing project of historical reclamation. Ordinary people in general leave precious few traces in the historical record, and this project is gathering and making freely available information about hundreds of thousands of individuals who were involved in the historical slave trade. Enslaved.org is generating and making accessible new knowledge about the past and helping us better understand the dynamics of one of the most important global processes of the past several centuries. Professor Dr. Matt Pauly's scholarship and outreach on Ukraine have done much to promote broader understandings of the ongoing war and its effects on the region. Professors Dr. Edward Murphy and Dr. David Wheat each received prestigious fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support their projects on Latin America and the Iberian world, respectively. On a more local level, Associate Professor Dr. Delia Fernández-Jones's tremendous new book, *Making the MexiRican City: Migration, Placemaking, and Activism in Grand Rapids, Michigan*, presents a new multiethnic history of an important Michigan community and shows how Mexicans, Tejanos, and Puerto Ricans became part of the Upper Midwest.

In addition to their scholarly work, history faculty are also serving in important institutional roles across campus. Professor Dr. Pero Dagbovie is the associate provost for graduate and postdoctoral studies and dean of the Graduate School; Professor Dr. Mark Largent is vice provost for undergraduate education and dean of undergraduate studies; Professor Dr. Glenn Chambers is the interim dean of the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities; and Professor Dr. Nwando Achebe is the associate dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion, faculty development, and strategic implementation in the College of Social Science. Professors Dr. Kirsten Fermaglich and Dr. Amy Simon play vital roles in The Michael and Elaine Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel, Fernández-Jones is the undergraduate coordinator for the Chicano/

In the past year, history graduate students have received fellowships from the Mellon Foundation, the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Harvard University, Fulbright, the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation, and the Japan Foundation.

Latino Studies Program, and Professor Dr. Ronen Steinberg is the interim director of MSU's Peace and Justice Studies Program. History faculty are serving in influential leadership roles at MSU.

Across the faculty, one of the most important activities is mentoring and collaborating with doctoral students as they develop the scholarship that will transform their fields in the future. Many of these students are already receiving significant accolades for their work. In the past year, history graduate students have received fellowships from the Mellon Foundation, the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Harvard University, Fulbright, the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation, and the Japan Foundation. Last year, four of our students became our faculty colleagues, as Dr. Ajamu Dillahunt-Holloway is now an assistant professor at North Carolina State University, Abdoulie Jabang is an assistant professor at Texas Christian University, Dr. Eric Kesse is an assistant professor at Clark University, and Dr. Akil Cornelius is a visiting assistant professor at Kalamazoo College.

In 2023, history undergraduates also registered some very impressive accomplishments, including publishing peer-reviewed original scholarship. A significant number of our students are working with the MSU College of Education to prepare to become history teachers themselves. Under the direction of Associate Professor Dr. Emily Conroy-Krutz and fixed-term Assistant Professor Dr. Brooks Winfree, the department has vibrant communities in the history scholars program and history club.

MSU is a land-grant institution, and this means that it is committed not only to the abstract advancement of knowledge but also to the practical extension of it to scholars and the public in ever more democratic ways. In their work as researchers, teachers, and mentors, the faculty, staff, and students in the history department continue to exemplify the core commitments of the land grant ethos. I feel privileged to be able to collaborate with them in support of their endeavors. ■

Two Professors in MSU's History Department Receive NEH Grants to Further Book Projects

By Patti McDonald



Edward Murphy. Photo credit: Jackie Belden Hawthorne

Associate Professors of History at Michigan State University Dr. Edward Murphy and Dr. David Wheat both received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities to work on their book projects.

Dr. Edward Murphy received a \$60,000 NEH grant in 2023 for his research based in Chile. Last year, Dr. Murphy was on sabbatical in Santiago with his family while conducting research for his book project, *The Urban Poor and the Grid: Political Ecologies of Electrification in Santiago, Chile, 1960-2020*. The subject of this book grew out of his long-term interests in themes of mass urbanization, inequality, domesticity, state formation and political economy, with a focus on the property regimes of low-income groups in Chile. Murphy had conceived of this project while working on his first book, *A Home of One's Own: Housing Rights in the Margins of Urban Chile 1960-2010* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2015).

“In my first project, I looked at housing movements and squatting in Santiago from the 1950s up until about 2010,” Murphy said. “My first book tells an overall story of how people went from living primarily in squatter communities without property titles and without most infrastructure services to living with them. As I was doing the research for that project, I heard stories about people who had siphoned off electricity illegally from the grid and had been electrocuted. I heard stories about people who had electrical short circuits and had their houses burned because they were doing this kind of thing.”

According to Murphy, his new book “tells the story of how former squatters have gained access to electricity by mobilizing to receive it as a right of citizenship, tapping into the grid informally, and ultimately becoming indebted consumers.”

“The book demonstrates how these actions, and the state’s responses to them, changed how the urban poor have claimed rights and how state agencies have sought to police the poor and assert sovereign forms of power,” Murphy’s grant proposal states. “At the same time, the book develops how the urban poor are now part of an electrical grid that has become even larger and includes the development of a series of hydroelectric projects in Chile.

These projects have damaged watersheds and displaced indigenous groups, leading to activism and new political affinities. The book links these areas generally examined separately.”

Murphy said an important part of his book illustrates how electrification among hundreds of thousands of urban squatters was an often tense and even violent process.

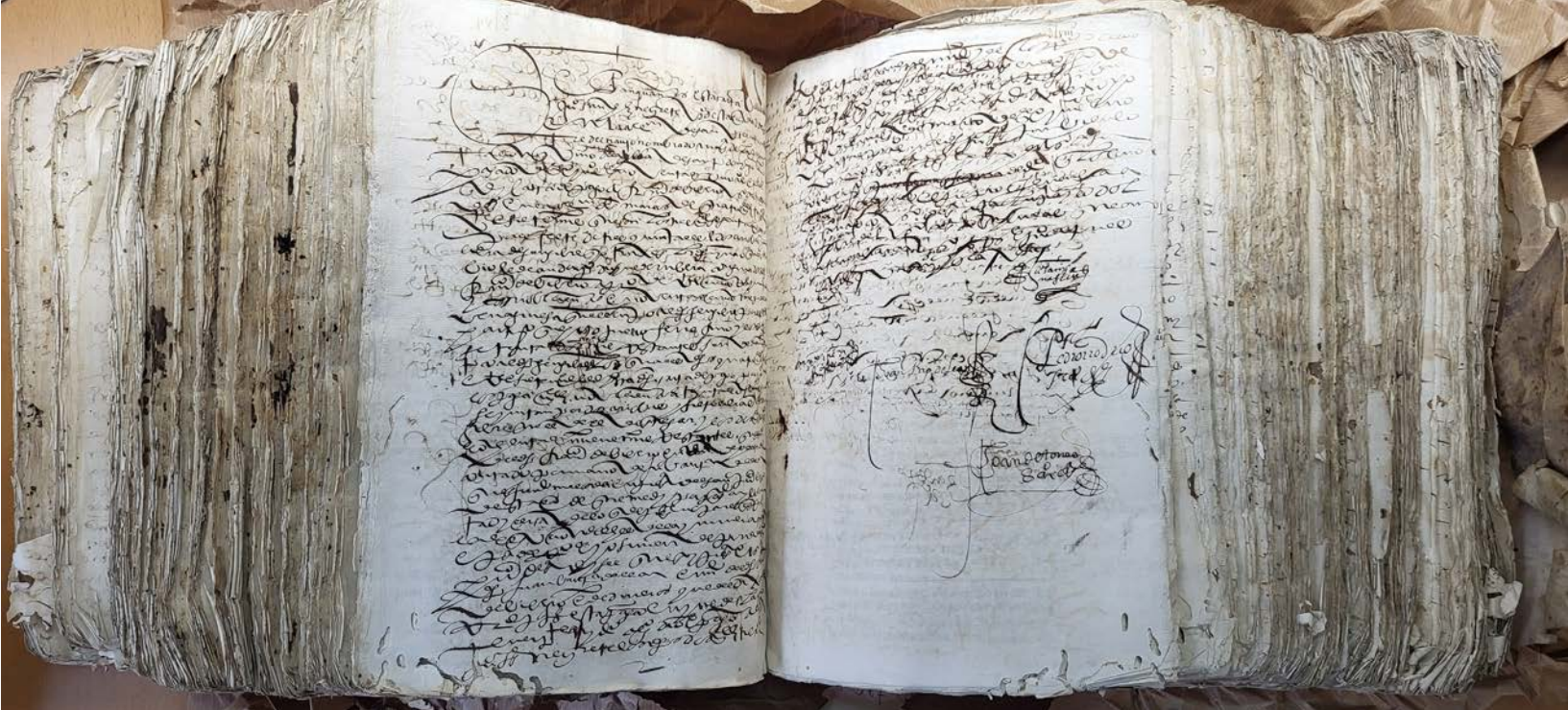
“The research says a lot about how people living in cities get access to resources. I think another element of that research is just to think about how marginalized communities have scratched and clawed to get access to some resources that a lot of people take for granted,” Murphy said.

