

# Michigan in the World



**M** | LSA HISTORY  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
2015 NEWSLETTER

Page 3 **In the Field**  
**Reconstructing an  
archive in Uganda**



**Page 4**  
**Undergraduate Journal**  
Out of the classroom,  
into the archives ...  
and onto the web



**Page 6**  
**Graduate Student Focus**  
Joseph Ho researches,  
preserves images of daily  
life in 1920-1950s China



**Page 8**  
**Innovative Instruction**  
Faculty link history  
students to Istanbul, Kyoto  
in virtual classroom



**Page 10**  
**MLK Day Symposium**  
History's 2015  
events draw  
capacity crowds

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**Page 12**  
**Alumni & Friends**  
Reason, understanding,  
persuasion: Why I give  
to U-M History

## FROM THE CHAIR



### This past year, we bid farewell to Connie Hamlin,

who worked in our department for forty years and retired in December 2014. In April Lorna Altstetter said goodbye to her friends in history after thirty-four years to move to the new U-M Shared Services Center. Their accumulated seventy-five years of wisdom, their good humor, and generosity are sadly missed in Tisch Hall these days!

We are delighted to report that we have filled two endowed chairs with excellent new colleagues. History welcomes our new J. Frederick Hoffman Chair, Professor Ken Mills, a distinguished expert in Iberian Atlantic history, who joined us this fall from the University of Toronto. The search for the next Manoogian Chair in Armenian History concluded successfully with the appointment of Assistant Professor Hakem Al-Rustom (PhD, Social Anthropology, London School of Economics), who will join us from the University of Cairo in fall 2016.

In an era of “declining humanities,” we taught some 6,300 undergraduates during the last academic year, around four hundred of whom were our majors. Our new minors in Global History and Law and Policy are now in place, and we continue to develop new and exciting courses in areas of high student interest such as the environment, human rights, public history, and sexuality and gender, along with new courses on “history of the present,” global trash, and economic history. Our career workshop for undergraduates, along with our No Free Mopping internship program, continue to thrive, and this year we were thrilled to launch, in conjunction with the Eisenberg Institute, our Michigan in the World program (see story on page 4).

Our graduate program continues to attract talented students from across the globe and is enriched by programming offered by the Eisenberg Institute, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, and the Science, Technology & Society program, along with our interdisciplinary PhD programs in History and Women’s Studies, Anthropology and History, and Greek and Roman History. This past year we also offered the first Kemp Symposium on geography and history, as well as special workshops on early modern religion, the judicial archives, empire and African studies, and gender and civility.

In January History hosted an outstanding MLK Day panel featuring former PhD students LaKisha Simmons, Kidada Williams, and Andrew Highsmith, whose recent books examine issues of race and society in US history (see page 10). The department also sponsored a showing of the film *Selma* in a local theater, followed by a question-and-answer session with History faculty.

I am grateful to the many colleagues and students whose intellectual vision and energy give Michigan History its vibrancy! We look forward to hearing from you and to another lively year!

Best wishes,

Kathleen M. Canning, Department Chair  
Sonya O. Rose Collegiate Professor of History  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of History, Women’s Studies, and German

## NEWSBITS

Eisenberg Institute postdoctoral fellow Pedro Monaville (PhD 2013) coordinated a series of campus public programs with Congolese painter Sapin Makengele, who completed this work while in residence in January 2015. The painting was donated to the Department of History and now hangs in the department offices in 1029 Tisch Hall.



## IN THE FIELD

# Partnering to Preserve



Jinja District Archives project team members sort through boxes of files. (photo: Keefer Denney-Turner)

## Battling Termites and Floods to Recover an Archive in Uganda

By Ashley Rockenbach, PhD Candidate

In the interest of preserving Uganda’s rich archival sources and promoting equitable accessibility, faculty and students from the University of Michigan and Uganda’s Makerere University have, in recent years, partnered with Ugandan archivists to preserve, catalogue, and digitize the country’s local and national repositories.

Most of these collections are disorganized and difficult to access, but are otherwise usable. This has afforded a new generation of historians the opportunity to write histories of the colonial and postcolonial state—provided they have the patience, time, and funding necessary to spend months picking through mountains of unsorted files.

Since 2009, Professor Derek Peterson has led five teams of undergraduate and graduate students from History and the School of Information to conduct cataloguing projects at the Uganda National Archives in Entebbe; district archives in Kabale, Fort Portal, Hoima; and the Central Police Station Archives in Kampala. This past summer Peterson’s team traveled to eastern Uganda to catalogue the Jinja District Archives (JDA), the largest known provincial collection in the country.

Jinja was long the industrial capital of Uganda and a regional hub for labor migrants, and this is reflected in the JDA’s impressive collection of files concerning labor and labor organization. The region was severely affected by

Idi Amin’s so-called Economic War (1972) and his decision to expel Uganda Asians, who made up the majority of Jinja’s mercantile class. The JDA therefore offers a unique window into the history of colonial economies, labor migration, and the postcolonial state, and should be of great interest to historians of East Africa, the Indian Ocean, the South Asian diaspora, and global labor movements.

The JDA, however, also presented some of the most significant preservation challenges the team had yet encountered. Housed in the basement of the district headquarters, the archive suffers termite damage and floods every time it rains, resulting in severe water damage to files left on the floor and lowest shelves. The team spent the first three weeks of their stay removing wet files from the basement and drying them in the District Council Chamber using fans, paper towels, and time.

