

# History Department Newsletter

May 2020

City College of New York

## Chair's Welcome

Dear History Students:

It is my great pleasure to inaugurate the History Department's newsletter, which we hope will become a regular event.

I am so proud of *all* of you for everything you have achieved this year.

Congratulations to all of our graduates!

Congratulations to our prizewinners!

Congratulations to our students going on to further study in History or a related discipline!

Congratulations to ALL History majors for persevering during what might be one of the greatest challenges you will face.

You are all part of a life-changing time and years from now, as history students, you will help the world understand this moment, the nature of a global pandemic, what it means to be in its epicenter, how one gets through it.

Eventually we will all get to see each other again, and I cannot wait. Graduates, please stay in touch!

Since this particular newsletter also serves as a substitute for our awards luncheon this year, let me also offer a special *thank you* to our donors:

Thank you to **Sandi E. Cooper**, a distinguished alumna of City College and a professor emerita at CUNY, for the Sandi Cooper Prize, which goes to a current History major attending a history graduate program.

Thank you to the **Oscar Zeichner family** for the prize in Early American history.

Thank you to the **Judith S. Stein estate** for the prize in the history of political economy and for helping us in so many other ways with their generous annual gift.

And thank you to all the other donors who have endowed prizes over the years and to our alumni who I know would be with us if we were holding our annual awards celebration.



**Dr. Anne Kornhauser, History Department Chair**

[history@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:history@ccny.cuny.edu)



## Congratulations!

As chair of this year's History Department Prize Committee and the editor for this May 2020 newsletter, it was just fabulous to have a chance to recognize some of our very talented students. Especially in these times, we all need to find things to celebrate. Congratulations to all our graduates, department prize recipients, external fellowships winners, those going on to graduate schools, and to all our other students who've kept up in their studies this semester. I also want to take a moment to recognize our students who have had to make the difficult choice to prioritize other aspects of their and their families' well being over continuing their studies right now. We sincerely hope you can return to CCNY soon and we send our best wishes in the meantime. In closing, I thank my colleagues on the Prize Committee for all their help: Dr. Matt Vaz and Dr. Clifford Rosenberg.

**Dr. Yaari Felber-Seligman (they/them)**  
[yfelberseligamn@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:yfelberseligamn@ccny.cuny.edu)



Student Awards & Paper Prizes

1



Faculty News

11

Events, Featured Students &  
The History Society

15

**To All Our 2020  
Graduates  
Big Congratulations  
from the History  
Department!**





**Sadaab Rahman**  
**Leslie Steigman Bayor Award**  
*Senior history major, focusing on American history*

"I would like to thank the Prize Committee and the History Department for this great honor. Deciding to double-major in history during my junior year was the best decision I have made in all my time at City College. I owe the world to my many professors for challenging me academically these last several years but for also supporting me through them as well. I would like to give a special thanks to Professor Kornhauser for all her help with my senior thesis and research on Adolf Berle, a former U.S. diplomat and assistant Secretary of State, as well as for cultivating my interest in the Good Neighbor Policy. Without her and the guidance of Professors Vaz, Gillooly, Can, Syrrakos, Daigle and Felber-Seligman, I would not be here today accepting this award! It is humbling to be named a top-achieving senior in American history, especially knowing just how many brilliant students I have encountered along the way and how they pushed me to be at my best. This fall, I will be attending law school and plan to continue nourishing my love for writing and legal history wherever I go next." – Sadaab Rahman



**Susan Evans**  
**Joan Kelly Award**  
*Best paper in women's/feminist History*

"(Same-Sex) Marriage is Complicated: Reading Silences and Making Messy History: A Review of Rachel Hope Cleves, Charity and Sylvia"

"One of the most thoughtful and nuanced reviews of this book I've read, and Susan is a very gifted writer."  
– Dr. John Blanton

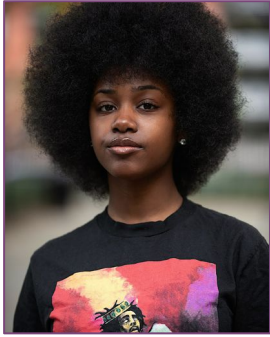
"As I finish my last semester at City, I'm so appreciative of the welcoming environment the history department makes for its students. I always felt supported by my professors to ask questions and develop my own research interests. In the future, I hope to earn a PhD in history, focusing on gender and sexuality." – Susan Evans



**Joeline Allsop**  
**Joan Kelly Award**  
*Best paper in women's/feminist History*

"Shifting Goals of Women's Health in the Middle East"

"This is an excellent research paper. The student looks at the discourse created by "modern" medicine in governing female bodies." – Dr. Beth Baron



**Celine K. Agard**  
**Arthur Tiedemann Award**  
*Outstanding undergraduate paper*

"The 1976 Soweto Student Uprising:  
Did it Effectively Revolutionize Education in South Africa?"

