

## Rachel Pulfer (BA'97) on Journalists for Human Rights



Rachel Pulfer with  
Jean-Pierre Seke, Editor of  
L'Observateur, Kinshasa

Journalism, as the saying goes, is the first draft of History. We live, however, in an era in which journalism is under siege. The number of working journalists in print media in the US declined from 55,000 in 2007 to 32,000 in 2015. In Canada, print titles have suffered job losses of between 20% and 63% since 2010. Broadcasters also feel the pinch, as social media companies and technology giants absorb advertising revenues.

My name is Rachel Pulfer and I am the executive director of Journalists for Human Rights (JHR), a media development organization based in Toronto. The non-profit

trains journalists in post-conflict Africa, the Middle East, and in northern Canada. Current projects target South Sudan, Syria and the Democratic Republic of Congo - all places where journalists work in fear of their lives. Freedom House's most recent report, which JHR contributed to, estimates that only 13% of the globe now enjoys true press freedom. According to the 2016 World Press Freedom Index, last year 72 journalists lost their lives.

At such a time, reliable, credible information is ever harder to come by. And when media is weak and not empowered to do its job, democratic deficits emerge. Founded in 2002, JHR aims to strengthen journalists' ability to cover human rights issues. Stories JHR trainers have mentored have held soldiers in the South Sudanese People's Liberation Army accountable for rape as a weapon of war; ensured rural hospitals and clinics are properly staffed in Liberia and Ghana; put accountability for honour crimes on the public agenda in Jordan; and restored full-time policing to the remote reserve community of Constance Lake in Northern Ontario. The end goal is to give voice to the marginalized, while holding governments

and other influential stakeholders accountable to their constituents. And what I have seen, in 15 years of operations, is that by working with journalists to raise their game, it is possible to raise everyone else's. A cohort of trained journalists can inspire and induce local and international authorities to do the right thing by their constituents, in a way that nothing else can.

I can date my interest in media development to my History degree at McGill. I took a joint degree in History and Political Science. But it was History that truly grabbed my attention - the rigorous act of gathering facts into a collective narrative that is continually contested through critical analysis. This left me with an understanding of the way historical narratives shape collective consciousness and of how historical understanding informs culture, and grounds our sense of future possibility.

Particularly inspiring were classes on British and Latin American History, taught respectively by Professors Elizabeth Elbourne and Catherine LeGrand. Both professors brought a nuanced view of historical narrative to their teaching. Both emphasized careful consideration of the impact of the post-colonial legacy on the human rights of "discovered" individuals and societies. And both imparted a fact-driven analytic rigour that I have since worked hard to match.

Journalists for Human Rights works to ensure that the first draft of history in places like Syria, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo is solidly based on fact. For a rigorous understanding of why fact-driven journalism is so vital to democratic development, I have McGill's Department of History to thank.

*Rachel Pulfer graduated from McGill University with a First Class Joint Honours undergraduate degree in History and Political Science in 1997. She then earned a Bachelor of Applied Arts degree in Journalism at Ryerson University in Toronto. She has worked at Journalists for Human Rights ([www.jhr.ca](http://www.jhr.ca)) since 2010 and as the Executive Director since 2011. She is on Twitter at @Rachel\_Pulfer*

### IN THIS ISSUE

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2 Note from the Chair                | 8-9 Department Books                                |
| 2 Reading the History of Panama      | 10-11 Resurrecting Life on the Lagoon               |
| 3 Congratulations & News             | 12-13 Student Association News                      |
| 4-5 Providing Sanctuary: John Surrot | 14-15 Outreach, Public History and Student Research |
| 6-7 New Faces                        | 16 New Initiatives and Gifts                        |

I am delighted to welcome you to the third annual edition of Chronos, the newsletter of the Department of History and Classical Studies. I would like to take this time to give my heartfelt thanks to the two editors - Elizabeth Elbourne and Lorenz Luthi - as well as to Siddhant Talwar, for stellar work on layout, and to Kathleen Holden of the Faculty of Arts and Negar Adibpour for invaluable aid and design assistance.

The forthcoming year is a particularly auspicious one, as we welcome three new faculty members: Kristy Ironside (Russian History); Heidi Wendt (Religions of the Ancient World); and Don Nerbas (Canadian-Scottish Studies). They join an engaged and passionate group of faculty members who aspire to the highest standards of teaching, research and community service.