Now that Murphy has returned from his research trip, he is focused on writing a few research articles related to his book project and plans on submitting a book manuscript to a publisher.



Electrical wires in a consolidated squatter settlement in Santiago, Chile, June, 2021.

To learn more about Murphy and his research, visit: history.msu.edu/people/faculty/edward-murphy



David Wheat has been spending time conducting research for his upcoming book project. This archive is from a notarial record in Seville.

Associate Professor of History Dr. David Wheat received a \$60,000 NEH grant for the fall 2023 and spring 2024 semesters to work on his second book project, *The Atlantic Itineraries of Afro-Caribbean Entrepreneur Catalina de los Santos, c.1590-1600*. He started working on the grant in August of last year and is currently living in Spain and working in archives in Seville and the Canary Islands.

Dr. Wheat’s first book, *Atlantic Africa and the Spanish Caribbean, 1570-1640* (University of North Carolina Press, 2016), resituated the Spanish Caribbean as an extension of the Luso-African Atlantic world from the late 16th to the mid-17th centuries, when the union of the Spanish and Portuguese crowns facilitated a surge in the transatlantic slave trade.

As a historian of slavery, cross-cultural exchange, and transregional connections in the early modern Iberian world, Wheat’s interest in some documents he happened to find while on a previous sabbatical and research trip several years ago led to the idea for his second book project, which reconstructs the travels, social ties, and commercial contacts of an Afro-Caribbean businesswoman and shipowner named Catalina de los Santos during the 1590s.

“While on a research trip in the Canary Islands, I randomly stumbled upon these documents signed by a free woman of African descent who said that she was from the Caribbean Island of Hispaniola, which is today the Dominican Republic and Haiti. She described herself in the Canaries as a widow and as the owner of a ship. She had been in Seville for some time, wheeling and dealing with influential merchants, before sailing to the Canary Islands in Spain’s Indies fleet. At this point, she was heading back to the Caribbean, and mentioned that she had slaves and servants of her own onboard. All of this was so intriguing to me, and I knew there was an interesting story to tell here because in the Caribbean areas that I’ve previously studied,

most people of African descent were enslaved or formerly enslaved. This was something I wanted to research more.”

His research then retraces De los Santos’s travels afterward.

“I found out that although she had made an agreement with a group of wealthy merchants in peninsular Spain to take a large quantity of wine from Tenerife to Mexico, she ended up selling her ship during the months she resided in the Canaries, then went to Havana, Cuba.”



David Wheat

Wheat wrote a short article for a journal about De los Santos, and he decided that he wanted to expand his research into a book project after combing through more documents mentioning Catalina and the details of her life. Preliminary work on the book project was facilitated by an MSU Humanities & Arts Research Program award in Fall 2022.

Wheat said he’s grateful for the NEH grant because it gives him the ability to conduct further research and hopefully complete an initial draft of his book.

“It is a fantastic opportunity to be able to focus on research and writing for an entire year,” Wheat said. “Being in Spain is also great because I can learn a lot from other historians who are skilled in working with the type of sources I’m currently using.” ■

To learn more about Wheat and his research, visit: history.msu.edu/people/faculty/david-wheat

Former MSU History Student and Recent Graduate Jacob Novak Lands Role with 54A District Court in Lansing

By Patti McDonald



Jacob Novak. Photo credit: Jackie Belden Hawthorne

Jacob Novak, a recent Michigan State University graduate who earned a double Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and History in three years, is already making a positive impact in the lives of others. Novak is now working as the domestic violence court administrative and pretrial compliance coordinator under the honorable Judge Cynthia Ward at the 54A District Court in Lansing.

Novak works closely with people whose lives have been affected by domestic violence, both survivors and defendants. He is tasked with helping them navigate the legal system while connecting them with the resources they need to rebuild their lives.

“Working in a court underneath the honorable Judge Cynthia Ward is something I am fortunate enough to have the opportunity to do,” Novak said. “To be able to play an impactful and meaningful role in combatting a societal issue while providing aid and assistance to survivors and providing a rehabilitative avenue for defendants is something I am blessed to be a part of.”

Novak acknowledges that this work can be challenging, but he is also grateful for the opportunity to gain experience in the legal field and make a difference in the community.

“A challenge associated with this position speaks to criminal law in general and it’s ensuring that you are approaching both defendants and survivors with a respectful attitude, you’re listening, you’re being empathetic, and you’re not letting your emotions guide your actions or behaviors,” he said.

“It’s very important when you’re interacting with survivors that you’re there to support them and whatever decisions they feel are best, you’re not there to make decisions on their behalf, you’re there to empower them and their lives. As for defendants, you know, the last thing you want to do is come across as judgmental or condescending for their behavior and actions. There is a level of professionalism you must have, and you must keep in mind that you’re there to help rehabilitate these people.”

Jacob has been working with the 54A District Court since August. He said he decided to take a gap year after graduation so he could diversify his experiences within the workforce and his current position is allowing him to do just that.

“Despite having three years of legal experience, I’ve only had experience working in private firms. But, to now have that public experience in law, makes me a more well-rounded professional,” he said.

He added that seeing the real-life impacts of his work has been gratifying, too.

“It has been rewarding getting to see the tangible effects of the work I do. I get to speak with survivors and see how they overcome the hurdle of domestic violence while they progress and create a new life for themselves. Their identities are much more than just a ‘survivor,’ it’s John Doe who loves cooking, or Jane Smith who is now pursuing a personal interest in pottery. That is pretty powerful,” he said.

“Alternatively, another fulfilling thing for me, has been seeing the progress of some of the defendants and seeing how they progress through their rehabilitative program and how they have begun conducting themselves in new manners while forging new aspirations, goals, and desires.”

In addition to adjusting to his new role, Jacob has been applying to business and law schools across the country in hopes of attending in the fall.

“I’ve applied to 15 different schools, and I am either pursuing a master’s in business administration or a juris doctor, but ultimately want to earn both degrees,” he said. “It is exciting but nerve-wracking since I have no idea where I will be in a few months. Now, it has come down to playing the waiting game to see where I get in.”

Jacob has had quite the year. His undergraduate research was published in April, right before graduation. His paper: “China’s Feminist Movement: He-Yin Zhen’s Embodiment of Genuine Feminism,” was published in the Crimson Historical Review. He originally wrote the paper for Dr. Yulian Wu’s seminar in Asian History.