"This was a great paper from my History of South Africa course that ambitiously traced a longer-term history of educational discrepancies from the colonial and apartheid era into the recent present. Celine's passion for history and desire to highlight many peoples' contributions came through strongly in this paper." – Dr. Yaari Felber-Seligman

"I am currently a rising senior at City College with a major in History and a minor in Legal Studies. My future career plans include teaching or working as a paralegal for a few years and then applying for Graduate School in the next 3-4 years. I absolutely love being a history major and being a part of the history department at my school. I love all the classes that are offered to enlighten my mind and I have a great respect for the history professors who engage so well with their students." – Celine K. Agard



**Robert Carter**  
**Arthur Tiedemann Award**  
*Outstanding undergraduate paper*

"Zar: An Anti-Modern Tradition"

"This was a fascinating paper on spiritual healing practices in Egypt. The student used primary and secondary sources gathered from the New York Academy of Medicine."

– Dr. Beth Baron



**Kiran Baldeo**  
**Arthur Tiedemann Award**  
*Outstanding undergraduate paper*

"The White Savior and the Emasculated Asian: Understanding the Continual Projection of the White Savior Complex, Emasculation of Asian Men and Ideas of Normative Masculinity using the lens of Gran Torino"

"Kiran's paper has been accepted for publication in the *Mellon Mays Undergraduate Journal*, a big honor!"  
– Dr. Laurie Woodard

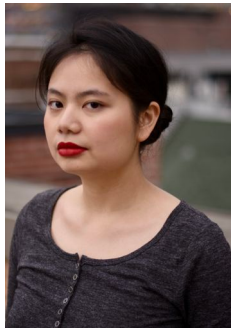


**Claudia R. Campanella**  
**The Tremain Prize**  
*Outstanding paper on the Civil War Era*

"Self-Emancipation or Policy: The Question of Who Freed the Slaves"

"This is an incredibly polished and thoughtful historiography paper, a model of its kind."

– Dr. Anne Kornhauser



**Sandy Trand**  
**The Paul Aron Award**  
*Best undergraduate research paper*

"Apartheid, Language Policy and Education"

"One of the most thoroughly researched term papers from my History of South Africa course, Sandy offered important insights that complicated typical debates about multi-lingual educational education in apartheid and post-1994 South Africa." – Dr. Yaari Felber-Seligman

"I've cherished my time with the history department as it has provided me with some of my most insightful courses. Currently, I'm preparing to complete an International Studies Senior Thesis and I hope to pursue a career in international affairs." – Sandy Trand



**Shy Richardson**  
**Sidney Pomerantz Award**  
*Outstanding Essay in urban history*

"Low Lives and High Rises: a History of Graffiti and its Criminalization in the Age of Street Art"

"The essay 'Low Lives and High Rises' by Shy Richardson examines complicated efforts by the government of New York City to suppress graffiti writing and street art since the 1970s. The work explores the interactions of the real estate market, fears concerning crime, shifting cultural tastes, and competing concepts of ownership. The work is marked by a keen perception of the social and economic tensions of the city's past and its present." – Dr. Matt Vaz

"Although this semester took a pretty unexpected turn for our college community and the world, I'm grateful to still have had meaningful academic engagement this semester. That's a credit to the hard work of the history department and my professors. I look forward to continuing my studies over the next year, including my research on the historical relationships between heat as an environmental actor, urban violence, and the built world. Stay up, ya'!!!"

– Shy Richardson



**Robert Schmitt**  
**Sidney Ditzion Award**  
*Outstanding Paper in social history*

"Socialized Medicine: How Chen Zhiqian and The Mass Education Movement Brought Scientific Medicine to Rural China"

"This is an excellent research paper for a MA student. Based on a large number of primary as well as secondary sources, Schmitt's paper is well researched, well organized and well written. He has also presented some original and creative thoughts and discoveries in this paper." – Dr. Danian Hu

"I am overjoyed to receive this award. I owe so much to each professor at City College, and of course Dr. Hu, in whose seminar I wrote my paper on the grassroots public health project in Republican China. Dr. Hu's encouragement and guidance drove me to approach research and primary sources in a disciplined and creative manner necessary for serious history writing. He also played a crucial role in my acceptance to the East Asian Studies MA program in Germany that I'm currently enrolled in. Having spent five semesters taking history classes at City College, I continue to be inspired not only by the expertise of the History Department faculty, but also the unwavering support they commit towards their students. The respect and admiration I hold for the instructors in the History Department only increases the pride I take in this recognition." – Robert Schmitt