The department hosts a number of events open to the public throughout the year, including a Homecoming Lecture and Reception (to be given this year by the Department's own Brian Lewis), the Cundill Book Prize Lecture (delivered by last year's award winner, the eminent historian Thomas Laqueur), a library lecture series, multiple book launches, and a number of more specialized seminar speakers. For more information, please see <https://www.mcgill.ca/history/talks-events>, and to join the Friends list and receive news and announcements, please see <https://www.mcgill.ca/history/outreach-donate/friends>

I invite you to read on, and to share in the activities and achievements of the Department of History and Classical Studies.

*David Wright is Chair of the Department of History and Classical Studies and a McGill alumnus*

## READING THE HISTORY OF LANDSCAPES AND PEOPLES ON THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA BY DAVIKEN STUDNICKI-GIZBERT

Teaching history in the field is somewhat unusual given our discipline's emphasis on the written text. Nevertheless, moving out of the halls of the university is an opportunity for students to learn about other modes and sites of research that can be used to understand the past. Every winter, 25 McGill undergraduate students travel to Panama to participate in the long-standing Panama Field Studies Semester

[<https://www.mcgill.ca/pfss/panama-field-study-semester>]. In addition to courses in Neo-tropical forest ecology, environmental management, tropical agriculture and human geography, the PFSS curriculum includes a history course: The Environmental History of Latin America (Field) [HIST 510]. Inspired by Brian Donahue's innovative field courses in rural Massachusetts at Brandeis University, HIST 510 shows students how to read the history of human-environment relations in the Neo-tropics.

The Isthmus presents a particularly dense historical terrain to explore. As the land bridge between the two continents of the Americas and as a natural passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, it has been a zone of human passage and settlement for millennia. Indigenous peoples from Mesoamerica, the Caribbean and South America have all passed through, and today eight distinct nations occupy over a third of Panama's territory, mostly in self-governed Comarcas (provinces). With modern empires and trade arrived Africans and Afro-Caribbeans, Europeans, Asians, and Americans. These circulations produced a deeply layered and cosmopolitan history that is reflected in the high diversity of human

landscapes and cultures packed into this thin spine of land.

Only the first day of the three-week course is spent in the classroom. At five the next morning, HIST 510 heads to the Caribbean coast with its histories of imperial trade, slavery, maroons, and neo-African kingdoms. It then moves west to the mountains and forests of the indigenous Ngäbé and Buglé Comarca to explore community histories of forests, agriculture and water. The course wraps up in the highlands of Veraguas, the site of remarkably vibrant campesino (peasant) cooperatives and their long tradition of grassroots rural development and stewardship.

Along the way students are exposed to, and apply, the techniques of field archeology, oral history, historical ecology, collaborative research, repeat landscape photography, basic cartography, field sketching and note-taking—all part of the tool kit of those interested in reading the history of human-environment relations in the field. Students live in tents and local homes. They walk a great deal. They share their work and their off-time with people from the communities. They have to watch out for snakes. They swim in two oceans and multiple rivers. They help pan for gold. After three weeks, they return to Panama City, thoroughly exhausted, but deeply marked by the history, landscapes and peoples of this Neo-tropical society.



*Planning research on the forest-history of the Ngäbé community of Salto Dupí*

*Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert is a professor of Latin American and World History with a particular interest in the history of the environment, including the environmental impact of resource extraction*



### OUTSTANDING EMERGING RESEARCH: ALLAN DOWNEY

**PROFESSOR ALLAN DOWNEY** received a Principal's Award for Outstanding Emerging Researchers at Convocation in June 2017 for his research on the historical experience of Indigenous nationhood within Canadian and international politics. Dr. Downey also won the 2017 Canadian Aboriginal History Prize from the Canadian Historical Association for his article, "Playing the Creator's Game on God's Day: The Controversy of Sunday Lacrosse Games in Haudenosaunee Communities, 1916-24, published in the *Journal of Canadian Studies*.

### GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

For her dissertation project on bilingual dictionaries in New France, **FANNIE DIONNE** received a Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada in order to work with Professor Gilles Havard at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris, and to conduct archival research in that city and in Rome.