They then commenced sorting, consolidating, rehousing, cataloguing, and shelving the entire collection, completing the project within eight weeks. While funding constraints prevented the district from constructing a new storage space for the archive, the team left the collection safely above the flood line and the new catalogue (both electronic and hard copy) in the hands of the district records officer. The team completed their project by presenting their work to the Jinja District administration and records management students and faculty at Makerere University.

Cover image: Archival files dry in the Jinja District Council Chamber. (photo: Keefer Denney-Turner)

JDA 2015 project team members (left to right): Ashley Rockenbach (U-M), Riley Linebaugh (U-M), Precious Ampeire (Busoga University), Kate Bruce-Lockhart (Cambridge University), Abigail Meert (U-M), Claire Nakanjako (Makerere University), Sandra-Claire Bugingo (Makerere University), Andrew Shin (U-M), unidentified district officer, Keefer Denny-Turner (U-M), Olive Nakyanzi (Jinja District), and George Nabida (Jinja District). Missing from photo: Eberechi Ogbuaku (U-M); James Munene (Henry Mitchell British Institute for Eastern Africa); Arnold Mugume, Sandra-Claire Bugingo, and Sharef Walya (Makerere University); Rose Kitimba (Busoga University). (photo: Arnold Mugume)



# Making Michigan History

*Michigan in the World takes undergrads out of the classroom, into the archives ... and onto the web*

By Gregory Parker, EHS Administrator

It felt less like course work and more like detective work.

“Archival research meant literally digging through thousands of documents—most that had nothing to do with our project—to find a single piece of paper,” said Emilie Irene Neumeier, a student in Professor Matthew Lassiter’s winter 2015 seminar, History 497, Global Activism at U-M: The Anti-War, Anti-Apartheid, and Anti-Sweatshop Movements.

“As tiring as that can get, the moment of finding a document that mattered was so exciting it made up for the hours spent looking through everything else,” said Neumeier, a history and political science major who graduated in May.

Neumeier was among thirteen undergraduates who set out to understand the role of University of Michigan students in social movements against the Vietnam War, apartheid in South Africa, and sweatshops that manufactured U-M apparel. Their quest took them deep into university archives and less traditional territories, even requesting documents from the Office of the President via the Freedom of Information Act. Some sought answers from the participants themselves, compiling hours of interviews, all captured via video.

The students and the instructor all agree that conducting research for a public audience motivated everyone involved to work extremely hard. “Instead of the traditional lengthy research paper, where the intended audience is generally the professor, the students produced a high-quality public website—an in-depth digital version of a museum-style exhibit with images, documents, and interviews,” said Lassiter.

Lassiter’s course was the first installment of Michigan in the World: Local and Global Stories project, a collaboration between the Department of History and the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, with additional support from a generous gift from alumni Lisa and Timothy J. Sloan (the Sloans hold three U-M degrees between them, including Timothy Sloan’s bachelor’s in history and economics in 1982). Michigan in the World will continue through the university’s bicentennial celebration in 2017.

The program provides undergraduate history students the opportunity—in course work and through paid summer internships—to undertake archival historical research on the university and its relationships beyond its borders, and to present their findings to the public in online exhibitions.

Projects like these, called public history, provide students with a new perspective on historical research and the role of the scholar in society. They benefit the public, providing digestible yet nuanced accounts of historic events. And they help students gain technical knowledge in the construction and presentation of the online exhibits. These skills are essential in many of today’s career paths.

After bringing themselves up to speed on the secondary literature surrounding their topics, the students dug into the archives. They met regularly at the Bentley Historical Library, which preserves documents, images, films, and objects related to the history of the university and the state. They also explored the Joseph A. Labadie Collection, which focuses on the history of social movements. Part of the challenge was simply learning what to look for—and to limit their project’s scope—over the course of a single sixteen-week term.



Professor Matthew Lassiter (rear) with students (left to right) Obadiah Brown, Chris Haughey, and Aaron Szulczewski. (photo: Gregory Parker)

“Instead of the traditional lengthy research paper ... the students produced a high-quality public website—an in-depth digital version of a museum-style exhibit with images, documents, and interviews,” said Lassiter.

“The students became adept at sifting through vast amounts of information and using sources to find other sources, which led to some incredible discoveries in untapped archival collections,” said Lassiter. The online exhibits include hundreds of these full-text original sources, which allow viewers to review digitized versions of documents and images, most of them available to a general public audience for the first time.

In March, the students in the anti-war team took advantage of the fiftieth anniversary commemoration of the 1965 U-M teach-in on the Vietnam War to interview key players like William Gamson, Tom Hayden, and other former professors and students who returned for the event.

“Having the opportunity to interview them in person was priceless,” said Obadiah Brown, a history and international studies major who plans to graduate in 2016. “The oral interviews were extremely intimidating at first, but slowly it became easier asking questions and knowing where to guide the individual for the information we needed.”

Their quest also led them to less traditional resources, like Facebook.

Mary Bridget Lee, a history major who graduated in May, worked on the anti-sweatshop exhibit team, studying student activists on campus in the 2000s.

“We found the Facebook group the members had created—that gave us a lot of contacts and some insight into group dynamics that is usually impossible to find,” Lee said.

In some cases, the stories had never seen the light of day. Students working on the anti-apartheid exhibit developed one of the first scholarly considerations of the campus movement to pressure universities to divest from corporations that did business with the South African government. “The campus anti-apartheid movement is one of the most consequential but least visible mass social movements of the modern era,” said Lassiter. “Now, it’s available in an online exhibit, accessible to scholars, students, and the general public.”

The exhibits are accessible on the Michigan in the World website, where new content will be added several times per year.