**Antonio C. Rodriguez**  
**Judith S. Stein Prize**  
*Outstanding Paper in history of political economy*

"Bargaining with Our Assets: Nixon, Kissinger, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the Business of Détente"

"A very good paper with some original research from the National Association of Manufacturers in Wilmington, Delaware." – Dr. Craig Daigle

"Being selected for the Judith Stein Prize is a tremendous honor. Professor Stein was an absolute giant in US political and economic history. My interest in political economy and the history of organized corporate power comes from my years working in the labor movement and in my current job in the investment department of a public pension fund. The origin story of modern day US corporate lobbying is one that has particular salience today as we see which organizations receive the most support during times of crisis. I am very thankful to Professor Daigle and all of my classmates for their feedback and constructive criticism and look forward to continuing my research in this area."

– Antonio C. Rodriguez



**James Lewis**  
**Oscar Zeichner Prize**  
*Outstanding Paper in Early American history*

"The Capitalist Frontier"

"A critical engagement with excerpts from two important scholarly works on the development of American frontier. James shows his ease and familiarity with questions around the development of capitalism and class formation here, and points towards some important implications for the contested geographies of "Manifest Destiny."

– Dr. John Blanton



**Yuki Sugimoto**  
**Barbara Brooks Award**  
*Outstanding Paper in East Asian history*

"Japan's Nixon Shock: Sato Eisaku's Foreign Policies toward the People's Republic of China, July-November, 1971"

"A very good paper with some solid use of Japanese and American primary sources." – Dr. Craig Daigle

"I still clearly remember my first graduate seminar at CCNY, Cold War International History (Prof. Daigle), which was a great challenge for me. With a shy personality and Asian academic background, it was terrifying just for me to raise my hand to speak. I really appreciate that Prof. Daigle patiently met with me, not only for my paper, but also to help me develop self-confidence in class. I want to thank all my professors who encouraged me to speak my opinion and gave me advice for my papers. I came up with this paper topic in Prof. Can's research colloquium in Spring 2019. With Prof. Can, Prof. Kornhauser, and my classmates' help, I completed a research proposal. In Fall 2019 I wrote my research paper in Prof. Daigle's seminar (The Era of Détente) on the "Nixon shock" and its impact on the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations in 1972. I finished the introduction before my son was born and completed the rest of the paper by the time he was three months old. It was a challenge to finish the paper, so this prize really means a lot to me." – Yuki Sugimoto



**Claudia R. Campanella**  
**Faculty Award**  
*Outstanding paper by a BA/MA student*

"From Republican Motherhood to Public Reform Movements:  
Women's Rights in America"

"Claudia's excellent final paper summarizing the development of white women's social roles and participation in reform movements in the Early American Republic." – Dr. John Blanton

"I'd like to thank all the professors at the City College History department for the support and encouragement they've given me over the years. I'm thrilled to be continuing my education and pursuing a PhD thanks to their support."  
– Claudia R. Campanella



**Kevin LaRose**  
**Faculty Award for MA Paper**  
*Best Research Paper by an MA Student*

"From Warlords to Exile:  
The China Foundation for the Promotion of Education and Culture."

"This is an excellent research paper for a MA student. He based his paper on many primary sources he dug out in the New York Public Library. The paper is well-organized and well-written and has presented some original and creative thought and discoveries." – Dr. Danian Hu

"The knowledge I have gained from my courses in the history masters program has been invaluable to my teaching practice. As a fourth-year history teacher, I am constantly learning new ways to present information to my students and take much inspiration from my professors at City College." – Kevin LaRose



**Michael Perez**  
**Salwyn Schapiro Memorial Award**  
*Outstanding Paper in European history*

"The Lowest Social Status, the Lowest Priority: The United Kingdom's Roma Apartheid, Hidden in Plain Sight"

"By far the strongest paper I had all year. Very unique topic with original research conducted in the Helsinki Watch papers at Columbia University." – Dr. Craig Daigle

"I am indebted to the faculty at CCNY, who through my time here, taught me how to do good research and translate it into something useful. I'm excited to bring what I learned back home to Denver and be a better far teacher than I would have been without coming here." – Michael Perez



**Josias Agustin-Mendez**  
**Sandi E. Cooper Prize**  
*Graduating BA or BA/MA student going to a history graduate program*