“Before I graduated, I submitted my research to the Crimson Historical Review,” Novak said. “It was a crazy time of year with graduation and everything but right before graduation I found out the Crimson Historical Review was considering publishing my paper.”

Novak said getting his undergraduate research published is an accomplishment that he is proud of.

“Going through the process of publishing your work can be daunting as an undergrad student but it is totally possible if you are dedicated to your research,” Novak said. “I did my own edits too and while that was time-consuming, it was so rewarding to see my name on my own publication.”

Dr. Wu said that becoming a published author as an undergrad is quite the recognition and demonstrates a student’s passion for their research and the ability to work independently.

“Jacob is an independent and self-motivated student,” Wu said. “He autonomously revised and submitted his paper, demonstrating a capacity for self-directed research. His paper demonstrated a strong ability to analyze primary/secondary sources and an exceptional writing skill to articulate complex ideas in a clear and engaging manner.”

Novak said he is now working on writing a book that is closely related to his paper’s subject matter.

“I don’t have the deadlines and structures that I would have in a classroom like I did for my paper, but I think having that flexibility and that freedom, ultimately is going to help me produce a fantastic final product that I will be very proud to stand on.” ■

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

Shayan Rajani

Assistant Professor of History

By Patti McDonald



Shayan Rajani. Photo credit: Jackie Belden Hawthorne

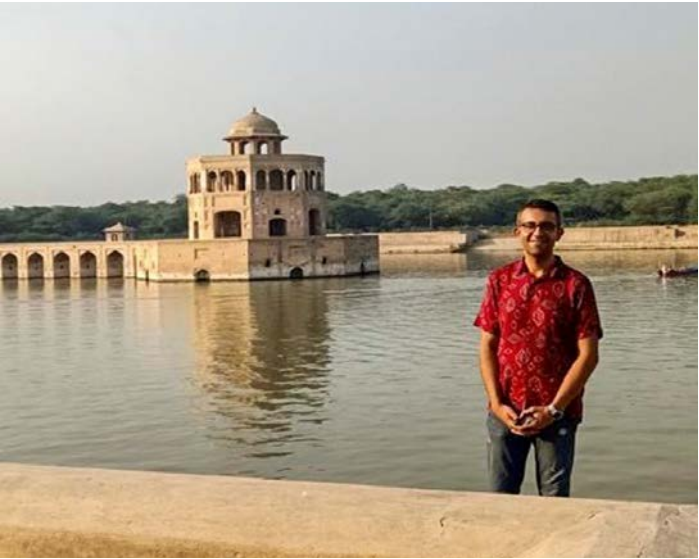
Assistant Professor of History, Shayan Rajani, is settling into his second semester at Michigan State University. In August 2023, Rajani moved to East Lansing from Lahore, Pakistan where he was teaching at the Lahore University of Management Sciences.

Shayan said that although it’s a huge adjustment to move more than 7,000 miles away from home, he is enjoying all Michigan has to offer, including its seasons.

“It has been a blur of activity, but it has been wonderful getting to know the campus, faculty, staff, and students,” he said. “I also loved the fall here on campus. It was gorgeous.”

Rajani is a historian of early modern South Asia. South Asia has often been studied as a mosaic of groups and communities, castes, and religions. His research focuses on the lesser-known history of the individual in South Asia. He is also interested in questions about gender and sexuality.

“I look at a period when many of the hallmarks of modernity started to emerge around the world,” he said. “I’m interested in seeing how those hallmarks manifest in the Indian context. In particular, I look at how an emphasis on or concern with individuality, and with the individual, emerges in South Asia.”



▲ Rajani at the Tower of the Deer complex (Hiran Minar) constructed by the Mughal emperors Jahangir and Shahjahan in Sheikhpura

This semester, Shayan is teaching HST 420: History of Sexuality and HST 850: Topics in Comparative History.

“I look at the history of sexuality, not just in the Western context, but within a more global view,” he said. “We’re fortunate enough to have a density of new scholarship that does allow us that kind of broader vision on the history of sexuality.

Without a global perspective, we tend to assume that what we know, what we are familiar with, is the only way that things can be. This tends to lead to a more parochial understanding of the world. The more connected we become, the more we need to expand our vision of human history.”

Recently, Shayan published a book chapter: “Loving Men, Loving God,” in *Pakistan Desires: Queer Futures Elsewhere*, ed. Omar Kasmani (Durham: Duke University Press, 2023), pp. 31–48. The chapter tells the story of the relationship between Shah Hussain, a Muslim saint, and Madho, his Hindu lover, who lived in sixteenth-century South Asia, and whose love is commemorated till today. It brings out the unique position of same-sex love in early modern South Asia, and its continuities with the modern period.

Shayan also recently finished his first book project, *Leaving Legacies: The Individual in Early Modern South Asia*, which he hopes to publish this year. *Leaving Legacies* examines the enterprise of assembling texts, monuments, and children as material traces for posterity. It investigates the intellectual, social, and material history of the individual in South Asia between the sixteenth and the eighteenth centuries. Using little-known and to-date underutilized textual sources in Persian and Sindhi, alongside the study of buildings, epigraphy, and objects, the book reveals how the gendered individual was central to Mughal and post-Mughal order.

When Shayan isn’t teaching, he is familiarizing himself with local trails and coffee shops.

“The trails have won me over entirely,” Shayan said. “The Lansing River Trail is an absolute gem and I love exploring Hawk Island and the Lake Lansing area. I find it relaxing to go for walks and hikes on the trail.”

“Blue Owl and Hooked have been amazing places to visit,” he said. “Lansing is a great community, and I am looking forward to getting to know it further.” ■

To learn more about Rajani and his research, visit:
history.msu.edu/people/faculty/shayan-rajani

Dr. Delia Fernández-Jones

Associate Professor of History

By Patti McDonald



Associate Professor Dr. Delia Fernández-Jones had a busy 2023. Before the start of the fall semester, she was promoted to a tenured position within the Department of History at Michigan State University.

“I’ve worked really hard for this accomplishment,” Dr. Fernández-Jones said. “It opens up opportunities that I really look forward to.”

Earlier last year, she was awarded the Michigan State University Faculty of the Year (Plantando Semillas Award) at the Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta celebration. This award is given to an individual who has proven to be a pillar of light and knowledge in our MSU community, stands for inclusion and equity in education in building and transforming knowledge, and is focused on developing tomorrow’s leaders.

“Recognition from this community is really, really huge,” she said. “That my colleagues and the Latinx community at MSU see me as worthy of this is really affirming. Somebody sees my work and it makes a difference.”

In addition to her award and promotion, Delia also penned her first book in 2023. *Making the MexiRican City: Mexican and Puerto Rican Migration, Activism, and Placemaking in Grand Rapids, Michigan* (University of Illinois Press, 2023) details how disparate Latino communities came together to respond to social, racial, and economic challenges and simultaneously transformed Grand Rapids and the Midwest from the 1920s to the 1970s. Her book was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2023. This prestigious list reflects the best scholarly titles curated by editors working with Choice Reviews, a publishing unit of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL).

Fernández-Jones, a MexiRican Latina and first-generation college student who earned her B.A. in History from Grand Valley State University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in History from Ohio State University, wrote the book based on extensive primary source research and drew from her own lived experiences in the region.

“This is also an opportunity to engage in communities outside of academia,” Fernández-Jones said. “My book is based in Grand Rapids, and since the book’s publication, I was able to spend more time there connecting with community organizations. I was able to learn about their work and how to make my work more accessible and helpful to the issues the current Latinx community faces in Grand Rapids.”

