



Brigham Young University

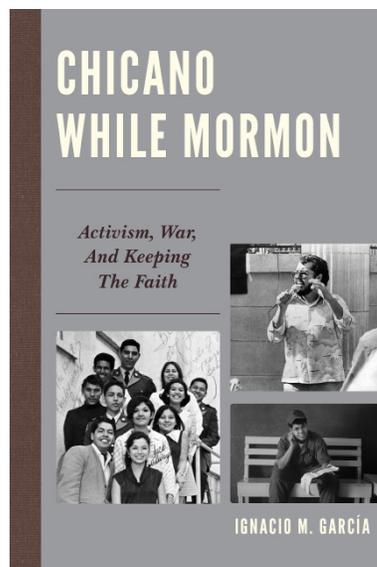
2016 History Department Newsletter



Artist: Thomas Cole, see page 15 for details

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Memoir as a View of our Journey

By Ignacio M. García

Years ago I saw a New Yorker cartoon in which a little girl sat on her bed with a typewriter and in the page she had written, “In my years of life I...” The cartoon mocked the proliferation of memoirs by people who had done nothing of any merit. That era was followed by another, still with us today, in which memoir seems to be about how well you can put together a phrase, sentence, paragraph, chapter, etc.

—but, again, too rarely about something significant. So, when I decided to write my own memoir I thought about it for quite a while.

There were the usual reasons for seeking to write one but none of them seemed important enough to kill another tree or fill another bookshelf until I realized that as a Chicano Mormon activist historian I needed to explain myself to those who read and taught my work. For years I was seen as an enigma in both the Chicano scholarship community and among some of my Mormon friends and colleagues. It was hard for either to understand why I belonged to the “other” even though for me it seemed natural to belong to both.

I always tell my students that before jumping into a book’s core they must read the preface, acknowledgements and any other material that gives insight into the character and biases of the author. I even encourage them to read work on the authors themselves.

In writing *Chicano While Mormon* I wanted to tell (and discover) what drove me as a scholar and as a disciple of Christ. I wanted people to know that I did not become a writer, intellectual or academic scholar because I thought it was a comfortable or safe vocation but, rather, I wanted to write a “truth” about people, my people, and about American society.

And I wanted the reader to know that having grown up in the barrio, gone to segregated schools, been in war, and engaged in the civil rights struggle all informed and influenced what and how I wrote. I also wanted my colleagues in Chicano and Latino studies to understand that faith has been a great motivator in the activism of the Latino community and that, yes, my Mormon faith has also inspired me to help the less fortunate, speak out against war, and work for an equal and fair society.

While memoir is personal and opens our weaknesses to others, it can also serve to remind us that our character flaws, lost loves, political failures and spiritual immaturities do not define who we are but only reveal the journey we have taken so far. My hope is that *Chicano While Mormon* will help others discover their own journey.

Faculty Spotlight

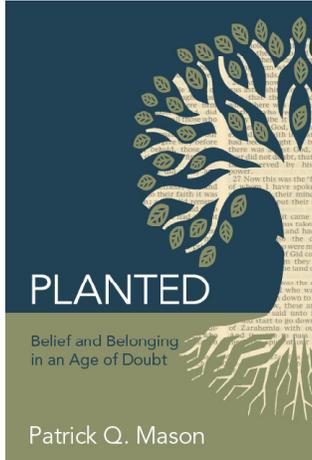


Professor Garcia is the Lemuel Hardison Redd, Jr., Professor of Western & Latino history at BYU. He is the author of several books on Mexican American politics and civil rights and, most recently, Chicano While Mormon: Activism, War, and Keeping the Faith (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2015).

Alumni Spotlight



Patrick Q. Mason (BA, BYU 1999; PhD, University of Notre Dame, 2005) is Howard W. Hunter Chair of Mormon Studies and Associate Professor of Religion at Claremont Graduate University. His recent book, Planted: Belief and Belonging in an Age of Doubt, is published by Deseret Book and the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship at BYU.



The Rewards of Research

By Patrick Q. Mason

On my office wall, peering over my shoulder, is a large poster of Malcolm X with his quote, “Of all our studies, history is best qualified to reward our research.” That’s probably not true if you want to build a bridge or cure cancer. But if you want to better understand the human condition, history is an awfully good place to start.

In recent years, however, history has been giving Mormonism fits. The advent of the Internet means that more people have more access to more stories about the Mormon past than ever before. Things that historians have known about for decades appear on blogs and websites as fresh revelations to those who haven’t been attending Mormon History Association (MHA) conferences or reading *Dialogue* all these years. (Shameless plug: Attend MHA. Read *Dialogue*.)

The issues are now familiar: Joseph Smith’s polygamy. The priesthood-temple ban. Book of Mormon historicity. The Book of Abraham translation. Mountain Meadows. The stories are legion, of someone preparing a Sunday School lesson or otherwise innocently encountering these things online. First they deny it as anti-Mormon slander. Then they read more and realize there’s something to it. Many come to believe that they have been lied to or otherwise betrayed by the Church. The spark of faith dims; for some it is extinguished. Virtually every Latter-day Saint I talk to knows someone who has left the Church or is struggling with their faith—not always because of these historical matters, but oftentimes.