"Agustin, as he likes to be called, is simply brilliant and as hard a worker as they come. I am thrilled that he will be going to Columbia University as a doctoral student in the fall and am convinced he will become a successful historian. It was an enormous pleasure working with him on the legal and social history of Native Americans. To be able to learn from him as well as to teach him was the best of all." –Dr. Anne Kornhauser

"My research focuses on the spatial consequences of displacement, sovereignty, and resistance, wedding the disciplines of history and geography. Specifically, I have been studying these topics in relation to the allotment process at the turn of the twentieth century in South Dakota and how they affected Native American people in the region. I plan to pursue research projects that use spatial analysis as a tool for understanding historical events. The intellectual community at City College has been foundational in my academic career. During my time at CCNY I engaged students and faculty in the architecture department, the history department, and in fellowships. Professors have supported my academic plans and development while students have provided a community that fosters discourse. I am grateful for all the guidance and feedback that I received from my mentors and fellows during my time at City College." – Josias Agustin-Mendez





**Gabby Feeney**  
**Robert Buckman Prize**

*Most contribution to life in the Department  
In recognition of the great work with The History Society*

"I would like to thank my other e-board members, Adam, Lance, Timea for all their hard work and contributions to the club this year. They truly make this club what it is. I would also like to extend a thank you to Professor Blanton and Professor Felber-Seligman for their dedication and patience year after year in support of The History Society." – Gabby Feeney



**Timea Nick**  
**Robert Buckman Prize**

*Most contribution to life in the Department  
In recognition of the great work with The History Society*



**Lance Parker**  
**Robert Buckman Prize**

*Most contribution to life in the Department*  
In recognition of his contributions to the graduate program and our recent faculty search

## Celebrating Graduate School Acceptances & Student Fellowships

**Josias Agustin-Mendez** (BA) was awarded the Sydney Jacoff Graduate Fellowship. Agustin will be attending Columbia University's Ph.D. program in History

**Alvionne Gardner** (BA) will be attending the University of British Columbia's Ph.D. program in Library Science

**Ofir Klein** (BA/MA) will be attending the University of Kentucky's Ph.D. program in Geography

**Andrew Manuele** (MA) has begun CCNY's Master of Secondary Education Social Studies program

**Keith Mulet** (BA/MA) will be attending Columbia University's Master of Science in Nonprofit Management program

**Matthew Mulhern** (MA) will be attending Fordham's Ph.D. program in History

**Kailee Neal** (BA/MA) will be attending Queens College's Master of Library Science program

**Abir Petiwala** (BA) will study at the Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA)

**Shy Richardson** (BA/MA) was accepted into CCNY's Mellon Mays Program. Shy also received a Kaye Scholarship

**Timea Nick** (BA/MA) received a Kaye Scholarship

**Jessica Nogan** received a Kaye Scholarship

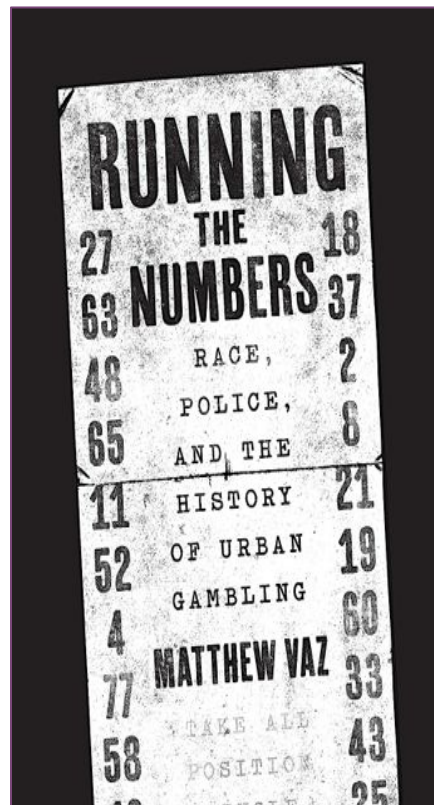
**Lance Parker** (BA/MA) received a Kaye Scholarship

## Celebrating New Faculty Publications and Awards

### Dr. Matt Vaz, *Running the Numbers*

Every day in the United States, people test their luck in numerous lotteries, from state-run games to massive programs like Powerball and Mega Millions. Yet few are aware that the origins of today's lotteries can be found in an African American gambling economy that flourished in urban communities in the mid-twentieth century. In *Running the Numbers* (University of Chicago Press, 2020), Matthew Vaz reveals how the politics of gambling became enmeshed in disputes over racial justice and police legitimacy.