According to Fernández-Jones, one of the courses she taught in the fall semester was inspired by a project she works on with the Michigan History Center (MHC). The MHC was granted funds from the Institute for Libraries and Museums and the Sites of Conscience to address a lack Latinx representation in the museum.

“This project was prompted by discussions with the director of the museum and the museum has done a self-assessment; they know that the museum has a problem,” she said.

“To just not include Mexican-American narratives in Michigan history is impactful and I wanted my students to see that firsthand because the MHC is a very powerful institution, and this impacts the way people perceive our state’s history.”

As part of an ongoing partnership with the MHC and Chicano/Latino Studies Program at MSU, Fernández-Jones created an assignment in one of her classes where she had her students assess the museum for information about Latinos.

“I wanted my students to be involved with this because I have students from many different backgrounds. I have students who are Latino, who are Mexican American, and who are neither. I wanted them to just reflect on what it means to have your story included or not included in a museum.”

Not finding much information, students in Fernández-Jones’s Mexican American history course (HST 327) created projects to help teach the public and the museum docents about the histories of Mexican Americans in the U.S. and Michigan. Students created infographics, essays, videos, and presentations to teach people about various aspects of Mexican-American history from the early 1900s to the 1970s.

For the class’s final exam, students presented their projects to MHC docents via Zoom. The projects can be accessed by anyone who wants to learn more about Mexican-American history.

Fernández-Jones hopes to increase the visibility and awareness of Latinx Michigan. That is one of the goals she has as she serves on the Michigan Historical Commission, which oversees the Michigan Historical Marker Commission and has other responsibilities. When she started, only two out of 1,800 historical markers in the state dealt with Latinx history. She is working on the Latinx Historical Marker Project, which she is organizing with another historian from Grand Valley State University and community organizers. This project seeks to collaboratively apply for Historical Markers from the Michigan Historical Marker Program, to commemorate historical places and events that helped shape Latinx Grand Rapids today, especially considering the fight to stop Latinx displacement occurring in the area due to gentrification.

“I am completely honored to be able to contribute something to these fights as a historian. I have history and I have research. That’s what I can offer, that and my time.” ■

To learn more about Fernández-Jones and her research, visit

history.msu.edu/people/faculty/delia_fernandez

Psychology and History student Justin Crouch is the inaugural recipient of the Henderson Family Award

By Patti McDonald



Justin Crouch. Photo credit: Jackie Belden Hawthorne

Justin Crouch, a senior majoring in Psychology (with a minor in History) was recently awarded the Henderson Family Award, making him the first-ever recipient of the award.

The endowed award is given annually and is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors from all majors within Michigan State University’s College of Social Science. It includes \$2,000 plus up to \$10,000 in expenses if the research requires travel to a destination (archive, library, historical site, etc.)

The endowed scholarship was established in 2022 by Harold and

Franzine Henderson. Harold Henderson is a 1972 graduate of MSU’s College of Social Science. While at MSU, he funded his education by working as a campus police officer, becoming the first African American to hold such a job at the university. After his time at MSU, Henderson graduated from Harvard Law School, which led him to be one of the first African Americans to work at a major law firm in Washington D.C. Additionally, Henderson served for 16 years as the Executive Vice President for Labor Relations and Chairman of the Management Council Executive Committee for the National Football League. Henderson was at one time the highest-ranking African American ever in professional sports administration. He is currently the President of the NFL Player Care Foundation.

Henderson said his own experience and upbringing led him to establishing the endowed scholarship. He wanted to provide students with financial assistance for research, internships and study away and education abroad experiences.

“Growing up, our family’s income level was pretty low, and our standard of living was extremely low,” Henderson said. “There are so many kids who because of their background and lack of experiences and resources, can’t achieve the things that they want to, and I felt compelled to try to improve that prospect for at least a few kids.”

Before receiving the Henderson Family Award, Crouch worked closely with the College of Social Science’s Scholars and was introduced to Professor of History Dr. Walter Hawthorne through Associate Professor of History Dr. John Waller.

“Dr. Waller kind of brought up this opportunity of working on a project and working with old files of enslaved people over in Virginia,” Crouch said.

“I believe that history itself is very important and impactful because not only does it kind of help educate us about today’s world and kind of just you know, what actions you can take to avoid stuff that’s happened in the past. It is also important to look back at where we came from and what’s happened in our history and learn from that.”

Dr. Hawthorne was seeking students to work on Enslaved.org, an MSU-based grant-funded project that has resulted in an ever-growing digital repository with information about named enslaved people of African descent. The project’s website has attracted interest from scholars seeking data to answer questions about slavery and African American genealogists looking for information about their family history. Hawthorne recommended Crouch for a PURI Award (Provost’s Undergraduate Research Initiative). The PURI offers students up to \$2000 and they are matched with faculty on a research assignment and work up to a certain number of hours per week.

“Dr. Waller knew that Justin was interested in us, so Justin started off working for me on a PURI and then Justin happened to get a scholarship from Harold Henderson, becoming the first Henderson scholar, continuing to work on the project under the Henderson Award.”

With both scholarships, Crouch was able to work with Dr. Hawthorne and Heather Bollinger, an archivist in Virginia who frequently collaborates with the Enslaved.org project. For his project, Crouch extracted information about named enslaved individuals from wills and inventories of the holdings of enslavers, including some of our nation’s Founding Fathers. Crouch compiled that information into a dataset and eventually published it as a peer-reviewed article, “Revolutionary Probate Records in the Fairfax Court Slavery Index, 1767-1791” in the *Journal of Slavery and Data Preservation*. His data has also been made searchable on the Enslaved.org platform.

This dataset brings together enslaved and free people of color and indentured white servants who appear in Fairfax (Virginia) Circuit Court probate records during the period prior to, during, and immediately following the American Revolution. It is part of the wider Fairfax Court Slavery Index project, housed at the Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Center in Fairfax, Virginia. This ongoing initiative, begun by court archivists and genealogists in 2015, seeks to index all enslaved people, free(d) persons of color, and indentured white servants who can be found in the Clerk’s Office’s historic records from the years 1742 to 1870.

Crouch said he was especially proud to work closely on a project that could help other African American people get answers about their ancestors, something that might not have been possible before without a digital record.

“This is about people’s history, even my own history because I have ancestors who were enslaved people,” Crouch said.

“So, for me, in particular, this is kind of not only just interesting information, but just important in terms of just kind of understanding more about slavery and just the impact it’s had on this country.”

Henderson said he is quite satisfied with the fact that his endowed scholarship is helping a student like Crouch work on something that is so imperative to history and other African American people.

“If you are a minority or someone who has enslaved people in your family’s ancestry, a resource like *23 and Me* can be a dead end since enslaved people weren’t allowed to keep records or journals or anything like that,” Henderson said. “There are enslaved people in my own family’s history and to be able to get answers to connect one’s identity is truly remarkable.” ■

Dr. Alyssa Lopez continues to use valuable lessons learned from MSU History faculty to impact her own research and students at Providence College

By Emily Jodway



When Dr. Alyssa Lopez stepped onto the campus of Michigan State University after earning her undergraduate degree at Queens College in New York, she was struck by the vastness of the campus and its many branches, from the Dairy Store to the Bug House. However, the wealth of opportunities and learning Dr. Lopez found at MSU helped her to become the researcher she is today. She credits her mentors in both the History and Film Studies departments for guiding her as she wrote her dissertation and the beginning of what will be her first book, “Reel Freedom: Black Film Culture in Early Twentieth Century New York City.”