Of course, not everyone who encounters this challenging historical material feels compelled to leave the Church. I wrote my first book, *The Mormon Menace* (Oxford, 2011), about anti-Mormonism. When I was seeking permission from the Church’s intellectual property office to publish some images from the archives, I was asked by a dutiful paralegal, “Is there anything in the book that could be considered derogatory toward the Church?” My answer—“Yes, on pretty much every page”—was not what she was looking for. But despite, and in many ways because of, the “hard stuff,” I remain as committed to the Church as ever. I echo the sentiment of one of my favorite Mormon feminist historians who when asked why she didn’t just leave the Church responded, “Why should I leave? It’s my church too.”

I wrote *Planted: Belief and Belonging in an Age of Doubt* not so much because I am a Mormon studies professor, and even less as someone who presumes to have all the answers. I wrote it because as a member of the body of Christ I have witnessed and felt the pain that so many parts of that body are experiencing right now. I thought that maybe I could help bring some healing and reconciliation to that body through the lessons I’ve learned as a historian—first at BYU, where I learned about seer stones from Professor David Whittaker, and then at Notre Dame, where I learned that a) Fighting Irish football rocks; b) the serious and critical cultivation of the life of the mind can be deeply conducive to a life of faith; and c) a church centered on the reconciling work of Jesus can endure scandal and heartache.

If it sounds like I’m transgressing the boundaries between history and theology, it’s because in Mormonism those boundaries are semi-permeable at best. Whether consciously or not, we’re all historians and we’re all theologians. Can the full and accurate study of Mormon history lead to a Mormon theology that is more mature and resilient, marked by greater humility and compassion? I believe the answer is yes. If I’m right, then all our historical studies will indeed have richly rewarded our research.



A Message from the Department Chair

We historians each probably have had to disabuse someone of the notion that history repeats itself. We all know that it doesn't. On the other hand, there is one phrase that does ring true for me and probably for most historians. Though it is usually, and mistakenly, attributed to the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, the notion that "change is the only constant" resonates with me as I contemplate my last months as chair of the history department. As I look back over my six years as chair, I can see several areas where we, as a department, have made important changes. I hope that they make the department even stronger than it already was and that they advance the mission and aims of Brigham Young University.

We have recast and reinvigorated our Family History program. Under the leadership of the family history coordinator, Dr. Amy Harris and her family history colleagues, we have increased the program's reputation and have positioned it to become the preeminent program in family history education in the world. Our donors have taken notice of the program's success and their continued support is paying large dividends, especially for the many projects being undertaken by the Center for Family History and Genealogy.

Our two teaching majors (History and Social Science Teaching) have also been strengthened and their major requirements have been aligned with other teaching majors in the state of Utah. Our Clinical Faculty Associates, Elaine Peterson and Christa Thornock (licensed teachers on loan from the Nebo and Provo School Districts), have been providing excellent supervision of the dozens of student teachers and teacher interns that we place in schools each year. BYU's History Teaching and Social Science Teaching majors are entering the workforce better prepared than ever.

Taken together, our Family History and two teaching majors now make up half of all history department majors. This is a noticeable change from ten years ago, when these majors were a much smaller percentage of our student body. Our traditional history majors are finding opportunities to practice the skills they are learning--far more participate in internships where they actively hone historical research and writing skills. Our donor-funded internship grant endowment is making it possible for more and more students to leave campus and enjoy learning by doing.

Our faculty is experiencing change, too. This past year, Bill Hamblin and Paul Pixton retired. They will both be missed. But with retirements come new colleagues. Joining us in the coming months will be Drs. Zhidan Duan, a specialist of modern China, Sarah Loose, a medievalist, and David Felt, a scholar of pre-modern China. Cameron McCoy, a specialist in US military history and race, will join the faculty next summer after he completes a post-doc at the United States Military Academy at West Point researching racial integration in the armed forces.

And lastly, the change that will affect me most will be the appointment of a new department chair. FHSS Dean Benjamin Ogles has announced that Eric Dursteler will be my replacement. I wish him well. I suppose it might sound strange for me to say that I can hardly wait but, in truth, I am looking forward to teaching more and turning my attention to research projects—and to the changes those will bring.

-Don Harreld

Lecture Spotlight:

Thirty-First Annual Russel B. Swensen Lecture

“Behold the Bridegroom Cometh’: Marriage, Millennium, and The Mirrored Lives of Ellen White and Mary Baker Eddy”



Dr. David Holland
Associate Professor of
North American Religious History
Harvard Divinity School

David Holland is a proud and grateful product of the history department at Brigham Young University. After graduating from BYU in 1998, Holland went on to receive master's and doctoral degrees in history from Stanford University. Since 2013, he has served as Associate Professor of North American Religious History at Harvard Divinity School

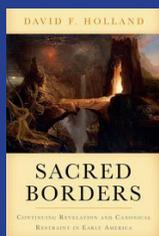
Between 1843 and 1844, two young American women, both of whom would go on to found widely influential religious movements, waited for a wedding. Mary Baker anticipated her marriage to George Glover, an ambitious New Englander who had headed south to seek his fortune and planned to return to make Mary his wife. 100 miles away, on the coast of Maine, Ellen Harmon eagerly expected Jesus Christ's return to earth to receive His kingdom as His bride. Ellen joined millennialists around the country who filled the air with the cry, “Behold the bridegroom cometh!”