**COURTNEY KROLIKOSKI**, who is working on a dissertation on the medical, religious, and social understanding of lepers and leprosaria in Bologna, Italy from 1100-1350, was elected to serve a two-year term on the Graduate Student Committee of the Medieval Academy of America for the period of 2017-19. The committee promotes international and interdisciplinary exchange among graduate students in medieval studies, and provides guidance on research, teaching, funding, networking, professionalization, and employment. **VINCENZA MAZZEO**, who is writing a dissertation on Medical Feminism and Women's Health Activism in South Africa from 1982-2000, has been awarded the Media@McGill Arts Graduate Research Fellowship (2017-18) which will enable her to conduct interdisciplinary research and public outreach on issues of alternative media, technology, governance, and feminist cultures.



Dr. Allan Downey and Principal Suzanne Fortier, Convocation 2017



Dr. Judith Szapor

the Records of European Jewish Autonomy" (2017-19). The project includes a website with digitized versions of all surviving European Jewish communal record books from before 1800.

### FACULTY ON THE MOVE

The Simon Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies in Vienna (Austria) has awarded **PROFESSOR JUDITH SZAPOR** a Senior Fellowship (January-May 2018) to work on her new project on the Hungarian *numerus clausus* law, the first case of racial anti-Jewish legislation in postwar Europe. **PROFESSOR GWYN CAMPBELL** has won a Humboldt Research Award (2017-19) for work on the history of human-environment interaction in the Indian Ocean World that challenges conventional Eurocentric historical temporal and spatial paradigms. He will spend prolonged periods in Halle, Germany, at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Area Studies, Martin Luther University, and as a fellow of the Max Planck Institute. **PROFESSOR ROBIN D.S. YATES** has been awarded a Senior Scholar Award by the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation (Taiwan) for his sabbatical project "Qianling County, 222-209 BCE: Life in and under Qin Local Government" (2017-18), and a University Distinguished Fellowship at Baptist University of Hong Kong from August - December 2017.

### CONGRATULATIONS ON BOOK PRIZES

**PROFESSOR LAILA PARSONS** has won a 2017 Distinguished Book Award from the Society for Military History for her book *The Commander: Fawzi al-Qawuqji and the Fight for Arab Independence 1914-1948* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2016). For his book *Patrician Families and the Making of Quebec: The Taschereaus and McCords* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014), **PROFESSOR BRIAN YOUNG** (emeritus) has received the 2016 Canada Prize in the Humanities, awarded by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences for the best scholarly book in the humanities, and the 2015 Prix Lionel-Groulx de l'Institut d'histoire de l'Amérique française.

### RECENT GRANTS

Among recent grant recipients, **PROFESSOR FAITH WALLIS** has been awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Insight Grant (2017-20) for her project to edit the major medical writings of Master Bartholomaeus of Salerno, who flourished around 1150-70. His writings comprise commentaries on ancient Greek and Islamic medical texts called the *Articella*, which was used for teaching in Europe's first academic centres of medicine, and his handbook of therapeutics, the *Practica*. **PROFESSOR GERSHON HUNDERT** is the co-recipient of a major grant from the Rothschild Foundation (Europe) for the ongoing project "Recovering