“Coming to MSU was a huge change, but it was also a really amazing experience. I was able to find community even on that very big campus. All of my best friends are from my PhD program,” Lopez said. “What I remember most are the people who ushered me through my program - Dr. Pero Dagbovie, Dr. Michael Stamm, Dr. LaShawn Harris, Dr. Joshua Yumibe - they were amazing.”

Along with a supportive group of faculty mentors to guide her through what could otherwise seem like a very daunting experience, Lopez joined several groups on campus that allowed her to discover even more opportunities, which eventually led her to her current career path: teaching. Lopez was an Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Teaching fellow at James Madison College, and a recipient of the King-Chavez Parks fellowship, both targeted toward those hoping to teach at higher education institutions after earning their degrees. Lopez currently teaches early 20th-century Black history and film at Providence College.

Lopez first became interested in this area of research in an undergraduate film studies course. The subject of Black cinema was touched on briefly during the course, and Lopez was left wanting more.

“For one section of one lecture in the class, my professor mentioned Black cinema,” Lopez explained. “He introduced it, talked about one specific director, then went back to talking about mainstream cinema. It was something that didn’t sit right with me. I knew that couldn’t be the end of Black film and all the many, many stories it has to tell.”

She has since been working on her book and other research surrounding the history of Black cinema. Her current project covers 20th-century Black film culture in New York City. She is examining the act of moviegoing, the labor involved in film production, and black film criticism.

“It all serves as a really important means of placemaking for Black New Yorkers during that time, that sort of works against a city that’s trying to resist their existence and full participation in city living,” Lopez said.

As she developed her research, Lopez had to discover her own path through higher education as a first-generation college student. She credits it as one of the defining aspects of her college career and continues to serve as a mentor to fellow first-gen students at Providence College. While navigating the collegiate world without parents or siblings to offer advice can be difficult, she stresses that it’s not impossible and that more and more schools are offering services, like mentoring relationships, that help make the process a little easier.

“It was definitely harder to get where I am now without the privilege of having family members who have had this experience before, but I did get here, right?” she says. “I think academia can be this really scary space, and that having people with different backgrounds, perspectives and starting points is so essential to making academic institutions more open and survivable for those of us that don’t know it inside and out.”

Lopez counts Dr. Dagbovie, a professor in the history department, associate provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, and dean of the Graduate School, as an invaluable mentor while at Michigan State and an inspiration to continue to teach and mentor others and improve their learning experiences. She was struck by his attentiveness and helpful attitude while she was still in the process of applying to MSU and other graduate schools.

“I hadn’t even submitted my application and he was putting in the time and resources to work with me,” she said. “He’s the kind of mentor that only comes around once in a lifetime. He just cares so deeply for his mentees and his students, and he wants to see success in whatever ways his mentees define it. I can say with confidence that I would not be where I am today without Dr. Dagbovie.”

In addition to teaching courses at Providence, Lopez is wrapping up her book and has begun a new archival research project on Marlon Riggs, a Black gay documentary filmmaker. She is particularly interested in his filmmaking practice, which many found controversial, but which Riggs stood behind and continued to push for its relevance in the public sphere. She hopes the students she teaches continue to be curious individuals who “take what they’ve learned out into the world and into their work, to make the world a better place and a more understandable one that is accessible to all.” ■

Read more about Lopez and her work by visiting:
<https://history.providence.edu/faculty-members/alyssa-lopez/>

Associate Professor of History Dr. Michelle Moyd settles into campus life at MSU

By Patti McDonald



Michelle Moyd. Photo credit: Jackie Belden Hawthorne

Associate Professor of History Dr. Michelle Moyd joined the Michigan State University History Department in the fall of 2022 as a Red Cedar Distinguished Professor.

MSU established the title of Red Cedar Distinguished Professor in fall 2022 and awards it to selected current and new faculty to assist in the recruitment, recognition, and retention of outstanding faculty at all academic ranks, with the primary aim of enhancing the stature of the institution in research and creative activity.

The Office of Innovation’s website states: “the award of the title will be made to individuals who combine externally recognized, exemplary scholarly accomplishment and/or potential, with clear professional relevance to specific areas of MSU scholarly need, disciplinary development, or research or creative emphasis. Consideration will also include the candidate’s teaching innovation and excellence.

Dr. Moyd said she is proud to be a part of MSU’s History Department because she’s always admired the institution.

“I’ve always had a lot of respect for MSU,” Moyd said. “In my field of African History, MSU is a leading institution, and a place where many exciting initiatives were happening. When I was recruited, I knew MSU would be a place where I could continue to expand my career and be more integrated into an African History and African Studies community and faculty. I already knew some of the faculty in the history department too, so the combination of all that made MSU a great fit for me.”

A historian of eastern Africa, Moyd teaches courses in African History. She has also taught courses on World War I, the history of soldiers and veterans, and the history of humanitarianism.

Moyd’s main research focus is on African soldiers, warfare in Eastern Africa, and the history of Africa and World War I.

In her first book, *Violent Intermediaries: African Soldiers, Conquest, and Everyday Colonialism in German East Africa* (Ohio University Press, 2014), she explores the social and cultural history of African soldiers in the colonial army of German East Africa, today’s Tanzania.

This semester, Moyd is teaching two courses: Integrative Social Science 330A: Africa and the Social Sciences and HST 484: Seminar in African History.

“ISS 330A’s theme is African environmental histories and activism,” she said. “HST 484 is a senior seminar, exploring war and militarization in African History.”

She is currently working on her second book project, *Africa, Africans, and the First World War*, which examines the spectrum of African experiences in the war, especially as soldiers and workers.

“Because German East Africa played a key role and was one of the main campaigns that was fought in World War I, I became very interested in that and thinking more broadly about Africans and Africa in World War I.”

In addition to writing her book, Moyd also edits the *Journal of African History* (JAH). She also holds several editorial advisory roles with the journal *First World War Studies*; with the series Ohio Short Histories of Africa at Ohio University Press; at Elements of Modern Warfare at Cambridge University Press; and Studies in the Cultural History of Modern Warfare at Cambridge University Press.

She is also involved in many different projects, including researching the impacts of war and violence on Africans.

“I am currently working on a project that looks at the history of photography during a German colonial war fought in 1905-1907 and trying to think about how violence against African people was captured in photography, often in ways that might not be noticeable at first glance.”

“I have also written about the intersection between military history and African history. My work addresses issues such as why African military history continues to be sidelined in mainstream military historiography.”

Outside of teaching and writing, Moyd enjoys exploring the East Lansing community with her family. Moyd moved to East Lansing from Bloomington, Indiana where she was teaching at Indiana University Bloomington.

Moyd said she discovered the Lansing Shuffle over the summer and enjoys relaxing at Hooked or Schuler’s Books & Music. She said she also likes walking on the Northern Tier Trail.

“It’s been really fun getting to know the area,” Moyd said. “We are exploring what our favorite foods are and where we like to go. We would like to spend more time in Detroit and explore the northern part of the state.”

Moyd said she hopes to spend the upcoming summer focusing on writing her book and further exploring Michigan.

To learn more about Moyd and her research, visit:
history.msu.edu/people/faculty/michelle-moyd

Associate Professor of History Dr. Matthew Pauly on Research Obstacles Amid the Russo-Ukrainian War

By Patti McDonald

Dr. Matthew Pauly, an associate professor in the History Department at Michigan State University, is a highly experienced researcher of Ukraine, with over 30 years of dedication to the region. Pauly’s first trip to Ukraine was in 1988 when he was a high school student. Since then, he’s gone on countless research trips there. He said the war between Russia and Ukraine has significantly disrupted his research due to safety concerns around travel and the accessibility of archives.