Each woman embraced a different matrimonial ideal: Mary's was privatized, respectable and stabilizing; Ellen's was public, controversial and disruptive. They both believed that this wedding held the key to their future happiness. Both would be deeply disappointed. By the end of 1844, Mary's new husband had died, leaving her pregnant and penniless. At the same time, Millerites were dealing with the devastating realizations that Jesus had not come as they had predicted. With dashed matrimonial hopes, Mary and Ellen both began a process of self-transformation that would lead to the founding of Christian Science in Mary's case and Seventh-day Adventism in Ellen's.

This lecture addressed the conflicting messages on marriage faced by young American women in the 1840s and discuss the impact that matrimonial disappointment had on the future prophetic careers of these two enormously important religious leaders.

Also check out Dr. Holland's newest publication:

Sacred Borders: Continuing Revelation and Canonical Restraint in Early America



“*Sacred Borders* vividly depicts the boundaries of the biblical canon as a battleground on which a diverse group of early Americans contended over their differing versions of divine truth.... Carefully exploring the history of these scriptural boundary wars, Holland offers an important new take on the religious cultures of early America.”

(Image and quote from Oxford University Press)

Family History Updates



CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY AND GENEALOGY

The Family History and Genealogy program at BYU is consistently growing and we now have over 70 students in the program! The word is getting out about the many opportunities available in the genealogical/historical fields. We keep current students, as well as, alumni up-to-date through social media and we reach out to prospective students at conferences.

Feel free to visit our blog and Facebook page:

Blog: <https://byufamilyhistory.wordpress.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BYUF-HProgram



In 2016, BYU had an increased presence at the RootsTech conference. For the first time this year, several BYU entities combined efforts that formed one of the largest booths at the conference. It really made an impact and provided positive publicity for BYU. RootsTech had about 26,000 attendees this year, and we hope most of those participants went away with a good understanding of just how many great family history resources are available at BYU.

Take a look at some of the RootsTech press coverage online!
(<https://news.byu.edu> and <http://fhssbyu.com>)

Interest in family history and genealogy is exploding and since BYU is the only university that grants a bachelor's degree in family history, we expect the program to continue to grow as well. You can learn more about BYU's family history efforts at familyhistory.byu.edu



Image: LDS Church Temples

Project Spotlight: The Nauvoo Community Project

Nauvoo, Illinois. For members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it is an LDS version of a “city set upon a hill.” Crucial to early history of the Church, the city nevertheless remains something of a demographic enigma. The number of Saints coming as settlers combined with travelers passing through was enormous during the mid-nineteenth century. Prof. Jill Crandell and a team of students connected with the Center for Family History and Genealogy at BYU have undertaken a major genealogical project to bring the city’s early inhabitants to light.

Called “The Nauvoo Community Project,” research began in 2011 and an informative website launched in 2012 (nauvoo.byu.edu). Prof. Crandell explains that the goal of the massive project is to “research everyone believed to have been in Nauvoo, prove their identity, and uniquely identify all of them, including marriage, death, burial, parents, spouses, and children.” The team has worked these past four years to correct dates and relationships, clean up sometimes-inaccurate pioneer data, and organize all of it for others to use. As trained genealogists, they have the resources and the skills to sort through the mounds of available records. In Prof. Crandell’s eyes, it honors the pioneers to get each individual’s genealogical information right. Since the program began, some 3,600 people have been documented.

This research should lead to answers for various historical questions concerning Nauvoo. Prof. Crandell anticipates an eventual accurate population count, a foundation for an array of demographic studies, and an interactive map to aid future researchers.

The project provides unique opportunities for students, too. They gain on-the-job experience with social history research, archives, genealogical methods, and data organization. The team includes around 20 student employees and interns.

The Nauvoo Project is donor supported and gladly accepts both informational and financial donations. For further information contact: Jim Crawley at LDS Philanthropies, 801-422-8028, jim_crawley@byu.edu

New Faculty



Dr. Christine Isom-Verhaaren grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah, and attended BYU as an undergraduate, majoring in history. She left BYU with a master's degree in Library Science and worked at the Genealogical Society of Utah before attending the University of Utah, where she studied the Middle East. She thereafter moved to Chicago. While traveling with her archaeologist husband to southeastern Turkey and visiting Istanbul on the return trip, she realized that her longtime interests in the Middle East and early modern history could be combined by studying the Ottoman Empire. She attended the University of Chicago, obtaining a second master's degree and Ph.D, specializing in Ottoman history. After a varied career teaching Ottoman and world history, Dr. Isom-Verhaaren is sure that we cannot understand today's world without understanding Ottoman history. Her first book appeared in 2011: *Allies With the Infidel: The Ottoman and French Alliance in the Sixteenth Century* (I. B. Tauris), and an edited volume (with co-editor Kent F. Schull), *Living in the Ottoman Realm: Empire and Identity,*

13th to 20th Centuries (Indiana), released in March 2016. Her current project examines the Ottoman navy; she hopes to publish *The Sultan's Fleet* within the next few years. Dr. Isom-Verhaaren enjoys BYU and currently teaches History 202 (World history) and Middle East history courses. She hopes to eventually create more specialized courses that will help students better understand the Middle East, the Ottomans, and their significance in world history.



