

## A Message from the Chair

### Dr. Michael Stamm

Chair of the Department of History



I became Chair of the department in August 2022, and I have been pleased and proud to serve a vibrant and diverse community of 41 faculty, 46 graduate students, and 250 undergraduates. I joined the department in 2008 as a specialist in modern North American history, and

it is inspiring to collaborate with and learn from colleagues with expertise in and beyond my own field. The intellectual reach of the MSU History Department's expertise is truly global, and it is home to some of the world's leading authorities on the histories of Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the United States. My colleagues are award-winning undergraduate teachers, and they are training the next generation of professional historians in our graduate program. In addition to excelling as writers and teachers, the MSU History Department has long been a leader in the field of digital humanities. Today, in collaboration with Matrix: Center for Digital Humanities & Social Sciences, the department is home to one of the country's most important digital humanities projects Enslaved: Peoples of the Historical Slave Trade, which has created a linked open data platform making available thousands of records related to the historical enslavement of Africans. In a wide range of activities, members of the MSU History Department are committed to generating and communicating information about the past to promote the public interest in the present.

## Support the Department

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. To donate now visit:

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## Share Your Updates With Us

Are you a faculty, student, staff member, or alumnus of the MSU Department of History? Contact the department with updates and news you want to share!

-  [history@msu.edu](mailto:history@msu.edu)
-  [history.msu.edu](http://history.msu.edu)
-  [@MSU\\_HistoryDept](https://twitter.com/MSU_HistoryDept)
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The famed historic West Gate, Peking University, Beijing.  
Photo credit: Caitlin Barker



Department of History  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## Awards Ceremony 2022-2023

The students in the Department of History proudly travel the world while studying and conducting research. Ph.D. Candidate Caitlin Barker had the opportunity of traveling to Beijing to conduct pre-dissertation fieldwork while studying Mandarin Chinese at the Princeton-in-Beijing program.



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## Undergraduate Achievements

### Dr. Emily Tabuteau

Associate Chair for Undergraduate Affairs and Associate Professor of History

We have many excellent undergraduate students. Among their accomplishments this year have been the following: Jacob Novak's paper, "The Start of China's Feminist Movement: He-Yin Zhen's Embodiment of Genuine Feminism," has been accepted for publication in *The Crimson Historical Journal*, which is published by the University of Alabama. Megan Gackler and her older sister Rebecca (a recent graduate from our department) presented a paper at conference at Texas A&M University. Sophie Alegi's paper, "Apartheid and the Illegal Liquor Trade" won our department's David LoRomer Prize for the best paper by an undergraduate. Runners up – in a highly competitive field – were Ayden Ferris ("Comprehending the Incomprehensible: Surrealists and the Holocaust") and Max Martus ("Rule by Conseillers and the Réseau Foccart: Françafrique's Early Years"). We have selected Sean Montero as this year's outstanding senior and Jared Visser as this year's winner of the Rout-Williams award, which is for the best sophomore in the department. Here are our scholarship winners: Rashad Bates (Sweeney Scholarship); Kendall Brach (Workman Scholarship); Ayden Ferris (Blight Scholarship); Joseph Konczal (Powell Scholarship); Megan Smejkal (Reed Scholarship); Jonah Wiegand (Woods Scholarship); Rebecca Yoemans-Stephenson (Clark Scholarship); Alivia Young (Bailey Scholarship).

## Graduate Student Achievements

### Dr. Aminda Smith

Graduate Director and Associate Professor of History

Ph.D. students are central to the intellectual life and the educational mission of the History Department. Their research records the stories of people and places around the world, from antiquity to the present. They teach and advise undergraduates and are frequently honored with awards for their work in the classroom.

In 2022 – 2023, our students won several 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.

Our 2022-2023 graduates are moving into exciting new positions: Jen Andrella (U.S.) now holds a Mellon Digital Humanities postdoc at Knox College. Akil Cornelius (Africa) is Visiting Assistant Professor at Kalamazoo College. Ajamu Dillahunt-Holloway (U.S.) has been appointed Assistant Professor at North Carolina State. Moses Massenburg (U.S.) is an activist for racial justice through community farming in Watts, California. Lyudmila Austin (Europe) accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Harvard University. Katie Carline (Africa) will take up the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship at Dalhousie University. Eric Kesse (Africa) will be Assistant Professor at Clark University. Abdoulie Jabang will join Texas Christian University as an Assistant Professor.

## Faculty Books

### **The Attalids of Pergamon and Anatolia: Money, Culture, and State Power**

Assistant professor of History Noah Kaye published *The Attalids of Pergamon and Anatolia: Money, Culture, and State Power* (Cambridge University Press), which traces the improbable rise of the Attalids of Pergamon after 188 BCE. In this uniquely comprehensive study of the political economy of the kingdom, and synthesizing new findings in epigraphy, archaeology, and numismatics, Kaye rethinks the impact of Attalid imperialism on the Greek polis.

### **MexiRican City: Migration, Placemaking, and Activism in Grand Rapids, Michigan**

Assistant professor of History Delia Fernández-Jones published *Making the MexiRican City: Migration, Placemaking, and Activism in Grand Rapids, Michigan* (University of Illinois Press), a pioneering study of the placemaking practices that Mexicans, Tejanos, and Puerto Ricans used to create communities in Grand Rapids. In their activism and everyday lives, members of this emerging interethnic Latino alliance exploited cracks in both overt and structural racism and attracted white and Black partners to fight for equality in social welfare programs, policing, and education.

### **Come Out! In Detroit**

Fixed term faculty member Tim Retzloff, along with illustrator Isabel Clare Paul, published the nonfiction comic book *Come Out! In Detroit*, which chronicles the first-ever LGBTQ+ pride celebration in Michigan in 1972. Based on eyewitness primary sources, oral histories, and a cache of largely unseen photographs, *Come Out! In Detroit* is an important account of what may be the earliest example of statewide gay organizing in the United States.