In June, the students working in the anti-apartheid and anti-Vietnam War teams learned they had won first and second place (respectively) in their category for the 5th Annual U-M Library Undergraduate Research Award.

Said Lassiter, “This was one of the most meaningful and important teaching experiences of my career.”



Students: Ira Brandon III, Mary Bridget Lee, Alec Ramsay-Smith

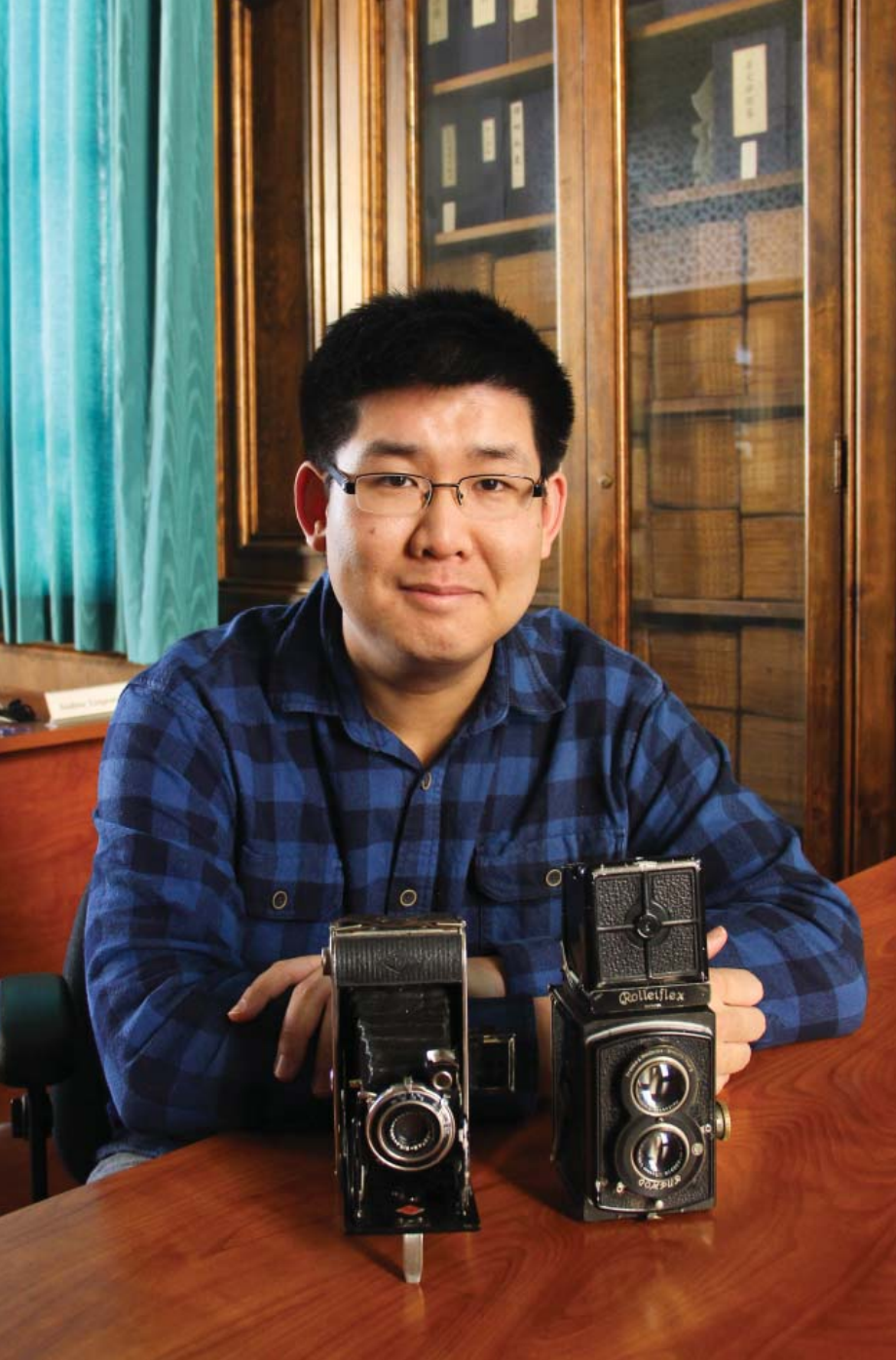


Students: Obadiah Brown, Maria Buczowski, Chris Haughey, Andreea Matei, Kevin Trierweiler



Students: Emily Bodden, Mario Goetz, Emilie Irene Neumeier, Aaron Szulczewski, Leslie Teng

# Forgotten Photos, Film Provide Unique View of China



Joseph Ho with a sampling of his vintage camera collection. (photo: Xiaoxin Wu, Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History, University of San Francisco)

By William Foreman, Michigan News

Joseph Ho was working at the Chinese Historical Museum in downtown San Diego five years ago when an elderly man walked in and offered to donate a bunch of scrolls, snuff bottles, and other artifacts from China.

Ho introduced the gentleman to the museum's director and listened in as the visitor explained he was born in China in 1934 and that his parents collected the items when they served as Presbyterian medical missionaries.

This piqued Ho's interest because he was working on an honors thesis about Western photographers in wartime China. So he asked the man if he had any photos.

"I've got quite a few at home," the man said. "If you'd like to see them, please come by."

Ho took him up on the offer and was thrilled to find about two hundred photos. The images provide a unique view of daily life during a critical time in Chinese history—a period of warlords, Japanese occupation, civil war, and revolution.