“I feel the need to go back,” Pauly said. “Some central state archives reopened last summer, but most regional ones have not; it depends on the archive. I’d say universally, they’re not prepared to receive foreign researchers at this time.”

According to Pauly, in-person access to the archives was already constrained due to COVID-related restrictions put in place before Russia’s full-scale invasion in February 2022. However, those limitations are now exacerbated because of the war.

“You can remotely order copies of a few files from the archives but there’s a significant wait for the processing of any requests. It’s not the way historians are used to working; we’re accustomed to sitting in the archive all day, sorting through materials, and finding new leads from what we encountered in the files that we’ve received. Now even the work of Ukrainian historians who have returned to the reading rooms is regularly interrupted by air raid warnings.”

Dr. Pauly emphasizes his experience doesn’t compare to the hardships endured daily by Ukrainians who are trying to survive the war. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) verified that more than 9,000 civilian deaths have occurred during Russia’s invasion of Ukraine as of September 2023. Furthermore, more than 17,000 people were reported to have been injured. However, the OHCHR specified that the real numbers could be even higher.

“For the nearly two years of this horror, I have found it quite difficult to get the courage to email the archives with requests,” he said. “I am worried about the people, about the librarians and archivists who are doing the work that makes our historical research possible. As individuals, they’re trying to survive the war for themselves and their families.”

There were materials that were officially accessible and then there was what really existed...the archival structure in Ukraine was a legacy of the Soviet Union and the purpose of Soviet archives was not to make files publicly available, but to preserve them for selective, regulated use.

Pauly credits his scholarly success to local historians and librarians in Ukraine who helped him examine files that were not easily accessible to foreign researchers, especially early on in his career as a graduate student researcher in the ‘90s.

“I would not have had a career without the advice of local historians who pointed me in the right direction towards files. There were materials that were officially accessible and then there was what really existed...the archival structure in Ukraine was a legacy of the Soviet Union and the purpose of Soviet archives was not to make files publicly available, but to preserve them for selective, regulated use,” he said.

Pauly said he and other historians are worried that the constant bombing will cause an erasure of history with the disappearance of paper files.

“Only a small fraction of this material is digitized. Before the full-scale invasion, Ukraine didn’t have the infrastructure to digitize these files. Soviet records were often published on poor-quality paper and the paper itself was not meant to hold together over time. The files are really fragile things, and they can fall apart in your hands. By and large, almost all my work up until this point has been with physical paper files that are easily destroyed if a bomb hits an archive. Last March, Russian forces burned down an archive of the Ukrainian Security Service in Chernihiv, a city in northern Ukraine that has since been liberated. Key documents on the Stalinist era, the Second World War, and the Holocaust in Ukraine have been forever lost. In the part of Ukraine that remains under Russian occupation, the fate of archival holdings is unknown.

The Russian Army continues to bomb civilian populations throughout Ukraine, including in the capital city of Kyiv and the town of Odesa.

“Odesa, where I most recently worked, is also the home of the Ukrainian Navy and is frequently attacked,” Pauly said. “The Ukrainian Navy is not a huge force because when the Russians annexed Crimea in 2014, they stole a lot of the Ukrainian fleet. So, there’s not a large presence, but the Navy is responsible for protecting the Ukrainian coastline and has had considerable success. The city itself is a target. It seemed pretty clear in 2022 that Russia intended to conquer Odesa. The Kremlin views the port as the centerpiece in its campaign to capture the former Tsarist-era territory of ‘Novorossiia.’ Much of Ukraine’s grain, which the rest of the world depends on, is exported from Odesa. Russia seeks to disrupt this trade.”

Odesa is also the subject of one of Pauly’s current book projects. His research monograph, *City of Children: Juvenile Poverty, Crime, and Salvation in Odesa*, investigates the impulse of Odesa’s citizens to care for marginalized children at the turn of the 20th century and how children’s welfare institutions and programs were simultaneously maintained and transformed under Soviet rule.

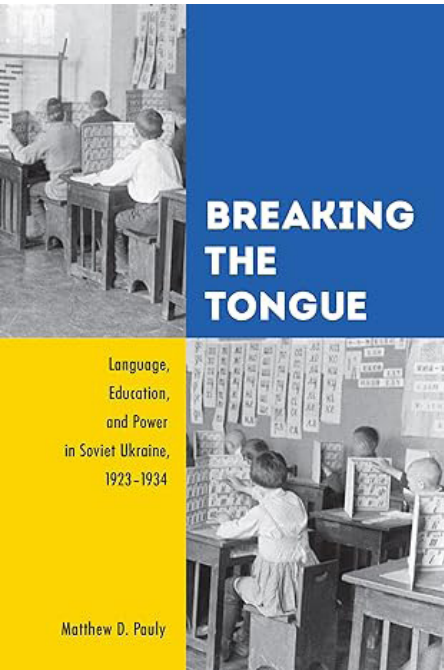
Pauly said he stays in contact with friends and colleagues who live in Odesa, and it can be heart-wrenching to hear their stories of what they’re enduring.

“I have a friend who sends me daily messages about drones and missiles that are headed towards the civilian population in Odesa. Can you even imagine? They don’t get much sleep, if any. Then, they have to try to do work. I would think any historian, or former student in the MSU History Department would appreciate what librarians, historians, and archivists do. They’re just no different than ourselves.” ■

To learn more about Pauly and his research, visit: history.msu.edu/people/faculty/matthew-pauly



Dr. Matthew Pauly.
Photo credit: Jackie Belden Hawthorne



Dr. Matthew Pauly's book, *Breaking the Tongue*

Yun Zou credits History Professor for Success

By Emily Jodway

Yun Zou, a Ph.D. student studying history at Michigan State University, credits her advisor as one of her greatest sources of support while she navigated the world of earning a Ph.D. as a Chinese student.

Zou clicked early on with her advisor, Dr. Aminda Smith, an associate professor in the history department. Smith specializes in modern Chinese history and Chinese communism, interwoven with research on gender, sexuality, and the history of the global left. Zou, who has chosen a very similar path for her own studies, knew that Dr. Smith would be the perfect mentor.

“I have a very strong interest in gender, and I’m involved in the public discussion of gender issues in China; I care a lot about gender equality,” Zou explained. “There aren’t a lot of professors doing both Chinese studies and gender studies. I found when I was applying [at MSU] that I really liked her research and projects.”

Zou completed her undergraduate and master’s degrees in History and knew that for her Ph.D. program, she wanted to continue along the path of studying history with a focus on gender studies and social justice. It’s been a literal trip around the world for Zou, as she did her first year of study at MSU virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic, before coming to the United States for the first time to live on campus. Right now, she is back in China doing fieldwork related to a new project.

As she learned English as a second language, Zou describes the readings for her Ph.D. program as more intense and difficult than classes she’d previously encountered. She also had to contend with joining online lectures taking place during the day in East Lansing while it might have been 3 or 4 a.m. in China. She credits Dr. Smith for supporting and encouraging her throughout the process.

“I’ve never had any experience studying in an American institution before now, and it’s also my first time studying for a Ph.D.,” Zou explained. “But Dr. Smith gave me a lot of encouragement and assured me that I was doing okay. If I ever have any questions, she’s always there for me.”

“Yun is a highly skilled historian, but what really sets her apart is the empathy she has for the people she studies,” Dr. Smith added. “She is doing cutting-edge research that spans the fields of women’s and gender studies, environmental history, and modern Chinese history. The oral histories she is collecting highlight the historical experiences of rural women whose voices rarely appear in official archives but whose efforts were crucial to the way China developed in the 20th century.”

She [Yun] is doing cutting-edge research that spans the fields of women’s and gender studies, environmental history, and modern Chinese history.