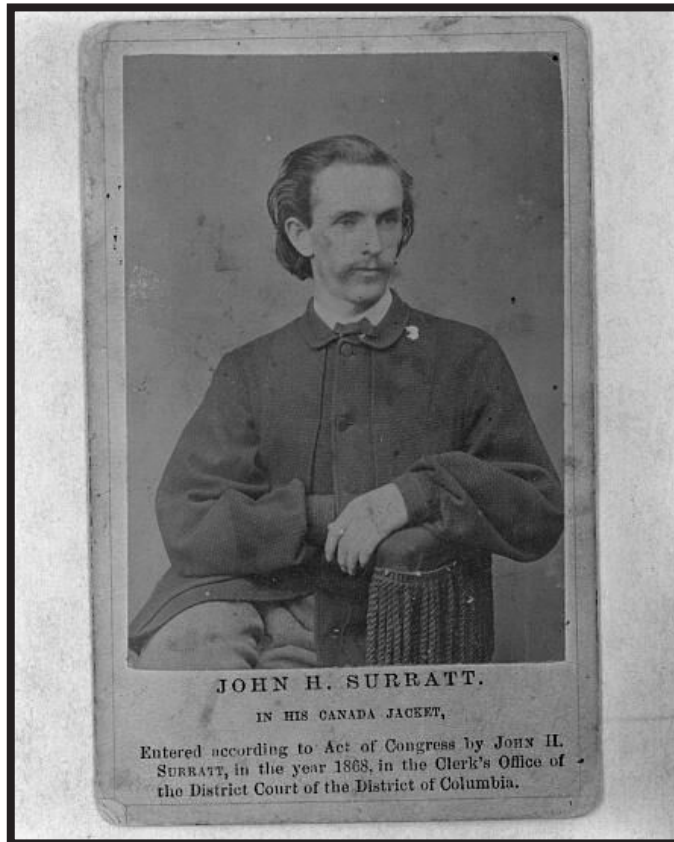
Dr. Gershon Hundert

The offer of protection to individuals in the form of sanctuary is a practice that dates in the Western Judeo-Christian tradition to Biblical times, and was widely offered in the Middle Ages. It is a practice that continues in the present day, most notably with the declaration in recent years by hundreds of US municipalities, cities and states that they are sanctuary spaces. In Canada, the city of Montreal declared itself a “sanctuary city” in February 2017 to support undocumented migrants. Rather than being a marginal act of compassion, sanctuary is entwined with the very fabric of a community’s political life and signifies a great deal in terms of how loyalty and merit are understood. It is this relationship that is at the heart of my current SSHRC-funded research that explores the history of sanctuary in Canada from the nineteenth-century to the present.

The politics of sanctuary were in stark relief during the American Civil War era as the conflict heightened the question of loyalty and allegiance, implicating observers, sympathizers and participants in the Province of Canada. An estimated 40,000 British subjects volunteered on both sides of the Civil War. The physical participation of British subjects was only one aspect of how the Province of Canada was enmeshed in the conflict to the south. The province was also a site of Confederate refuge and plots to attack and disturb Northern forces, including the St. Alban’s raid in 1864, which was designed to “embroil” the Province of Canada in the conflict by undermining claims to official neutrality. Fleeing to Canada, the raiders sought physical refuge as well as legal protection. In a critical ruling, the justices determined that because the raiders or “soldiers” were under Confederate orders, and because the Province of Canada was officially neutral, they could not be extradited to face criminal proceedings in the United States. Outraged, American representatives described Montreal as a hub for “refugees from the South, too cowardly to stay at home and fight.” The Province of Canada had become a physical refuge for Confederates and their supporters as well as a legal one.

Into this mix emerged John Surratt. At the time of Lincoln’s assassination, Surratt was 21 years old. He had recently been engaged

to work as a runner or messenger in the Province of Canada for General Robert Edward Lee, the Confederate leader. John’s mother, Mary Surratt, ran a boarding house in Washington, DC, one that was frequented by John Wilkes Booth, the man who shot and fatally injured President Lincoln on Good Friday, 14 April 1865. Within days, notices had appeared indicating that John Surratt was a suspected accomplice and that there was a bounty of \$25,000 on his head. Surratt, who was in upper New York State at the time of the assassination, heard news of the events in Washington and later saw a notice for his arrest. Surratt fled north, fuelling suspicion about Canadian complicity in the assassination.



*“John H. Surratt, in his Canada Jacket”, Library of Congress, 1868. This photo was taken after his return to the United States.*

President Andrew Johnson, who assumed power after Lincoln’s death, was one of the first to publicly suggest that Confederate agents were being “harboured” in the Province of Canada. In response, the Governor General Charles Monck promised his full assistance. Meanwhile, spontaneous groups of vigilante citizens also organized themselves to patrol the border with the intention of apprehending any suspected assassins. Despite their efforts, John Surratt made his way to Montreal and arrived in the city on 18 April 1865. Writing in his diary, Surratt noted that he was “[s]afe again on British soil, and under the protection of a neutral power. It will give them some trouble to find me here, and still more to take me; but to prevent accidental discovery I will disguise myself by dying my hair and staining my skin. I must remain here for a time, and when an opportunity offers sail for Europe.”