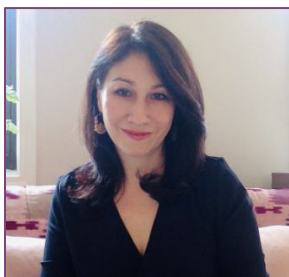
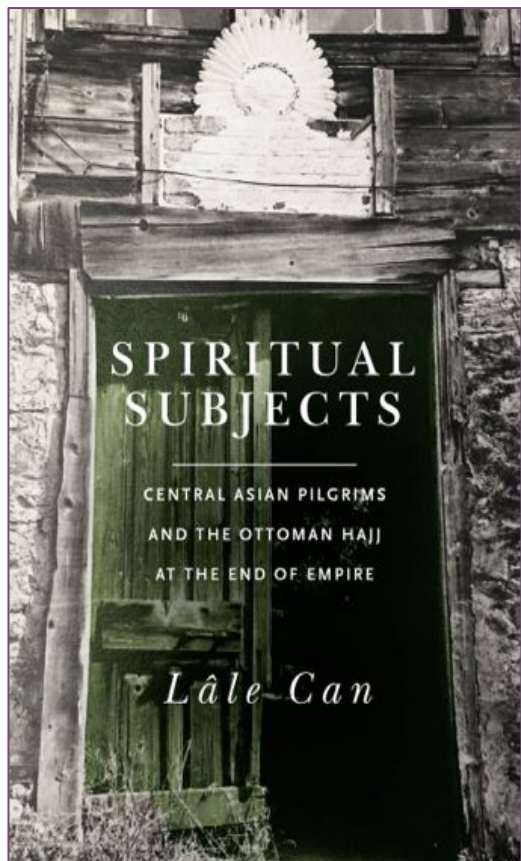
As Vaz highlights, early urban gamblers favored low-stakes games built around combinations of winning numbers. When these games became one of the largest economic engines in nonwhite areas like Harlem and Chicago's south side, police took notice of the illegal business—and took advantage of new opportunities to benefit from graft and other corrupt practices. Eventually, governments found an unusual solution to the problems of illicit gambling and abusive police tactics: coopting the market through legal state-run lotteries, which could offer larger jackpots than any underground game. By tracing this process and the tensions and conflicts that propelled it, Vaz brilliantly calls attention to the fact that, much like education and housing in twentieth-century America, the gambling economy has also been a form of disputed terrain upon which racial power has been expressed, resisted, and reworked.



### Dr. Lâle Can, *Spiritual Subjects*

In 2015, historian Lâle Can received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) award to finish a book on trans-imperial pilgrimage across Asia at the turn of the 20th century. Her book, *Spiritual Subjects: Central Asian Pilgrims and the Ottoman Hajj at the End of the Empire* (Stanford University Press, March 2020) is one of several outstanding new publications by City College of New York faculty.

*Spiritual Subjects* examines the paradoxes of nationality reform and pan-Islamic politics in late Ottoman history. Can unravels how imperial belonging was wrapped up in deeply symbolic instantiations of religion, as well as prosaic acts and experiences that paved the way to integration into Ottoman communities.



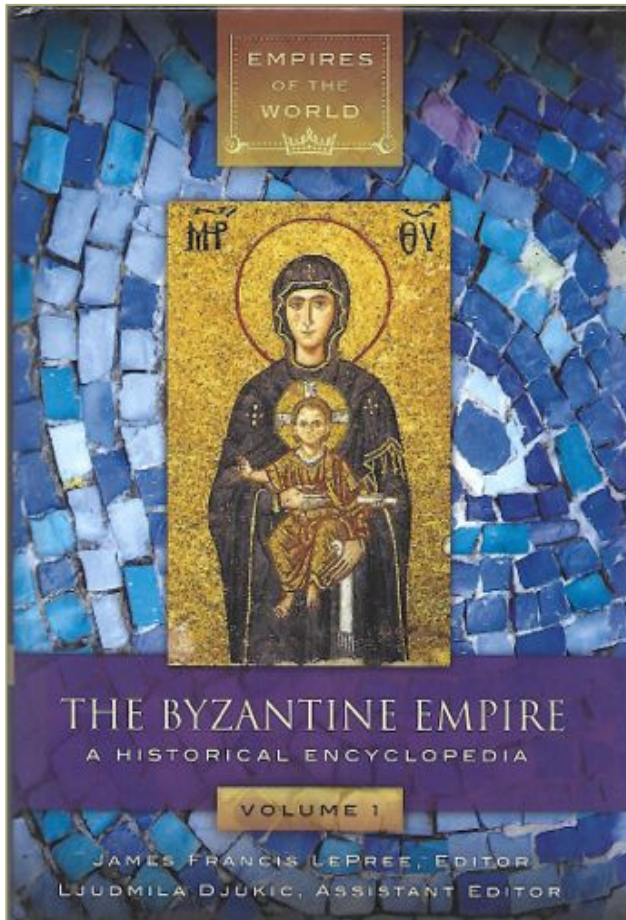
## Celebrating New Faculty Publications and Awards