Later, the man introduced Ho to another family that shared a suitcase full of photos they shot while doing missionary work in China. That introduction led to another, and Ho eventually collected more than two thousand images—many of them in color—and about three hours of 16mm film from the 1920s through the early 1950s.

Some of the material had been kept in less-than-ideal storage conditions and was on the verge of deteriorating beyond repair.

"Some of the most striking images were of American family life in China in the '30s and '40s," said Ho, a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Michigan. "The missionaries were raising families at the same time they were doing all this work. So you get an interesting mix of public and private life."

The film footage shows the missionaries having a snowball fight in Beijing with a snowman with a carrot nose in the background. They filmed their work in villages as they pulled teeth, examined eyes, and treated patients with large tumors. Other photos show them at China's bustling markets, with people selling squawking geese, festive lanterns, and "youtiao"—long sticks of fried dough commonly eaten for breakfast.

Perhaps the most interesting film footage shows a large group of Christians—both Western and Chinese—gathering for a 1949 Easter sunrise service on the altar at the Temple of Heaven, one of Beijing's most famous sites. Such an event wouldn't be possible in the current regime.

The material has become the focus of Ho's doctoral dissertation. He's delighted he found a way to merge his interest in photography with his research of American culture and Christianity in China—three things he never thought would intersect.

Pär Cassel, an associate professor of history at U-M, said there were plenty of photos taken in China during the same time period. But what's special about the collection Ho found is the large number of color images and that they've been documented. In other words, it's known who shot the pictures at what time and at which location. If these details couldn't be ascertained, the images would lose much of their scholarly value, he said.

"The promise of digitizing the photographs and making them available to the world will also attract a lot of attention," said Cassel, an expert on late imperial and modern China.

The professor said there are historians who have studied the missionaries in China.

"But it has been neglected and seen as a branch of church history rather than Chinese history," he said.

Most of the academic focus has been on pictures taken by diplomats, businessmen, and other figures. Missionaries were often shunned by many historians as agents of Western imperialism. Their photography was sometimes viewed as religious propaganda.

Those attitudes are changing in China, where there's a resurgence in religion. Many experts estimate that Christians now outnumber the members of the Communist Party.

"There is a trend in China today with people rediscovering missionaries in terms of their influence in national affairs and modernizing projects," Ho said. "They were big on building hospitals, in addition to churches and schools."

Perhaps most important was that the religious workers were deeply embedded in rural China, places most travelers didn't spend much time. Often, they were bilingual.

"These missionaries received a lot of language training, both at language schools immediately after arriving in China and during their work in the local environment," Ho said. "I've found documents about missionaries working on language all the time. They're literally living with these people, so they have a very insider's perspective."

There are periods when the picture taking stopped because of the war.

One of the missionaries, Dr. Ralph C. Lewis, was held in a Japanese prison camp in Weixian, Shandong, where he treated Scottish track star Eric Liddell, whose athletic exploits were depicted in the Oscar-winning film *Chariots of Fire*, before he died.

In the months leading up to the Communist Revolution, the missionaries also stopped snapping pictures for various reasons. They might have been concerned about their safety, Ho said, and it's possible they ran out of photography supplies. Their photos might also have been lost or confiscated when they left China.

After the Communists took over, some of the medical staff were asked to denounce the missionaries or resign from their positions, Ho said.

"One of the doctors I have a photograph of was thrown from a window," he said. "People said he committed suicide, but the missionaries who knew him believe he was murdered by Communist political officers for not being willing to cooperate with them. Other medical staff just went to work for government hospitals. They were fine making the transition."

The man who met Ho in the San Diego museum and showed him the photos was Dr. Richard Henke, a retired pathologist living in Rolling Hills, California. He said that his late father, Harold, would be happy that his pictures and footage would have so much scholarly value.

"My father was very broad-minded, and if there was any use for the photos—by the family or an institution—he would be delighted," he said.

The last scene shot by Henke before he left the country shows huge portraits of Mao Zedong and Zhu De, the army's commander-in-chief, hanging on Tiananmen, or the Gate of Heavenly Peace, in Beijing. Although the country is going through a revolution, the scene looks peaceful, with donkey carts and cyclists moving in and out of the picture.

It makes one wish that Henke and his colleagues could have stayed in China longer to document the country's next chapter.

*This article reprinted with permission from Michigan News. For more on this project, link to an interview with Joseph Ho at [www.rackham.umich.edu/blog/serendipity-and-graduate-studies-what-unexpected-can-do](http://www.rackham.umich.edu/blog/serendipity-and-graduate-studies-what-unexpected-can-do).*



## INNOVATIVE INSTRUCTION

# Connecting in Cyberspace

By Melanie S. Tanielian, Assistant Professor

Kyoto 8 p.m., Istanbul 2 p.m., Ann Arbor 7 a.m.: Three cities, three time zones, three classrooms, three languages, but one collaborative effort. On many occasions over the winter 2014 semester, 1014 Tisch Hall came to life earlier than usual, as graduate students, faculty, and IT staff arrived before sunrise to set up videoconferences with Turkey and Japan for History 698/796, Global History of Gender, Violence, and Sexuality.

History professors Melanie S. Tanielian and Hitomi Tonomura took the lead, bringing together different academic idioms and intellectual traditions pertaining to the study of gender, sexuality, and violence. Preparation for the course began long before 2014, as they searched for the right collaborators. They were fortunate to find partners in Ayse Parla at Sabanci University in Istanbul, Turkey, and, from Kyoto University, Japan, Emiko Ochiai and Masako Makino. Parla and Makino visited Ann Arbor to offer extra lectures and workshops on topics ranging from the education of Armenian migrant children in Turkey to the politics of rape in Japan.