Dr. Brenden Rensink grew up in Bellingham, Washington. He received his B.A. in History at BYU. As a history major Dr. Rensink remembers being interested in anything but U.S. history and especially anything other than the U.S. West. However, one semester the only upper division class that fit into his schedule was a Western Expansion class taught by Dr. Jay Buckley. He was hooked. He "converted" to the study of the American West and took additional courses with Dr. Buckley. He thereafter attended the University of Nebraska and obtained his M.A and Ph.D., specializing in Western history. He spent a few years teaching in Nebraska and as a visiting professor before leaving academia and moving to Utah. In Utah he worked for the Joseph Smith Papers at the LDS Church History Library as an editor and writer. This experience outside the professorial track sparked Dr. Rensink's interest in public history. When the Assistant Director position opened up at BYU's Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, he applied

and it became his dream position. The Redd Center promotes interdisciplinary study of the American West through grants and scholarships for students and scholars from a range of scholarly backgrounds. Along with his duties as Assistant Director of the Redd Center, he also currently teaches History 221 (United States history) and continues to develop his own research agenda. Last May he and Dr. Jay Buckley published a reference encyclopedia of the American frontier. Dr. Rensink's own book, *Native but Foreign*, is currently under contract with an academic press and he hopes to publish it in the upcoming year. It looks at native peoples from Canada and Mexico as political refugees and compares those borderlands and their respective refugees' experiences as "foreign" Indians. Dr. Rensink enjoys being at BYU, surrounded as he is by incredible colleagues and students. March 16, 2016, marked his one-year anniversary since coming to BYU and he looks forward to many exciting and productive years to come.

Faculty News

Last summer, **Dr. Stewart Anderson** visited a Catholic archive in Cologne, where he researched a church media organization called the Catholic Broadcasting Committee in Germany. Historians have often told the history of German Christianity after WWII as a story of decline and secularization; his research into Catholic influence at the major television and radio stations calls this narrative into question. He also visited a cantonal archive in Switzerland to research the European efforts of a non-denominational Anglo-American religious group called “Moral Re-Armament.” This organization played an important role in promoting reconciliation between French and West German politicians, but has been largely overlooked by historians. In anticipation of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, he’s also written an article on how East and West Germans memorialized Martin Luther during the Cold War. He hopes to see this published by the end of the year. Finally, Dr. Anderson is excited to report that his book manuscript, entitled “Big Lessons from the Small Screen: Television Fiction and the Reinvention of Morality after the Nazi Catastrophe,” is now under an advance contract at the University of the Toronto Press. As always, he loves teaching at BYU. I am most excited about a new course, first introduced during the Fall 2015 Semester, called “The History of Film, Radio, and Television.” The class has an international focus, and it’s a lot of fun to treat documents such as films and TV shows as primary sources!

In 2015, **Dr. Jay H. Buckley** published the *Historical Dictionary of the American Frontier*, co-authored with Brenden W. Rensink. Buckley delivered a presentation on “William Clark and the War of 1812” at the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation’s national convention and was awarded the Sherman Fellow Award for his extraordinary service. He was a featured speaker about the “Fur Trade History of the Southern Plains” at the national Fur Trade Symposium. Buckley delivered presentations for the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York. He also accompanied K-12 teachers to Boston, Philadelphia, Colonial Williamsburg, and Washington, D.C., through the Driven2Teach Field Study program.

Dr. Brian Cannon’s book *The Awkward State of Utah: Coming of Age in the Nation, 1896-1945*, co-authored with Charles S. Peterson, was published by the University of Utah Press in the fall. In September he participated in a panel showcasing the forthcoming *Routledge History of Rural America* at the meetings of the Rural History Organization in Girona, Spain. He was appointed to the program committee for the Western History Association’s annual meeting and was named president-elect of the Mormon History Association. In the summer he conducted research with the assistance of a BYU student, Rachele Clayson, on American agricultural policies during the tenure of Ezra Taft Benson as Secretary of Agriculture, focusing especially on the impact of those policies upon small farmers. An essay resulting from that research will be published by the University of Illinois Press in a forthcoming collection on Benson edited by BYU alumnus Matt Harris.

Dr. Jeffrey Shumway presented the keynote address at the Río de la Plata Seminar at the College of William and Mary in February 2016. On March 1 of this year he became the director of Latin American Studies at BYU, overseeing 85 majors and 25 minors.