### Dr. James Francis LePree's *The Byzantine Empire*

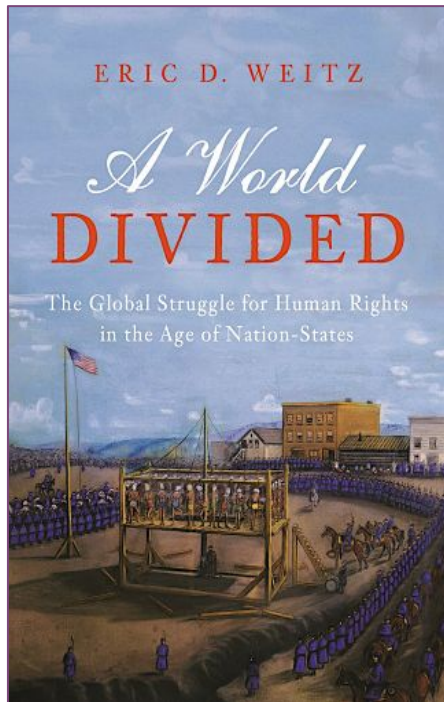
An indispensable resource for investigating the history of the Byzantine Empire, this book provides a comprehensive summary of its overall development as well as its legacy in the modern world.

The existence and development of Byzantium covers more than a millennium and coincides with one of the darkest periods of European history. Unfortunately, the Empire's achievements and brightest moments remain largely unknown except to Byzantine scholars. Through reference entries and primary source documents, this encyclopedia provides essential information about the Byzantine Empire from the reign of Diocletian to the Fall of Constantinople.

The reference entries are grouped in eight topical sections on the most significant aspects of the history of the Byzantine Empire. These sections include individuals, key events, key places, the military, objects and artifacts, administration and organization, government and politics, and groups and organizations. Each section begins with an overview essay and contains approximately thirty entries on carefully selected topics. The entries conclude with suggestions for further reading along with cross-references. A selection of primary source documents gives readers first-hand accounts of the Byzantine world.



# Celebrating New Faculty Publications and Awards



## Dr. Eric D. Weitz, *A World Divided*

A global history of human rights in a world of nation-states that grant rights to some while denying them to others. Once dominated by vast empires, the world is now divided into close to 200 independent countries with laws and constitutions proclaiming human rights—a transformation that suggests that nations and human rights inevitably developed together. But the reality is far more problematic, as Eric Weitz shows in this compelling global history of the fate of human rights in a world of nation-states.

Through vivid histories drawn from virtually every continent, *A World Divided* (Princeton University Press, 2019) describes how, since the eighteenth century, nationalists have struggled to establish their own states that grant human rights to some people. At the same time, they have excluded others through forced assimilation, ethnic cleansing, or even genocide. From Greek rebels, American settlers, and Brazilian abolitionists in the nineteenth century to anticolonial Africans and Zionists in the twentieth, nationalists have confronted a crucial question: Who has the “right to have rights?” *A World Divided* tells these stories in colorful accounts focusing on people who were at the center of events. And it shows that rights are dynamic. Proclaimed originally for propertied white men, rights were quickly demanded by others, including women, American Indians, and black slaves.

*A World Divided* also explains the origins of many of today’s crises, from the existence of more than 65 million refugees and migrants worldwide to the growth of right-wing nationalism. The book argues that only the continual advance of international human rights will move us beyond the quandary of a world divided between those who have rights and those who don’t.

Covid-19 & Human Rights:  
Read Online Interview with  
Dr. Eric D. Weitz

<https://www.gc.cuny.edu/News/All-News/Detail?id=54815>

## Three History Professors Win NEH Fellowships

**Dr. Laurie Woodard** was the 2018 recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Award for her book on famed actress and civil rights activist Fredi Washington’s role in the Harlem Renaissance.

**Dr. Seiji Shirane** was the 2019 recipient of a NEH and Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Fellowship for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan. He will complete a book project entitled: “Gateway Imperialism: Colonial Taiwan and Japanese Expansion in South China and Southeast Asia, 1895-1945.”

**Dr. Yaari Felber-Seligman** was the 2019 recipient of a NEH fellowship for Humanities Faculty Award to complete their book manuscript titled “Crafting New Economies: Inland Trade in Central East Africa, ca. 1st-17th Centuries.”