Montreal soon became unsafe, and Catholic supporters facilitated Surratt’s relocation to St. Liboire. It was Surratt’s Catholicism, rather than his Confederate ties, that drew supporters in Montreal. According to all available accounts, Father Boucher did not know that Surratt was a wanted accomplice but knew only that a Catholic American in ill-health needed to recover from his bouts of “chills”. Surratt spent most of his four months in St. Liboire in hiding, “secreted in a dark room, from which he never came out except a few times, when he would go out late at night and take a walk.” Midway through the summer, Boucher’s young maid discovered Surratt hidden away in the back room when she peeked under a crack in the door. Dr. Lewis J.A. McMillan, who encountered Surratt on his later flight to Europe, recounted that “the story was im-



mediately circulated around the village that the priest had a woman in his bedroom hiding. Then the priest told him that he could keep him no longer; that he must find other quarters.”

Surratt's supporters quickly removed him from the priest's house and returned him to Montreal. On this occasion, Surratt was once again supported by members of the Catholic Church, taking refuge at 116 Cemetery Street, “a quiet place just behind the Catholic Bishop's Place,” and the home of the father of Father Larcille Lapierre (Canon to Ignace Bourget, with whom General Lee had connections). Despite Surratt's efforts at subterfuge, the American Consul at Quebec was able to report to the US State Department at the end of May that Surratt was in Canada. Surratt and his supporters clearly felt that he was in danger of arrest and so it was quickly arranged for him to board a sailing vessel bound for the port of Liverpool. He left Canada on 5 September 1865. In his diary, he noted that he “bade farewell to those kind friends who have so long given me a shelter.” He added, “may their safety never be endangered, or their peace and happiness disturbed.”

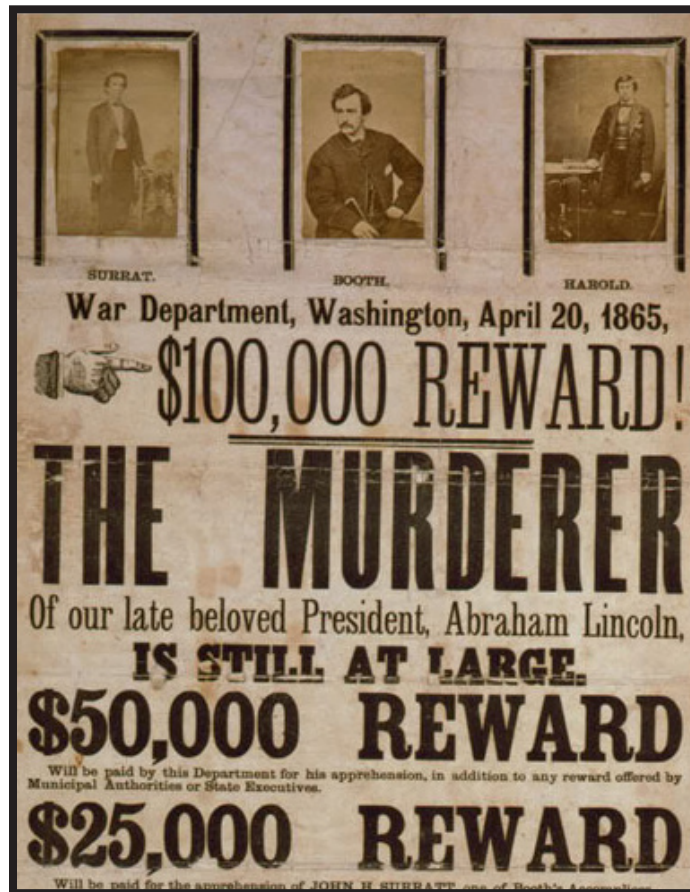
The decision by members of the Catholic Church in Quebec to protect John Surratt in his flight represented an act of defiance in the face of both the American authorities who sought his capture and British authorities who claimed official neutrality vis-à-vis the conflict to the south. As a result, the provision of sanctuary to John Surratt exacerbated the position of the Catholic Church in both the Province of Canada and the United States. It confirmed traditional suspicions that Catholic loyalties were not bounded by geopolitical borders. Rumours and allegations circulated about Mary Surratt, who had converted to Catholicism as a young woman, and who was charged with treason. She was ultimately found guilty and hung on 7 July 1865, the first woman to be federally executed in the United States. By all accounts, John Surratt, still in hiding in Quebec, had no idea about the gravity of his mother's situation. An entry in his diary from the time reads:

I find the Yankees are commencing what they call the trial with closed doors. Secret plottings to take the life of a few poor victims, and one a woman. The people and the press will cry such a thing down, or I am much mistaken. I am safe here at any rate, under the protection of those professing my own religion. I have sought sanctuary, and have found it. While here there is neither fear of betrayal, nor risk of discovery.