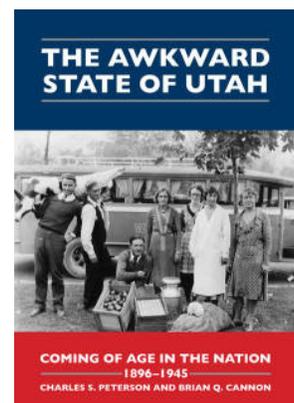


Image: University of Utah Press

In March of 2016, an article **Dr. Karen Carter** wrote appeared in *Rural History*. The article is entitled “The Affair of the Pigeon Droppings: Rural Schoolmasters in Eighteenth-Century France,” and it examines the role played by village schoolmasters in rural French villages. It uses the journal of a schoolmaster who provided a variety of services for the parish school and church—including cleaning pigeon droppings from the church bell tower. He was also integral to a complex network of social relationships in the parish.

Dr. Spencer Fluhman serves as editor of *Mormon Studies Review*. The *Review*'s third volume appeared in 2015 (<http://publications.mi.byu.edu/periodicals/msr/>). Also in 2015, he contributed an essay, “Communitarianism and Consecration in Mormonism” to the *Oxford Handbook of Mormonism*. In early 2016, his “Secrets and the Making of Mormon Moments” appeared in *Faith in the New Millennium: The Future of Religion and American Politics* (Oxford). Also in early 2016, he co-edited *Let Us Reason Together: Essays in Honor of the Life's Work of Robert L. Millet* (BYU RSC, Maxwell Institute, & Deseret Book). During the past year, he gave papers or presentations at Lehigh University, Seattle University, Claremont Graduate University, the Mormon History Association, Miller-Eccles Study Group—Texas, National Defense University (Washington D.C.), and Utah Valley University. In May, 2016, Dr. Fluhman was appointed executive director of the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship at BYU.



Dr. Leslie Hadfield's first book will be out in May of this year. The title is *Liberation and Development: Black Consciousness Community Programs in South Africa*. The book covers the emergence of the Black Consciousness movement's ideas and practices in the late 1960s and early 1970s, then analyzes how activists refined their practices, mobilized resources, and influenced people through their community outreach work. It causes us to rethink aspects of African history and international development. She has been involved with some community programs. A highlight was being part of one of the discussions on race relations held by the Provo Police department.

In 2015 **Dr. Jeff Hardy** published, “Letting the Beasts out of the Cage” in *Europe-Asia Studies*, the top Slavic Studies journal in the United Kingdom. This article looks at how debates over the nature of judicial punishment in the post-Stalin era had an impact on various early release mechanisms in the 1950s and 1960s. He did a short research trip to Boston to work with a Soviet Gulag microfilm collection for my new project on religion in the Soviet penal system. Dr. Hardy presented the Raymond E. and Ida Lee Beckham Lecture for the BYU School of Communications. The title of the lecture was “Transforming the Soviet Soul: Labor, Science, and Religion in Gulag Newspapers.” He is currently working on a project that investigates the nature of religion and atheism in the Soviet Gulag. He is interested in both the view of the authorities, who attempted to regulate religious practice, and the thoughts and actions of the prisoners, many of whom were religious to one degree or another.

Dr. Amy Harris, along with Rachel Cope in Church History and Doctrine and Jane Hinckley in Comparative Arts and Letters, published a 4-volume series of transcribed and annotated original documents entitled *Family Life in England and America, 1690-1820* (Routledge, 2015). You can see it here: <https://www.routledge.com/products/9781848934740>. She is currently completing an American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies Fellowship at the Newberry Library Chicago working on a book manuscript, “A Single View: Family Life and the Unmarried in Georgian England.”

Dr. Craig Harline spent much of summer 2015 in Europe finishing a book to be published this coming November, by the Dutch publisher Vantilt, called *Jacobs vlucht: een familiesaga van de Gouden Eeuw* (*Jacob's Flight: A Family Saga of the Golden Age*). He also continued research there for a book to commemorate the upcoming 500th anniversary of the Reformation, in 2017, called "Wild Boar: The Rise of Dr. Martin Luther, Friar," to be published by Oxford University Press, and supported by a Public Scholar Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. One of a zillion books sure to be published about Luther that year, this one will focus on the uncertainty and anxieties of the first four years of the Reformation, and thus on the human Luther who struggled rather than on the gigantic Luther who changed the world. In October 2015 he was the De Lamar Jensen lecturer at BYU, on the subject of what Luther the sixteenth-century monk might possibly have to say to modern Mormons.

Dr. Richard Kimball is finishing final edits of his book, *Legends Never Die: Athletes and their Afterlives in Modern America*, which will be published by Syracuse University Press in Spring 2017. Dr. Kimball is starting to work on his next project, which will be a cultural biography of Steve Brodie, a celebrity bridge jumper at the end of the 19th century.

Dr. Matt Mason saw an article published in the March 2016 issue of *The Journal of Civil War History*. Publication of his most recent monograph, now entitled *Apostle of Union: A Political Biography of Edward Everett*, is on track for fall 2016, so he has spent most of his waking hours fielding offers from Broadway producers eager for another historically-informed musical. In fall 2015 he team-taught an "Unexpected Connections" class for GE / Honors with Prof. Rick Gill from Biology; both found the degree of difficulty high but the experience rewarding overall. He presented and commented on panels at conferences in Philadelphia and Little Rock (Arkansas, not the Little Rock, California where he served as a missionary). As if to prove that no good deed goes unpunished, in the midst of serving as program coordinator for Historians Against Slavery's conference in Cincinnati, he accepted the invitation to serve as co-director of Historians Against Slavery.