The course was supported by the Rackham Graduate School's campus-wide initiative to add global engagement to graduate education, allowing students to collaborate with their peers in different world regions on topics of shared interest and concern.

The course demanded agility in thinking, languages, and certainly sleep patterns! The students and instructors translated papers, added interpreters to lectures, and sometimes had to simply “wing it,” establishing a space of linguistic, cultural, and intellectual diversity in a remarkable virtual classroom.

The ultimate purpose of the course for U-M students was to demonstrate how Euro-American scholarship on gender and sexuality, with its firm Orientalist base, has distorted our perceptions of Middle East and Japanese history in innumerable ways. Moving through topics such as same-sex love, desire, companionship, and honor, students began with Afsaneh Najmabadi's question as to whether, “beyond the Americas,” gender and sexuality are useful categories for historical analysis. They read and considered important challenges posed by scholars working on these topics in the context of Middle Eastern and Japanese society and discussed the categories that define the study of gender and sexuality in the Euro-American academy.

The course culminated in a workshop conference, and students came from as far away as Istanbul and Toronto to present papers. Their topics ranged from US military prostitution in the post-WWII Philippines, the labor system in German New Guinea, and military education in contemporary Turkey to same-sex love in 1930s China. The students' enthusiasm in both the course and the conference confirmed the value of this kind of interregional engagement.

## History Faculty Lead Virtual Classroom Joining U-M Students with Peers in Istanbul and Kyoto



Hitomi Tonomura (left) and Melanie S. Tanielian. (photo: Gregory Parker)

## NEWSBITS

Graduate student Austin McCoy was named one of the *Michigan Daily's* “Students of the Year” for 2014-15. Austin was selected for his scholarship and activism. The *Daily* article noted, “Serious is certainly one way to describe McCoy's work: a combination of grassroots organizing, racial justice education, and potentially groundbreaking research on Midwestern cities in the seventies and eighties.”



(photo: Whitney Miller)

## BOOK REVIEW

# Freedom and Criminal Responsibility in American Legal Thought

By Thomas A. Green  
Cambridge University Press, 2014

By Rebecca J. Scott, Professor

The question of the relationship between mental capacity and criminal responsibility does not easily go away. Even after generations of philosophical and political debate, competing arguments surge back into public view with each new act of shocking violence committed by a seemingly disturbed individual. The famous “insanity defense” may by now be very limited in scope, but concern about mental illness and criminal culpability persists.

In his magisterial new volume, *Freedom and Criminal Responsibility in American Legal Thought*, Tom Green does not presume to resolve the tension between a moral presumption of the human freedom to choose and scientific understandings of causation that portray “choice” as itself the product of prior determinants. Instead, he aims to preserve the full complexity of scholarly debates as they unfolded across time within academic legal writings from the 1890s to the 1990s.

These debates among legal authors reveal much about the periods in which they emerged. Progressive Era social science helped to shape both criminology and penology, but could not escape the entanglements of the underlying uncertainty about criminal responsibility. Initiatives begun in the name of a more humane approach to the causes of crime, moreover, could in fact prescribe measures that denied the agency and humanity of perpetrators and undermined the role of trial by a jury of one's peers. To the extent that questions of justice were reframed as questions of social hygiene, important elements of democratic practice were lost.

There is considerable passion in Green's enterprise. For all his even-handedness, he does not hesitate to describe modern psychology's understandings of causation as potentially “bleak,” or to refer to the “behaviorist abyss.” And beneath the competing legal theories of



Rebecca J. Scott, Distinguished University Professor of History and Professor of Law. (photo: Lin Jones)



Thomas A. Green, John P. Dawson Collegiate Professor of Law Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of History. (photo: Marianne George)

responsibility, retribution, rehabilitation, and “just deserts” lies a deep philosophical quandary concerning free will. Many philosophers now believe that free will does not require an absence of determinism, and offer instead “compatibilism”—the doctrine that free choice is choice made from one's basic aims and commitments, without interference; and that predictability does not itself prevent choice from being voluntary. Any climb back up from that abstract formula to a real-world application of criminal responsibility is bound to be arduous. And by the 1980s, even compatibilism seemed to some legal scholars to offer no definite solution to the moral problem posed by the apparent need to punish.

*Freedom and Criminal Responsibility* is above all a great work of legal history. Instead of building up the puzzle from its philosophical component parts, Green traces over time the sequence of major legal theorists who sought to resolve these tensions. Increasingly, we see them reach for concepts of dignity and personhood, not metaphysical free will, to ground the insistence on choice and criminal responsibility. Moreover, theorists who are in the first instance legalists cannot entirely escape the demands of what Green labels “conventional morality.” Unlike philosophers, they must find ways to fit their theories to the discipline of the criminal trial and its institutions.

As we reach the conclusion, we find Green wondering whether law will escape the clutches of whatever proves to be the next determinist enthusiasm—neuroscience, perhaps? Thus after nine meticulous chapters of fair-minded explication of legal writing, the final paragraph delicately tips his hand. Closing the gap between Green the law professor and Green the historian, he ends with the words of an early twentieth-century pioneer, Gino Speranza: “Law is one of the humanities.”

## INNOVATIVE INSTRUCTION

# Students, Faculty Partner to Digitize Historic Photo Albums

The Arabella Chapman Project website debuted on March 10, 2015, the latest phase in a multi-year initiative that utilizes Chapman's photo albums to “explore the role of visual culture, especially photography, as a critical dimension of the everyday life and politics of black Americans at the end of the nineteenth century.” The website features digitized versions of the photo albums, the originals of which are preserved in the university's William L. Clements Library.