- Dr. Aminda Smith

Zou found an interest in gender issues in China around the time of the #MeToo movement, an awareness movement surrounding sexual harassment and sexual abuse of women that grew to prominence in 2017, after news of American film producer Harvey Weinstein engaging in this behavior went public.

#MeToo has highlighted and made a lot of gender issues very visible. It started in the U.S. and now it’s starting up in China,” she said. “I feel for it very deeply. I know many women who have suffered sexual harassment. And during this period, for the first time, there are a lot of women sharing their stories and feelings. That got me even more interested in gender issues.”

For now, Zou has pivoted her research toward a newfound interest she encountered during her Ph.D. program at Michigan State. She has taken her previous research on gender studies and woven it in with environmental history in China. She has been visiting several construction sites led and built by women during Mao Zedong’s reign in China, a period in which women worked in accordance with Mao’s ideals of gender on several state labor projects. Mao believed that women were an untapped resource of labor power which should be used in the interests of the country.

“My current project looks at the relationships between gender, nature, and culture,” Zou said. “There were several women-led environmental transformation projects going on in China in Mao’s era. Basically, anything you can imagine them doing labor-wise, they did. It wasn’t even about men and women working together to build a dam; I’m talking about a dam that was built almost entirely out of female labor.”

Zou will return to Michigan State after this semester of field work back in her home country. In the face of several new cultural differences and adjustments, Zou has found East Lansing to be a welcoming home away from home.

“I quite like East Lansing for the environment. There are not too many people here. Where I come from, there are always many, many people. I can basically always find a spot on the bus here, which is great!” ■

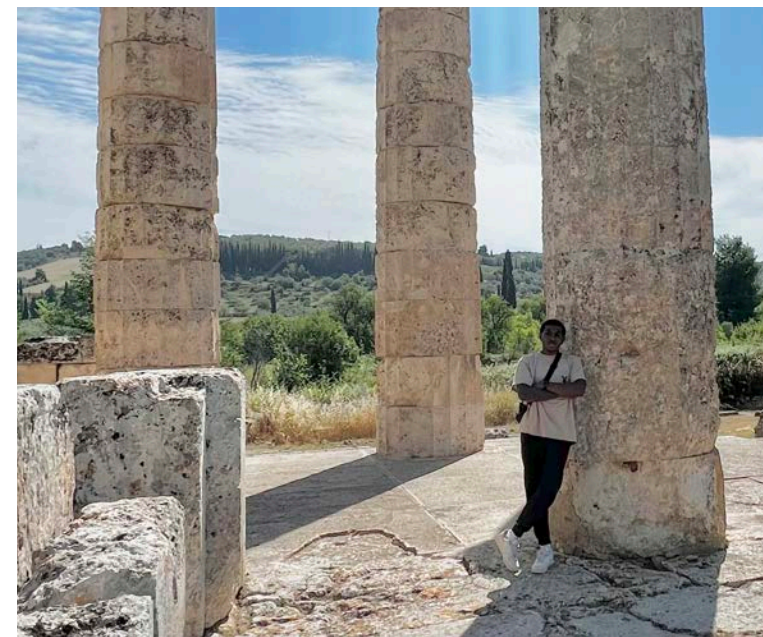
Undergraduate Program Update

By Dr. Emily Tabuteau

The study of history offers our undergraduates much more than insight into the past. It provides a means of improving and sharpening their research, writing, and analytical skills. Courses in our department introduce students to times and places as varied as the Roman Empire, the Soviet Union, Imperial China and Japan, and modern South Africa. We are delighted to have just added courses on South Asia. Courses on special topics cover concepts, ideas, and practices that include but are by no means limited to Catholicism, sports, film, food, alcohol, the history of magic, witchcraft and the occult. In studying these places and themes, students also learn the fundamentals of research in primary sources, the construction of arguments and concise, persuasive writing. This set of skills prepares students for a variety of careers that rely on research and analysis while also providing them with the foundation for acting as engaged citizens in their local, national, and international communities.

The department offers three majors. The standard History major is very flexible and provides students with enough electives to undertake a second major or several minors. The Global History major is for students particularly interested in a part of the world other than the United States. The History Education major is in the process of morphing into a new social studies major which combines the previous history education major with the former social studies education major that was housed in the Center for Integrative Studies in Social Science. Both the department’s minor in History and the minor in Defense Studies and Leadership are popular.

The pursuit of history is not limited to the classroom at Michigan State University. The undergraduate club is open to all undergraduates who are interested in history, whether they are majors or not. ■



▲ Rashad Bates in front of Nemea, an ancient site in Greece.

Graduate Program Update

By Dr. Aminda Smith

Ph.D. students are at the heart of the intellectual life and the educational mission of the History Department at Michigan State University. They conduct cutting-edge research around the world and across time periods. They are award-winning teachers who work closely with faculty to mentor undergraduates. Our graduate students are regularly honored with awards recognizing their excellence in both teaching and research.

In 2022 and 2023, we celebrated and said goodbye to our many successful graduates, we congratulated multiple award winners, and we welcomed new students.

We are delighted to announce that six recent graduates moved on to faculty and postdoctoral fellowship positions: Jen Andrella (U.S. History) now holds a Mellon Digital Humanities postdoc at Knox College. Akil Cornelius (African History) is a visiting Assistant Professor at Kalamazoo College. Ajamu Dillahunt-Holloway (U.S. History) is an Assistant Professor at North Carolina State University. Lyudmila Austin (European History) is a postdoc at Harvard University. Katie Carline (African History) is a Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council postdoc at Dalhousie University. Eric Kesse (African History) is an Assistant Professor at Clark University. Abdoulie Jabang (African History) will be joining Texas Christian University as an Assistant Professor.

In the fall of 2023, we welcomed four new students to the Ph.D. program in History: One, Eric Baylis, in U.S. History, and three, Emmanuel Ankomahene, Tobias Awiti, and Lucio Bianchi in African History.

Several of our students won prestigious research fellowships. We had three Fulbright fellows: Caitlin Barker (Africa and Asia), Ryan Carty (Africa), and Marlo Buser (Europe); two Social Science Research Council fellows: Chioma Uchefuna (Africa) and Caitlin Barker; Eric Kesse (Africa) held a Newcombe fellowship, and Adam Coldren (Asia) held a Japan Foundation fellowship.

Ph.D. student in European History, Marissa Knaak, won two graduate student paper prizes, the Bob McJimsey Award from the Western Conference on British Studies for her paper: “In the Shadows of Window Displays: Department Store Employees and Class Boundaries in Late Victorian Sheffield” and the William & Mary Burgan Prize from the Midwest Victorian Studies Association her presentation “Mourning and the Annual Sale: Sheffield’s Department Stores and Queen Victoria’s Death.” ■

Graduate Awards

Kwan-Wai So Award

The award is given to a graduate student with an exemplary academic record focused on Asian History. This award was made possible by Kester and Cheryl So, and Wu-Yi So.

- Caitlin Barker

Fred Williams Graduate Award

This award recognizes a teaching assistant who plans a teaching career in History at the college or university level as exemplified by Professor Williams during his tenure at Michigan State University. This award was made possible by Kenneth and Sandra Beall.

- McKayla Sluga

The Donald Lammers Graduate Award

This award is designed for a graduate student in good standing whose research interests and related activities promise to improve our knowledge and historical understanding of the nature and dynamics of international and intercultural relationships in any geographical region or time. This award was made possible by Donald and Giovanna Lammers, Juliette Primeau, and Craig T. Johnson.

- Yun Zou

Milton E. Muelder Graduate Fellowship in History

This fellowship is awarded to a graduate student pursuing a Ph.D. in a field of European, Middle Eastern, and/or history of the Arabic/Islamic World. This award was made possible by Beth Schwartz.