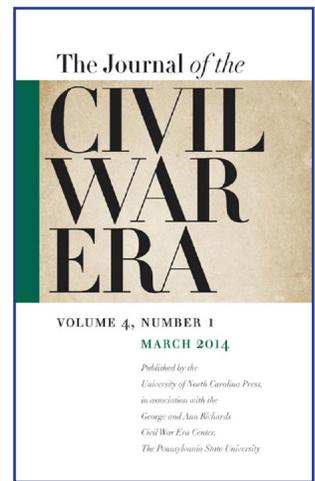


Image: *The Civil War Era Journal*

Last summer **Dr. Rebecca de Schweinitz's** article, "The Proper Age for Suffrage: VOTE 18 and the Politics of Age in the Age of Aquarius," was published in *Age in America: The Colonial Period to the Present*, Corrine Field and Nicholas Syrett, eds. (New York University Press, 2015): 209-236. <http://nyupress.org/books/9781479831913/>. She also finished a four-year term as an Executive Board member of the Society for the History of Children and Youth and filled in Winter semester as the Acting Director of BYU's Women's Studies Program. Fall term 2015 Dr. de Schweinitz took maternity leave after having a baby girl in August.

Dr. Gerald Haslam with four other researchers from across the US published "Nancy Hanks Lincoln mtDNA Study - Unlocking the Secrets of Abraham Lincoln's Maternal Ancestry" (<https://www.familytreedna.com/public/HanksDNAProject/default.asp...>) which answers the question of whether Abraham Lincoln's mother was born illegitimate (she was). The study, under auspices of Family Tree DNA, was reported by regional and national media, including USA TODAY (11/3/15). Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter (11/4/15) congratulated the "group of five researchers" for demonstrating "that Lincoln's mitochondrial DNA belonged to a very rare haplogroup X1c" and for solving "a 150-year-old mystery surrounding the true identity of Nancy Hanks, Lincoln's mother."

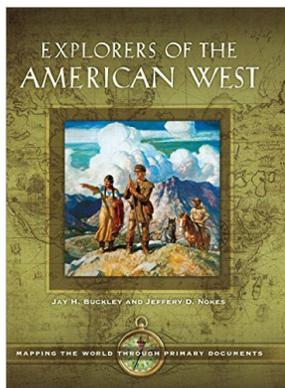


Image: Amazon

In 2015 **Dr. Jeff Nokes** was promoted to Associate Professor and received continuing faculty status. He continued to work with prospective teachers and initiated changes to the format of the teaching practicum. He was honored to receive the college's Martin B. Hickman award for excellence in teaching. Dr. Nokes worked with the Utah State Office of Education to create new standards for social studies for that state of Utah. He was instrumental in integrating historical thinking skills and preparation for civic engagement into the standards. Dr. Nokes coauthored, with Dr. Jay Buckley, the book *Explorers of the American West: Mapping the World through Primary Documents*. He also worked with a student research assistant, David Ellison to coauthor a chapter entitled "Historical Films: An Essential Resource for Nurturing Historical Literacy," which will appear in an edited volume on teaching social studies with films. With Alisa Kesler-Lund he started a research project on historians' reading, with several historians in the BYU History Department serving as research subjects. He made a presentation on teaching with Susan Magoffin's Santa Fe Trail Journal at the National Council for Social Studies annual conference in New Orleans in November. At the annual conference of the College and University Faculty Assembly he presented a research paper dealing with junior high students' reactions to democratic classroom practices. Jeff also presented with Chris Crowe, a professor in BYU's English Department, at the National Council for History Education's annual conference. Their presentation, entitled Using Multiple Sources to Engage 1968, shared primary sources and historical fiction that could be used by teachers to help students contextualize that tumultuous year.

Dr. Susan Rugh was involved in the development of the recently opened exhibition at the BYU Museum of Art, "Branding the American West: Paintings and Films 1900-1950." Her essay "Branding the Southwest for Tourists," appeared in the exhibit catalog edited by Marian Wardle and Sarah E. Boheme. It was a pleasure for her to collaborate with art historians, literature professors, and cultural critics to reexamine the meaning of the post-Turnerian West. The exhibition features many Maynard Dixon paintings from BYU's collection, and a treasure trove of art created by the Taos Society of Artists from the Stark Museum in Texas. She presented a paper at the Church History Symposium in early March. Titled, "The Calling with No Name: The Mission President's Wife in the 20th Century," she explored the changing roles of the wives of mission presidents since 1900. The popular podcast 99% invisible featured my work on the Green Book in Episode 201 "The Green Book" that aired in late February. Take a listen and learn about how travel played a part in the making of the Civil Rights Bill of 1964. <http://99percentinvisible.org/episode/the-green-book/>

Dr. Neil York presented a paper on "Plato and the American President: Thirty-five as the Age of Eligibility" at Oxford University last June. It was published as an article in the January 2016 issue of *Soundings*. He has two books coming out this Summer: *The American Revolution, 1760-1790: New Nation as New Empire*, which will be printed simultaneously in the U.S. and Britain by Routledge, and *The Crisis: A British Defense of American Rights, 1775-1776*, by Liberty Fund. He continues teaching courses on Revolutionary America and the U.S. Constitution.