The project was coordinated by undergraduate students in a DAAS-History-Women's Studies course taught by Professor Martha S. Jones. The students added a third album, containing their tintype portraits, which is also housed at the Clements along with the Chapman albums. Jones is Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Associate Professor of History and African Studies. Visit the project at [arabellachapman.com](http://arabellachapman.com).

Arabella Chapman photo album, courtesy the University of Michigan William L. Clements Library. (photo: Daryl Marshke)

Martha S. Jones (middle-right) with students (left to right) Emily Moore, Molly Berkowitz, and Katie Diekman. (photo: Daryl Marshke)



# History's 2015 MLK Events Draw Capacity Crowds



Kidada Williams (PhD 2005), Associate Professor of History, Wayne State University, speaks at the History Department's 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. (photo: Scott Soderberg)

By Thomas Stephenson, Class of 2016

“What does it feel like to be a problem?”

W. E. B. Du Bois's 1903 question regarding African American consciousness in a segregated America resonated more than one hundred years later when historian LaKisha Simmons posed it to a standing-room-only audience at the History Department's Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium on January 19, 2015.

Cosponsored by the Eisenberg Institute, “The Color Line and the Long Twentieth Century: New Perspectives on Race, Violence, and Segregation” featured three recent University of Michigan history PhDs including Simmons (University at Buffalo), Kidada Williams (Wayne State University), and Andrew Highsmith (University of Texas at San Antonio).

The panelists connected their research to current issues of discrimination and stereotyping, including recent police shootings of African Americans. Highsmith considered the destructive effects of mismanaged urban development in Flint, Michigan, while Simmons and Williams discussed how African Americans perceived themselves under Jim Crow laws and the devastating trauma of racial violence.

Audience members queried panelists on how to apply historical scholarship to understanding and combatting contemporary racial injustice in America. Professor Matthew Countryman emphasized the importance of examining historical continuity and change to better understand the persistence of social, economic, and racial inequality.

Later that week, on January 22, the History Department and the Eisenberg Institute collaborated with the State Theatre to provide a free screening and discussion of Ava DuVernay's Oscar-nominated film *Selma* for University of Michigan community members. The ticket line stretched around the block, and the theater was filled to capacity.

These events inaugurated an annual collaboration between the History Department and the Eisenberg Institute to mount public events in conjunction with the university-wide Martin Luther King Day commemoration. Thomas C. Holt, the University of Chicago's James Westfall Thompson Professor of American and African American History and the College, will deliver the History Department's symposium lecture on January 18, 2016.

*Thomas Stephenson is pursuing a dual bachelor's degree in history and music.*

## FACULTY NEWS

**Stephen A. Berrey** and **Ellen Muehlberger** have each been awarded the Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching Award for outstanding teaching of undergraduates.

**Juan Cole** has been appointed to hold the Kluge Chair in Countries and Cultures of the South at the Library of Congress for summer 2016. Appointees “are chosen solely on the basis of intellectual accomplishment and the ability to communicate ideas to a broader audience.”

**Gregory E. Dowd**, **Martha S. Jones**, and **Mrinalini Sinha** have been named Senior Fellows by the Michigan Society of Fellows.

**Dena Goodman** was named the Dibner Distinguished Fellow in the History of Science and Technology at the The Huntington Library.

**Thomas A. Green** received the Joyce Medal from the American Society for Legal History at its 2014 conference. It is given only occasionally to acknowledge and honor extraordinary and sustained volunteer service to the Society.

**Gabrielle Hecht** and **Farina Mir** have won fellowships at the Institute for the Humanities for 2015-16. Gabrielle will be working on her research project, “Toxic Tales from the African Anthropocene,” and Farina's research project is entitled “Producing Modern Muslims: Everyday Ethics in Late-Colonial India.”

**Matthew Lassiter** received the department's Hudson Professorship for 2015-16, which he will use for work on his project, “The Suburban Crisis: Crime, Drugs, and the Lost Innocence of Middle-Class America.” He was also named an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor for outstanding contributions to undergraduate education.

**Tiya Miles** was named Mary Henrietta Graham Distinguished University Professor of African American Women's History. She also won the annual Dorothy Schwieder Prize for her article, “‘Shall Woman's Voice Be Hushed?': Laura Smith Haviland in Abolitionist Women's History,” *Michigan Historical Review* 39, no. 2 (Fall 2013).

**Rachel Neis** has won the Salo Baron Prize for a best first book published in Jewish Studies from the American Academy for Jewish Research for her book *The Sense of Sight in Rabbinic Culture: Jewish Ways of Seeing in Late Antiquity* (Cambridge University Press, 2013).

**Martin S. Pernick** has been awarded the 2015 Matthews Underclass Teaching Award, which recognizes an instructor who inspires wonder and excitement in early undergraduate students.

**Sherie Randolph** will hold the Ella Baker Visiting Associate Professorship of Black Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara during 2015-16.

**Rebecca J. Scott** was awarded a Michigan Humanities Award for 2015-16 for her book project entitled “Unlawful Powers: The Making and Unmaking of Property in Persons.”

**Ronald G. Suny** has been named the William H. Sewell, Jr. Distinguished University Professor of History.

**Rudolph (Butch) Ware's** book, *The Walking Quran*, has been shortlisted for the 2015 Raboteau Book Prize, awarded by the *Journal of Africana Religions*.