- Marissa Knaak

The Sinclair and S. Suzanne Powell Scholarship in Transportation History

This award is for an undergraduate or graduate student in the Department of History who has a strong interest in Transportation History. This award is made possible by Suzanne Powell.

- Ryan Carty

Madison Kuhn Award

This award is for a second or third-year graduate student with a GPA of 3.75 or higher, who proposes that best pre-dissertation research in United States History. This award was made possible by Dr. Bryce Plapp, Rosemary Plapp, and Larry Murray.

- Jada Gannaway

Muelder-Lowe Graduate Award

The award recognizes a teaching assistant who plans a teaching career in European History at the college or university level. This award was made possible by Beth Schwartz and Dr. and Mrs. William Lowe.

- Gloria Ashaolu

Harry Brown Graduate Fellowship in American History

This fellowship is awarded to a student who demonstrates academic excellence. This award was made possible by Suzanne Powell.

- Samantha Smith

Jeff Rooney Paper Prize

This award is given to a graduate student who writes the best paper in a seminar in the year of the award.

- Eric Kesse

Undergraduate Awards

The David T. Bailey Endowed Scholarship in History

The award honors the late Professor Bailey, who was a professor of American intellectual and religious history in the Department of History at Michigan State for many years. The recipient is a History major from the state of Michigan.

- Alivia Young

Blight History Scholarship

The scholarship, endowed by alumnus and Yale professor Dr. David Blight, is intended to support students majoring in History and encourage students who have demonstrated the capacity to achieve educational and professional goals.

- Ayden Ferris

David LoRomer Scholarship

This award remembers our colleague, David LoRomer, professor of European and Italian History, and recognizes the best undergraduate essay written in the History Department for this academic year.

- Sophie Alegi

Honorable Mentions: Ayden Ferris, and Max Martus

Robert and Catherine Workman Endowed Scholarship in History

This scholarship is intended for a student majoring in History enrolled in the College of Social Science and who has achieved an exceptional grade point average. This award was made possible by Robert and Catherine Workman.

- Kendall Brach

Rout-Williams Award

The Rout-Williams Award in history remembers Dr. Les Rout, one of the first African American professors in the department, and Dr. Frederick Williams, former chair of the department, honors an outstanding history sophomore.

- Jared Visser

Sandra Sageser Clark Endowed Scholarship in History

This scholarship is named in honor of Sandra Sageser Clark, Director of the Michigan Historical Center, and is given to a student each year who plans to pursue a career in public history. This award was made possible by Sandra Sageser Clark and Michael Clark.

- Rebecca Yoemans-Stephenson

Harry Reed Endowed Scholarship in History

The award is named for Harry Reed and Emeritus Professor of History at Michigan State. The scholarship is awarded to a junior History major with either African American history or American history as their major area of emphasis.

- Megan Smejkal

Anthony and Mary Joan Woods Scholarship for Research

This scholarship made possible by Anthony Woods, Jr. and Kay Samuelson Woods, honors Anthony and Mary Joan Woods and their legacy of teaching and philanthropy. The award funds the research of a student in the History Scholars Program with an outstanding GPA.

- Jonah Wiegand

The Sinclair and S. Suzanne Powell Scholarship in Transportation History

This award is for an undergraduate or graduate student in the Department of History who has a strong interest in Transportation History. This award is made possible by Suzanne Powell.

- Joseph Konczal

J. Morgan Sweeney Memorial Scholarship

The award is named in honor of the late Professor J. Morgan Sweeney who enriched the lives of his students through Study Abroad Programs in Great Britain. The award provides funds for a student with an exemplar GPA planning a study abroad trip in Summer 2023. This award was made possible by James Adam-Berger, Richard Kars, and Noel McSweeney.

- Rashad Bates



History Scholars News

By Dr. Emily Conroy-Krutz

In the late summer, our best students are invited to apply to join the History Scholars for the upcoming academic year. Our program aims to help students build a community within the department, go deeper into their interests in history, and familiarize themselves with the Michigan State University faculty and visiting professors. Membership in the group also makes Scholars eligible for awards to advance their own research. This fall has seen an exciting lineup of events for the History Scholars, including history in the headlines lectures, professional development workshops, visits to MSU Special Collections, and study breaks (featuring one very exciting tic-tac-toe tournament).

In the History in the Headlines series, MSU History faculty have helped the History Scholars understand the historical context behind major news and cultural stories. Dr. Ethan Segal shared a fascinating presentation on the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, the environment, and Japan's international relations. Dr. Rich Bellon talked to us about "Oppenheimer" and what the movie gets right about the history of science. Dr. Michael Stamm helped students contextualize the current panic around artificial intelligence in light of the longer history of communications technology. Dr. Emily Elliott talked us through the rise and fall of Yevgeny Prigozhin and Russian politics in the late twentieth century.

On Halloween, we visited MSU's Special Collections with Dr. Liam Brockey, who provided a fascinating overview of sources on witchcraft. Early in the semester, we were joined by Dani Willcutt to learn about internships and career opportunities in history. Students were able to enjoy meals with visiting alums and scholars, where they were able to ask questions about the visitors' career paths, interests, and more.

We look forward to even more fun in the spring semester, when we will be going back to Special Collections, hearing from Dr. Justin Simard of the MSU Law School, and having time with visiting scholars.

Our final event of the spring will feature presentations from this year's cohort of Honor's Thesis writers. Eight students have chosen to take on the significant work of writing a thesis this year. This is a year-long project that will result in a thesis of 75-100 pages. Topics range widely, with this year's group spanning the seventeenth to the twentieth century in the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East. All are welcome to join us in celebrating the work of these excellent students. ■

◀ *Photo of the Real Gabinete Portuguez de Leitura which is located in Rio de Janeiro. Photo by: History graduate student Estela Gonçalves de Souza*

2022-2023:

Ph.D. Graduates

Jennifer Andrella

"When the War Raged On: Montana Territory, the Politics of Authority, and National Reconstruction"
Advisor: Dr. Thomas Summerhill

Lyudmila Austin

"From Internationalism to Displacement: Minoritized Communities in the Formerly Soviet Southern Tier"
Advisor: Dr. Lewis Siegelbaum

Amanda Brewer

"Care and Therapy: Food in the Institutionalized Mentally Ill in the Long Progressive Era"
Advisor: Dr. Naoko Wake

Katie Carline

"Black Women's Christian Associations and the Making of Urban Cultures in a South African City, c.1900-1994"
Advisor: Dr. Peter Alegi

Akil Cornelius

"The Armory: Warfare, Gender, and Technology in South Africa, 1820 to 1904"
Advisor: Dr. Peter Alegi

HONORS THESIS AUTHORS

Students graduating with honors must maintain an exceptional GPA and write a senior thesis. The honors thesis obliges students to pursue original research and to produce a thesis of a minimum of 50 pages.

Emily Austin

Creatures of the Night: Werewolf Trials in Early Modern Europe
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Emily Tabuteau

Britton Gustafson

Imperial Medicine and the Second World War: The Kenyan Plague Epidemic of 1941-42
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Peter Alegi

Michelle Norello

The Sioux Uprising of 1862: Native Resistance, Settler Expansion, and the Civil War in the West
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Nakia Parker

Daniel Opp

The Myth of Achaemenid Decline
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Noah Kaye

Aaron Pap

Faith in Spite of the Facts
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Michael Stamm

Bailey Williams

Eugenics in Michigan: How the People of Michigan Interacted with the Eugenics Movement
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Sharon Leon

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Please consider contributing to our department. Your gift will be used to help undergraduate and graduate students carry out research, present at conferences, and other scholarly activities.

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