Last June, **Dr. Aaron Skabelund** traveled to South Korea and Japan with Joseph Seeley, a 2014 history department graduate who is now a Ph.D. candidate at Stanford University, to begin a joint research project on the Japanese colonial zoos in Seoul and Taipei. This is second project Skabelund and Seeley have conducted together. When Seeley was a student in his Japanese Culture History course in 2012, he wrote a research paper on tigers in Japanese colonial Korea and won the top prize in history at that year's Mary Lou Fulton Mentored Student Learning Conference. He continued his research with Skabelund by doing archival work in the United States and in Japan, and last year published "Tigers—Real and Imagined—in Korea's Physical and Cultural Landscape" in the journal *Environmental History* just before their departure for Asia. In addition, in 2015 Skabelund published two chapters in the edited volume, *Local History and War Memories in Hokkaido*, one on memories of military horses in Japan's northern prefecture and other on the relationship of local society and the reconstituted post-World War II Japanese military, commonly known as the Self-Defense Force. A longer version of the latter essay appeared in translation in *Guntai no bunka jinruigaku* (A cultural anthropology of militaries). On that same trip last June, Skabelund presented on that chapter at the National Defense Academy in Yokosuka.

Faculty Recommended Readings

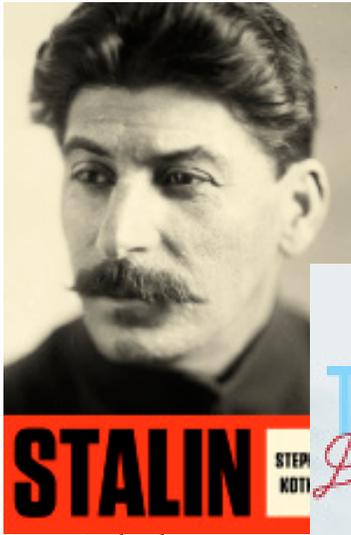


Image: Goodreads

Stalin: Paradoxes of Power, 1878-1928

by Stephen Kotkin

This new biography (the first of a planned three volumes) places Stalin and the Bolshevik experiment within a robust geopolitical and ideological framework, resulting in the most complex and fascinating portrait of Stalin to date.

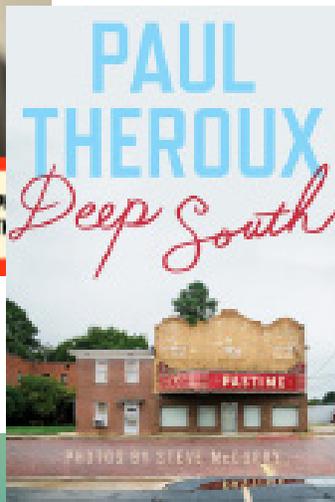


Image: Goodreads

Deep South: Four Seasons on Back Roads

by Paul Theroux

This book gives new insights into the Emmett Till case and convincing proof that parts of rural Arkansas and Mississippi are just as impoverished as any third-world nation in Africa.

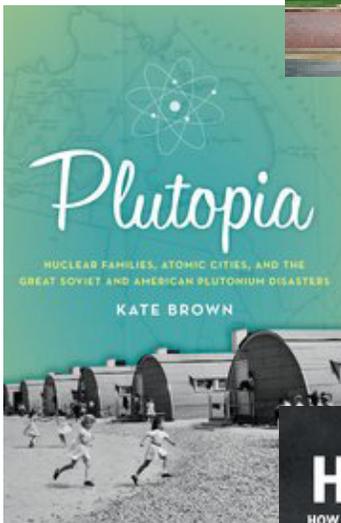


Image: Oxford University Press

Plutopia: Nuclear Families, Atomic Cities, and the Great Soviet and American Plutonium Disasters
by Kate Brown

It is a brilliant reconstruction of the environmental, social and biological costs of the Cold War as seen through the prism of two communities – Richland, Washington and Ozersk, Russia -- where plutonium was produced for nuclear weapons. This book showcases the daunting nature and immense potential of transnational history, meticulously researched in archives and interviews in multiple nations. The similarities and differences in risks taken on the individual, community and national levels and rationalizations offered in justification of those risks are haunting.

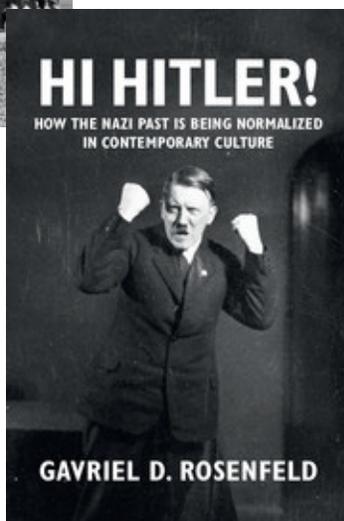


Image: Cambridge University Press

Hi Hitler! How the Nazi Past is being Normalized in Contemporary Culture

by Gavriel D. Rosenfeld

Be warned: Rosenfeld reproduces some fairly disturbing internet memes, such as “Hipster Hitler” and a series of images called “Cats that Look like Hitler.”