There are hints that he was sheltered from news of his mother's sentence and later execution in order to prevent him from returning to the United States and giving himself up in her stead (the suspicion being that both Surratts would be executed if John returned and that there would be no trade). Instead, John left for Liverpool in September 1865 and ultimately took refuge in the Papal Army where he was recognized, captured and returned to the United States in February 1867. After two trials, the case against him was dismissed and he proceeded to lead a long and some might suspect a rather happy life, pursuing a number of different careers

(including a public lecture tour to promote his innocence), marrying Mary Victorine Hunter, fathering seven children, and passing away at the age of seventy-two. The historical record has been less revealing about the fate of Father Charles Boucher and other Catholic supporters who aided in the protection of John Surratt. New research on the history of sanctuary seeks, however, to uncover the fate of those who made sanctuary possible while at the same time detailing the genealogy of present-day sanctuary efforts by considering early efforts, such as those on behalf of John

Surratt, and how they shaped civil life and political life in Canada in subsequent years.



Broadside advertising a \$100,000 reward for the capture of conspirators in the Lincoln assassination, including John H. Surratt

*Laura Madokoro is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Classical Studies. She studies the history of race, refugees and humanitarianism and is the author of *Elusive Refuge: Chinese Migrants in the Cold War* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2016). Her current focus is on the history of sanctuary among white settler societies.*

## NEW FACES - POST DOCS



**DR. ROSANNA DENT** is an incoming Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Indigenous Studies (2017-19). She comes to McGill with a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania (2017). Dr. Dent's dissertation used archival research, oral history, and participant observation to examine the history of human sciences research with Indigenous communities in Central Brazil. Her broader research interests include the intersection of expertise, sovereignty, and the settler colonial state, as well as the scientific construction of race, ethnicity, and gender in the Americas. At McGill, Dr. Dent will continue work on a digital archive project to repatriate scientific publications and historical materials to Xavante communities that have hosted researchers, while turning her dissertation into a book. She will also begin her next project on the history of demarcation of Indigenous land in Brazil.

**DR. EDUARDO FABBRO** also joins the department as Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow (2017-19). He received his PhD from the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto, working on the impact of warfare on early medieval Italian society and the formation of the Lombard Kingdom. Dr. Fabbro has published on different aspects of warfare, such as how medieval historians represented war and the demographic consequences of war on the distribution of gender. More generally, he is interested in how societies deal with violence and warfare, from conscription and logistics to symbolism and ideology. At McGill, Dr. Fabbro will begin work on a new project, tackling the relationship between religion and warfare before the First Crusade.



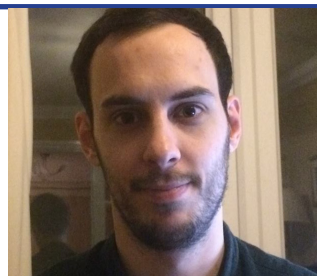
**DR. SEAN FEAR** is an incoming SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow (2017-19). He arrives at McGill from the John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College where he was a U.S. Foreign Policy and International Security Postdoctoral Fellow (2016-17). Dr. Fear received his PhD in History from Cornell University in August 2016 with a dissertation that examines the diplomatic impact of domestic politics in both South Vietnam and the United States from 1967 to 1971. He has conducted research at archives in both the United States and Vietnam, and draws heavily on Vietnamese-language memoirs, blogs, and print media. At McGill, Dr. Fear will prepare his dissertation for publication as a book, and begin work on a second project on the international history of the end of the Vietnam War.

**XAVIER BÉRIAULT** is currently completing his PhD in Political Studies at the University of Ottawa (to be defended in the fall of 2017). Beginning in January 2018, he will be a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at McGill. Xavier Bériault's research focuses on Canada's national minorities' resistance movements against the British conquest in the revolutionary context of the Atlantic world during the 18th and 19th centuries. More specifically, his doctoral research examines the formation of political power between the Hudson's Bay Company and the Métis in Canada's historic Northwest during the 19th century. Drawing on Hannah Arendt's political thought and social network analysis, Xavier Bériault dissertation argues that the Company's colonial administration was only able to govern through a partnership with the Métis. His post-doctoral research will expand this analysis by examining other forms of resistance to British imperialism.