## EISENBERG INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL STUDIES

# Institute Welcomes New Director, Theme, Programs

By Gregory Parker, EIHS Administrator

There are times on Thursday afternoons during the academic year when certain corridors of Haven and Tisch Hall are surprisingly empty. Office doors are closed, and the faculty and graduate students you would expect to see—meeting with students, rushing off to teach, chatting informally—are absent. The Eisenberg suite, usually bustling with fellows and affiliates, stands vacant.

Peer into the windows of 1014 Tisch, however, and you'll find a standing-room-only audience at the latest lecture of the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies (EIHS). The History Department is here, convened to see some of the world's leading scholars from the university and beyond, who have been invited to share their latest work.

The audience question-and-answer session is inspired, even vigorous, and discussion spills over into the reception. Put it together and you have the romantic image of scholarly exchange that many have in mind when they start a career in the academy (and too few—outside Michigan—get to enjoy!).

These Thursdays are must-be-there events, and have been since 2007, when the Eisenberg Institute launched its lecture series, which is paired with a Friday workshop featuring graduate student work or a symposium on a special topic.

The lecture series follows a two-year theme, and this fall, the Institute will launch “Senses and Longings.” “We've got an extraordinary program,”



Joshua H. Cole, Professor of History, at his February 19, 2015, Eisenberg Institute talk. (photo: Joseph Ho)



Ishita Pande, Associate Professor of History and Gender Studies, Queen's University, presents her talk for the Eisenberg Institute on April 16, 2015. (photo: Joseph Ho)

said EIHS director Howard Brick, “about the senses, the history of emotions, and how people in history have longed for other times—an imagined, lost age or a future yet to be created.”

Brick, who began his Eisenberg term in January 2015, joined the university as the Louis Evans Professor of History in 2009.

“This year's guest speakers, along with our incoming fellows, are all immensely creative as they find new ways to understand historical experience,” said Brick. “We're talking about the very stuff of history—the continuum of past, present, and future—that humans perceive and invest with meaning.”

More than 150 fellows and affiliates have been housed at the Institute since 2007, along with more than one hundred guest speakers. As the Institute approaches its tenth anniversary, there are plans to broaden the conversation, with new events and initiatives aimed at a wider audience.

These will include new public programming that joins the university-wide Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium (see page 10) and the Michigan in the World public history project (see page 4), in collaboration with the Department of History.

“We're working to give historical studies a paramount place in the broad campus life of U-M,” said Brick. “By engaging the public with historical programming, we can provide additional opportunities for History faculty and students while making the case for the importance of historical understanding.”

The conclusion of “Senses and Longings” in winter 2017 will mark the completion of the Eisenberg's tenth year (and five biennial themes) as well as the commencement of the university's bicentennial celebrations. Brick, who is working with EIHS administrator Gregory Parker on plans for ISA's bicentennial theme semesters, looks forward to the convergence of anniversaries that year.

“The Eisenberg Institute is deeply engaged with the bicentennial,” Brick remarked. The public history project, “Michigan in the World,” will contribute to celebrating the university's past. “And our focus on longings, especially in the future tense, meshes with the bicentennial's anticipation of further horizons for achievement at Michigan.”

Brick credits the University of Michigan tradition for holding fast to a notion of learning that is “never finished but always ongoing, thus nurturing wisdom, creativity, and aspirations for better things to come.”

## IN MEMORIUM



**Jacob (Jack) Myron Price**, chair of the department from 1971 to 1972 and 1979 to 1984, died after a long illness on May 6 at Glacier Hills in Ann Arbor.

Jack joined the department in 1956 and remained here as an economic historian until his retirement in 1991. His study of the global tobacco trade culminated in 1973 with the magisterial two-volume *France and the Chesapeake*, where he used his signature micro-macro approach to track the French royal monopoly of tobacco sales until its destruction in the French Revolution. His other works include the short book, *Capital and Credit in British Overseas Trade* (1980), which touches on the controversial issue of the origin of the Industrial Revolution, and the even shorter *Perry of London* (1992), which traces the all-too-human rise and fall of an important trading family and its firm.

Jack was a shy person who was wedded to his work. Friends knew him as a passionate, deeply knowledgeable lover of classical music, especially opera. He could be exceptionally kind and generous to any of them who needed his help. He never married. His parents and a younger brother, Malcolm, predeceased him. His only survivors are his devoted friends.

Adapted from the *University Record* obituary written by John Shy, Professor Emeritus of History.

## ALUMNI & FRIENDS

# Reason, Understanding, Persuasion: Why I Give to U-M History



Joshua Bilmes (right) with award-winning science-fiction writer and client Scott Edelman. (photo: Scott Edelman)

By Joshua Bilmes (BA 1985)

It's thirty years ago but it seems like yesterday. My professor David Hollinger was demanding that I put in real effort to get a high grade in my upper-level history seminar, and I'd been trying to take that to heart. I was putting in serious hours at the library, looking over the *New York Times* dating back to the early years of the 20th century, maybe even earlier. And I made a connection. I started to realize that I was reading the same article over and over again. As much as the world had changed, the *Times* wasn't covering an election in El Salvador in the 1980s all that much differently from elections that had taken place there decades before, or from elections in many other countries, for that matter.

For all the problem sets I'd done in physics before becoming a history major, for all the books I'd read for my history classes, this discovery was my own. It revealed a pattern. It was a prism, a lens that I could use to view the world. I could start to read the newspaper—read everything!—in a new and better way.

History does that.