In the Halls of the History Department



The Image War: World War II Propaganda Posters from the Asia-Pacific Theater

One tool that governments in the first half of the twentieth century used to try to mobilize their populations for total war was the poster. During World War II, newspapers and the radio and newsreel eclipsed the poster as tools for shaping popular opinion, yet posters were still produced in great numbers. Propagandists—both official and private—engaged in an image war as a part of total war.

The posters and a scroll on display in the department's west hallway since last August—the seventieth anniversary of the end of the war—are from the war's Asia-Pacific theatre. They hail from Japan, the United States, British India, Australia, and from several sides of the conflict in China. Almost all are reproductions of originals found in the Hoover Institution Library & Archives at Stanford University. A BYU Japanese literature professor donated the scroll. Dr. Skabelund was charged by the department chair with curating the exhibit, and was assisted by two able student interns, Carson Teuscher and Kylee Wixom, who had recently taken his World War II course, as well as by intern coordinator and art history graduate, Tiffany Wixom.

Dr. Skabelund reminds viewers that the posters are artifacts of the past, not works of art, although their designs are often quite striking. Indeed, some of the images are harsh because history, and especially war, is harsh. Yet they are certainly not the most offensive images from a theater where, as one historian has memorably put it, the war was waged—in battle and through images like these— “without mercy.”

Thomas Cole and *The Course of Empire*

Best known for his allegorical five-painting series between 1833 and 1836 entitled *The Course of the Empire*, Cole's allegorical paintings contain hidden meanings, often reflecting his religious convictions. These five paintings depict the same landscape over time, depicting the emergence and fall of an imaginary city. The valley is distinctly identifiable in each of the paintings, in part because of an unusual landmark: a large, rocky prominence overlooking the valley and perhaps symbolizing the immutability of the earth with the transience of man.

Cole deftly chronicles the march of "progress" across the unsullied wilderness, the dawning of the pastoral ideal, the advance of "civilization" and "empire" that obscures and obliterated the sublime of the natural world before succumbing to destruction and decay. The original collection is housed in the New York Historical Society.



"There is the moral of all human tales;
'Tis but the same rehearsal of the past.
First freedom and the Glory- when that fails,
Wealth, vice, corruption- barbarism at last.
And History, with all her volumes vast,
Hath but *one* page..."

-Canto IV



History Department Annual Student Awards

Awards for Outstanding Papers written in 2015

Women's History Award

Katie Richards

“A Display of ‘Unfemininity’: American Women’s Travel Motives from 1890 to 1929”

Written for Jeff Hardy, Hist 200

LeRoy R. Hafen Award in North American History

Marilyn Cassidy

“George Darrow, An Early Shaker who ‘Turned Away’”

Written for Jenny Pulsipher, Hist 490

Lechin Jagchid Award in Non-Western History

Lauren Wake

“Arechi and Loss: How Poetry Uncovers the Extent of Suffering in Post-War Japan”

Written for Jeff Hardy, Hist 200

DeLamar and Mary Jensen Award in European History

Kaytlin Nalder

“The Bedchamber Crisis: A Look at Gender Roles in Nineteenth Century British Newspapers”

Written for Jeff Hardy, Hist 309

Fred R. Gowans Award in 19th C. Western US History

Seth Cannon

“Karl May’s Amerika: German Intellectual Imperialism”

Written for Jenny Pulsipher, Hist 200

Carol Cornwall Madsen Award in Mormon Women’s History

Rebecca Johnson

“I Am Real Happy Here: Contentment Amid Containment”

Written for Evan Ward, Hist 490

Personal Family History Award

Aften Fairbanks

“From Baden to Indiana: The Story of Johann Ernst”

Written for Roger Minert, Hist 351

Latin American History Award

Courtney Lees

“The Last Inca Emperor, Abimael Guzman: Memory of the Inca within Peru’s Shining Path Movement”

Written for Evan Ward, Hist 252

Cultural History Award

Hannah Spencer

“The Felo de se Question: British Public Views of Suicide and Suicide Burial Laws, 1818-1823”.

Written for Jeff Hardy, Hist 306

History of Empire

Susannah Morrison

“‘Something Sounder, Nobler, and Greater’: Neo-Gothic Architecture and National Identity in Confederation-Era Canada”

Written for Jeff Hardy, Hist 200

African or Middle Eastern History

Ian McLaughlin

“Remembering Cuito Cuanavale”

Written for Leslie Hadfield, Hist 200

History Valedictorians

Greer Bates
August 2015

Seth Cannon
April 2016

Faculty Recognition and Awards

Chair Selection for Outstanding Teacher of the Year
Stewart Anderson

Student Selection for Outstanding Teacher of the Year
Leslie Hadfield



Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Professor Crandell, Dr. Garcia, Dr. Mason, Dr. Skabelund, and Angie Thomas for their contributions to this year's edition of the History Department newsletter.
Edited by Dr. J. Spencer Fluhman and Hannah Julien

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