**DR. PETER HYND** is an incoming Postdoctoral fellowship at the Indian Ocean World Centre, with which he has been affiliated since arriving at McGill in 2011. His dissertation is a history of alcohol and excise taxation in colonial India from approximately 1860 - 1920. Dr. Hynd has played a key role in the Indian Ocean World Historical Environment Database project, an ongoing collaborative effort to map and analyze historical patterns of human-environment interactions in the Indian Ocean region over the longue durée. As an IOWC Postdoc, he will engage in a number of historical mapping projects, and prepare a manuscript based upon his dissertation.

**DR. ALASTAIR MCCLURE** is an incoming Postdoctoral Researcher at the Indian Ocean World Centre (2017-18). He arrives from the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History where he was a Postdoctoral Fellow. Dr. McClure received his PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2017 after completing a thesis which examined the relationship between law, violence, and sovereignty in colonial India. At McGill, Dr. McClure will prepare his dissertation for publication as a book, and begin work on a second project that explores the history of migration and law in the Indian Ocean. Given the international standing of the IOWC, he is excited by the opportunity of developing his work in this environment.





## NEW FACES - FACULTY



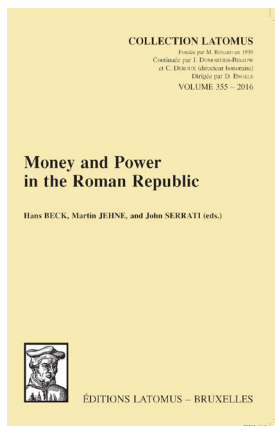
**DR. KRISTY IRONSIDE** studies the social, political and economic history of Russia and the Soviet Union. Before joining McGill as an Assistant Professor, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow and taught at the University of Manchester (UK). Dr. Ironside completed a BA and MA at the University of Toronto before earning a PhD in Russian history at the University of Chicago. Her current book project looks at the Soviet government's attempts to use money, an ideologically problematic 'vestige of capitalism,' toward the intertwined projects of postwar reconstruction and communist advance. Although the Bolsheviks were still hostile toward money's purportedly corrosive power under capitalism, they viewed it as a powerful economic tool in their own hands, as an incentive for disciplined and productive labour facilitating economic growth. From the late Stalin to the Khrushchev periods, the benefits of socialism and proof of the Soviet Union's revolutionary progress were increasingly expressed in terms of money: greater purchasing power, higher wages and pensions, and lower taxes. At the same time, money facilitated massive inequalities in a formally equal society. The 'full-value ruble,' which Soviet authorities touted, was often anything but, undermining Soviet citizens' faith in Soviet power and in the communist project. Aside from her monograph, Dr. Ironside has written articles exploring the nature of the Soviet welfare state, the shift from coercion to incentives, and the socialist political economy after 1945. She hails from Brantford, Ontario, and when she isn't travelling, she is usually engaged in an elaborate cooking project.

**DR. HEIDI WENDT** joins the department as an Assistant Professor of Religions of the Greco-Roman World, a joint appointment with the School of Religious Studies and the Department of History and Classical Studies. Previously, she was an Assistant Professor in New Testament and Christian Origins at Wright State University (Dayton, OH) and a visiting lecturer at Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT). Dr. Wendt completed her PhD in Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean and an MA in Classics at Brown University in 2013, as well as an MTS in New Testament and Christian Origins at Harvard Divinity School in 2007. She spent 2011–12 at the American Academy in Rome as a pre-doctoral Rome Prize Fellow in Ancient Studies. Dr. Wendt's research investigates religious developments of the Roman imperial period, with a focus on situating Jewish and Christian actors and phenomena in their Greco-Roman milieu. She recently published her first monograph, *The Religion of Freelance Experts in the Roman Empire* (Oxford University Press, 2016), which examines evidence for the rise of self-authorized experts in specialized religious skills, rites, and wisdom under the Roman Empire. Her next book project builds on this framework to examine the role of literary production in generating and defending religious authority among rival Christian and other would-be "experts" of the second century.