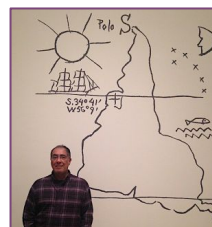


## Faculty Changes: A Farewell and a Welcome

### After many years in the history department, Dr. Gerardo Rénique has retired.

His research and teaching focused on the modern and contemporaneous history of Peru and Mexico and on the Asian migrations to Latin America. His recent projects include a book on *Popular Culture, State Formation and Anti-Chinese Racism in the Making of Post-Revolutionary Mexico* along with another project that researches the ascendance of nationalism and its impact on the diasporic Chinese communities in Latin America. Some of his previous publications include, *Peru Time of Fear* (London, Latin American Bureau) and “Popular Movements, the Legacy of the Left, and the Fall of Fujimori,” in *Socialism and Democracy*, no. 28, vol. 14, no. 2 (Fall/Winter 2000).

Over the years, Dr. Rénique has taught courses in Modern Latin America, Colonial Latin America, Asians in Latin America and the Caribbean, Race and Nation in Latin America, and Historical Methods. A mentor to many history students, he was also notable for his commitment to student and faculty activism and his passion for the potential of City College.



### New Faculty Member Alex Stern To Join Our Department

Earning her Ph.D. in History from Stanford University and B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, Alex Stern is a political historian of nineteenth century America and Native America specializing in the Civil War and Reconstruction eras. Her current research project is a Native American history of Reconstruction in Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma), which demonstrates the centrality of Native people and politics to the remaking of the United States in the wake of the Union's Civil War victory.

As an ACLS postdoctoral fellow, this fall Dr. Stern will teach HIST 32400 “Civil War and Reconstruction.” In future semesters, Alex looks forward to offering courses on nineteenth century politics, race, violence, and nation-state building. She also comes prepared to lead courses on the U.S. West and Native American history and hopes to create an interdisciplinary class on American history narratives in musicals. In addition to her training as a historian, Alex has extensive experience as a writing coach and has served as an expert consultant in federal Indian law cases.

Born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, Alex believes her fascination with history arose from the combination of growing up with her Oma's personal stories of survival during WWII and playing *The Oregon Trail* in school. She loves animals as well as history and in 2017 had a playdate with an octopus named Hank, by far the most interesting animal she's ever met.



## Department Events 2019-2020



### History Career Day: Virtual Edition 2020

An annual department tradition, History Career Day held each May features CCNY history alumni who discuss ways in which a history degree has prepared them for a variety of careers from teaching, research, and public policy to even Peace Corps, Computer Science, and a legal practice.

Organized and hosted by Dr. John Blanton, the faculty adviser to The History Society, this year's event was held as a virtual Zoom session and featured the following alumni and professional paths:

**Nabila Akthar** (BA/MA 2019) – PhD Student at Princeton

**Daisy Dominguez** (MA) – Reference Librarian

**Will Hickox** (BA, 2011) – Public History (Watkins Museum, KS)

**Kevin LaRose** (MA, 2020) – Middle School History Teacher

**Rachel Levine** (BA, 2013) – Law (public defender in Brooklyn)

**David Wilcox** (BA, 2016) – Peace Corps



### SUNY Model European Union, January 2020

Congratulations to **Claudia Campanella** (BA/MA) and **William Vasiladiotis** (BA) who represented City College at the SUNY Model European Union simulation in the vibrant city of Brussels in January 2020. They comported themselves as the key EU statespersons they assumed: William played Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel, with a rousing steely command, and Claudia played the German finance minister, taking on the budget overhaul after Brexit, cybersecurity and standards in higher education. Both were leaders in their committees, as they stuck to their positions while offering brilliant pivots whenever logjams arose. Many friends were made, and there were long breakfasts, chatting around the table with students from the US and Europe ... it was an electric experience all around. Dr. Syrrakos had the pleasure to accompany the German team. Big thanks to the office of the German representative to the UN in New York who gave us a very informative two hours of discussion beforehand, and for the generous sponsorship from the Office of Dean Erec Koch of Humanities and the Arts and the President's Office 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fund. The next Model EU will be held in the Big Apple in March 2021. We will need a team of four students! Contact Dr. Syrrakos if interested: [bsyrrakos@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:bsyrrakos@ccny.cuny.edu).