Today I'm a literary agent. When I sit across the table from a publisher negotiating a contract, we're on a field of battle. I need to know my math, know how big a pie the publisher and my writer have to share. I need to know the intricacies of a publishing contract. I need to know about publishing. But none of what I know matters if I can't also draw connections for my clients. The client has to understand why, has to understand their place in the business, their role as an author in a long line of authors. And it's not enough to know about publishing if I don't understand the publishers I'm talking to. I need to use the skills I was pushed to learn thirty years ago by David Hollinger and my other history professors at the University of Michigan.

When I give to the History Department today, I feel like I'm passing down to others the gifts I received from being challenged and educated by my professors thirty years ago. The gifts of reason, of understanding, of persuasion.

*Joshua Bilmes earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Michigan in 1985. He founded JABberwocky Literacy Agency in 1994.*

## GIVING

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To learn about funding priorities or to discuss other giving opportunities, please contact Robin Colgan (Major Gift Officer, LSA Development; [rcolgan@umich.edu](mailto:rcolgan@umich.edu); 734.615.6317).

## ALUMNI UPDATES

**James Davis** (PhD 1971) is happily retired from Illinois College and living in Dexter, Michigan, which gives him and his wife Joanna ample opportunity to visit their daughters and their families. He was the first faculty member at Illinois College to twice (in 1981 and 1993) earn the college's top teaching award. He continues to research, reflect, publish, and give talks, and he promotes local history. His *Frontier Illinois* (Indiana University Press, 1998) is still in paperback.

**Joanne Goodwin** (PhD 1991) recently published *Changing the Game: Women at Work in Las Vegas, 1940-1990*, based on a major oral history project that she directed. Joanne also collaborated with VegasPBS on a three-part series titled, "MAKERS: Women in Nevada History."

**John Hardin** (PhD 1989) served as general co-editor of *The Kentucky African American Encyclopedia* (August 2015) for the University Press of Kentucky.

**Adam Lax** (BA 2008) spent three years (2010-2013) teaching English at a university in China. He graduated with an MA in International Education Policy in May 2015 from the University of Maryland. He also received a Fulbright Research Scholarship and a Critical Language Enhancement Award that will take him to China for the upcoming academic year. There he will engage in intensive language study in Harbin (Heilongjiang) for three months and then conduct research on English Language Teaching policy in Kunming (Yunnan) for ten months.

**Danke Li** (PhD 1999) writes that her second book, *Women, War, and Memory* (Chinese University of Hong Kong Press, 2010) won the 2014 Hong Kong Book Prize.

**Kathy Marquis** (BA 1977) has been inducted as one of three 2015 fellows at the Society of American Archivists. Kathy served as head of the Reference and Access Division at the Bentley Historical Library before moving to her current post in Laramie, Wyoming.

**John Merriman** (PhD 1972, MA 1969, BA 1968) is Charles Seymour Professor of History at Yale University. Basic Books in New York published his latest book in 2014: *Massacre: The Life and Death of the Paris Commune*. Translations are forthcoming in Dutch and in Portuguese in Brazil. *The Stones of Balazuc: A French Village in Time* (English in 2002, French in 2004), recently appeared in Chinese, with two other books forthcoming in that language.

**A. Brad Schwartz** (BA 2012) writes: In May 2015, I published my first book, *Broadcast Hysteria: Orson Welles's War of the Worlds and the Art of Fake News*, with Farrar, Straus and Giroux. The book is based on research I conducted at U-M for my senior honors thesis in history.

**Stefan Stantchev** (PhD 2009) published his first book, *Spiritual Rationality: Papal Embargo as Cultural Practice*, with Oxford University Press (2014).

**Michael Thompson** (BA 2002) writes that he recently was tenured and promoted to UC Foundation Associate Professor of History at UT-Chattanooga. He is author of *Working on the Dock of the Bay: Labor and Enterprise in an Antebellum Southern Port* (2015), a study of waterfront work and workers in Charleston, South Carolina, between 1783 and 1861.

**Thomas Ward** (BA 2003, JD 2006) recently moved to Oak Park, Illinois, a town filled with the history of Frank Lloyd Wright and Ernest Hemingway. He works as an enforcement attorney for a federal consumer protection agency.

**Christopher Wilson** (BA 1989) continues to work at the Smithsonian Institution where he directs the Program in African American History and Culture for the National Museum of American History. He also leads experience and program design for the museum. In 2014 his article on New Year's celebrations during the Civil War was published at Zocalo Public Square and syndicated to the *Washington Post*, *Time*, *Baltimore Sun*, and LA Newspaper Group papers.

Share your alumni updates! Email details to [umhistory@umich.edu](mailto:umhistory@umich.edu).

## IN MEMORIAM

**Mary Beechy Pfeiffer** (MA 1980) passed away in Medina, Ohio, on September 12, 2014. She studied at the University of Tübingen as part of her graduate program and went on to teach German and foster student exchanges at the College of Wooster (Ohio) and area high schools. Her husband Charles wrote to tell us how much she loved her years at Michigan.

**Christopher Schmidt-Nowara** (PhD 1995) passed away suddenly in his sleep this June in Paris, where he was visiting his daughter Althea. Chris held a named chair at Tufts University, where he was a distinguished historian of slavery and emancipation in the Hispanic world and of politics and ideas in the Spanish empire. Many here at Michigan benefitted from Chris's generous intellectual spirit and he will be much missed.



Jacob Atkinson receives his certificate from Assistant Professor Perrin Selcer at the the History Department's 2015 Commencement Ceremony. (photo: Scott Soderberg)