## Featured Students

### Keith Mulet

The History Department at City College has not only afforded me the opportunity to hone in on my own academic development, but also to journey into my family and ancestral past. Whether within the pages of our assigned history books, exchanges with peers, or under the guidance of my history professors, I found myself discovering the voices of those once veiled by dominant historiographical narratives. In many ways, I heard my own voice echoing theirs. Their experiences navigating new legal systems in foreign lands, epics of migration, cries for revolution, or simply living their daily lives revealed our shared experiences, even if separated by distance or time. I gazed upon the many faces of history. I looked to discover more. Through my research, highlighting the legal, political and economic dynamics between hegemonic and subordinate powers, I came to understand law, power, the writing of history itself as a social space. My experience at CCNY has led to a passionate pursuit of building a unified community of shared political, economic and social power. However, my focus now shifts from historiography toward the realm of policy-making and social advocacy. Upon graduation, I will join Columbia University's Master of Science in Nonprofit Management program as a means to further understand the relationship between sociopolitical realities of power and its function within social services programs. I hope to advance strategies in policy that streamline the quality of mission-based services and to develop the skills necessary to lead the successful uplifting of our society's most vulnerable members.



**William Vasiladiotis** (BA) was the proud recipient of the Opportunities in Research and Creative Arts (ORCA) grant in the summer of 2019, working with Dr. Syrrakos on Brexit voting and the farming sector in England. After getting his feet wet mucking around in the literature, William alighted on an interesting theory connecting voting patterns in liberal metropolises with their “bedroom community” satellites, and the specific case of Tunbridge Wells, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century bastion of suffragettes an hour out of London and latter-day progressive township voting to remain. The research afforded teacher and student invitations from architecture students to critique their summer design work for an agricultural region in New York, also sponsored by ORCA. This was a cool experience, to share knowledge across disciplines and Schools and get down to some serious group critiques with architecture faculty and advanced students, covering Kropotkin and barn design and everything in between. William concluded the summer with a paper analyzing primary census data from the UK to make his case of Brexit “spillover” voting, and he gave a compelling poster presentation at the ORCA seminar in September, the beautiful Shepard Hall venue trilling with animated discussion among students from across the College, faculty, administrators and guests. William planned a follow-up study at Edinburgh University this summer and to visit Tunbridge Wells, but, alas, that excursion will have to wait for days less constrained by travel restrictions. Congratulations, William, and keep up the good work!



# Featured Student Clubs

## The History Society

The History Society is a forever-changing club. With new ideas every week, we encourage you to participate in historical conversations and engage with history in new ways outside of the classroom.

### E-Board:

President:

**Gabby Feeney**

Vice President:

**Timea Nick**

Treasurer:

**Michelle Huang**

Secretary:

**Adam Burby**

### Ways to Contact

If you would like to join our mailing list, please add your name and email to this our [Email List](#)

### Future Events

With everything up in the air, The History Society is looking forward to hosting events for the summer over Zoom to keep history students engaged. If you have ideas for future events, please add them to our [Possible Future Events](#) document.



## New Student Club: The Europe Club

We have a new official student club in our midst – **The Europe Club!** – with officers and funding and all that jazz. The club serves as a forum to critically explore the European experience writ large, from colonization to intellectual history, politics, culture, and more, and to sponsor a speaker series. Contact Prof. Syrrakos or William Vasiladiotis, the student president, for information and an upcoming schedule of events. Emails: [bsyrrakos@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:bsyrrakos@ccny.cuny.edu) or [wvasila000@citymail.cuny.edu](mailto:wvasila000@citymail.cuny.edu)

# History Department Newsletter

May 2020

City College of New York

We are thrilled to announce the arrival of baby Issey Shirane born to Seiji Shirane and his wife Yuki. Congratulations to the family!



**Have other happy news to share?** Please be in touch so we can post it on our department website. Email good news to Dr. Anne Kornhauser at [history@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:history@ccny.cuny.edu).

## Need Some More History in Your Life?

There's still time to sign up for Summer 2020 or Fall 2020 Classes.  
Check out our offerings!

**Advising Questions? Set up a virtual appointment with our advisers or contact our chair, Dr. Anne Kornhauser, [history@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:history@ccny.cuny.edu).**

### Summer 2020

#### Undergraduate

Dr. Yaari Felber-Seligman

[yfelberseligman@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:yfelberseligman@ccny.cuny.edu)

Dr. Jim Lewis

[jlewis@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:jlewis@ccny.cuny.edu)

#### Graduate

Dr. Lale Can

[lcan@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:lcan@ccny.cuny.edu)

### Fall 2020 and Spring 2021

#### Undergraduate

Dr. John Blanton

[jblanton@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:jblanton@ccny.cuny.edu)

#### Graduate

Dr. Barbara Naddeo

[bnaddeo@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:bnaddeo@ccny.cuny.edu)