Originally from Winnipeg, **DR. DON NERBAS** joins the Department as Associate Professor and inaugural Chair of Canadian-Scottish Studies. He completed his PhD in Canadian History at the University of New Brunswick in 2010, and subsequently held a SSHRC post-doctoral fellowship at McGill. Dr. Nerbas returns to McGill from Cape Breton University, where he has been a member of faculty since 2012. His research broadly centres on the history of capitalism, and he has published a variety of articles on economic elites and capitalist development. In 2013 he published his first monograph, *Dominion of Capital: The Politics of Big Business and the Crisis of the Canadian Bourgeoisie, 1914-1947* (University of Toronto Press), a social history of the Canadian bourgeoisie and changing business-state relations. His current book project examines the history of Cape Breton coal from the mid-nineteenth to early-twentieth centuries. Situating Sydney coalfields in an imperial and transnational context, the project links the Scottish diaspora and settler colonialism to the making and shaping of Canada's emerging industrial order. By the early twentieth century, Canada's capitalist system had come to rely significantly upon coal from Cape Breton and was largely dominated by the metropolis of Montreal. As Chair of Canadian-Scottish Studies, Dr. Nerbas will also be involved in organizing initiatives to facilitate research and intellectual exchange on the history of the Scots and Scottishness in Canada.

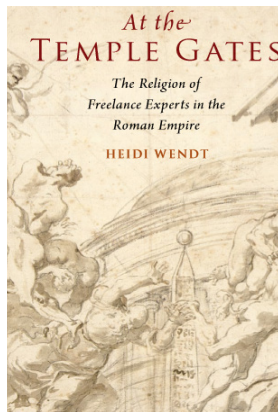




HANS BECK, MARTIN JEHNÉ, JOHN SERATI, EDs., *MONEY AND POWER IN THE ROMAN REPUBLIC*

How did economic power augment the nature of politics in the Roman Empire? Rome's rise to superpower status was accompanied by changes of economic realities. By the 1st century BCE the competition of senatorial families for rank and recognition was dramatically wrapped up with access to monetary capital. The republic fell because of a financial crash that hit the centre of Roman society.

[More info.](#)

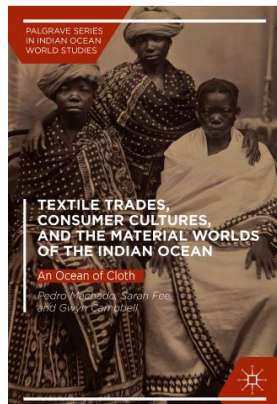


HEIDI WENDT, *AT THE TEMPLE GATES*

*At the Temple Gates* documents the rise of self-proclaimed religious experts during the Roman Empire and situates early Christians in the same milieu. Shifting the focus from rival cults or religions

to the practices of individual religious actors, the book offers a dynamic account of religious innovation and change in this period.

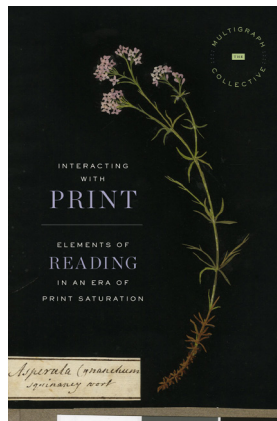
[More info.](#)



PEDRO MACHADO, SARAH FEE, AND GWYN CAMPBELL, EDs., *TEXTILE TRADES, CONSUMER CULTURES, AND THE MATERIAL WORLDS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN*

This collection examines cloth as a material and consumer object from early periods to the twenty-first century, across multiple oceanic sites—from Zanzibar, Muscat and Kampala to Ajanta, Srivijaya and Osaka. Contributors map shifting social, cultural and commercial circuits to chart the many histories of cloth across the region.

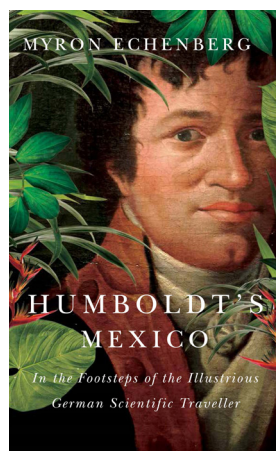
[More info.](#)



THE MULTIGRAPH COLLECTIVE (BRIAN COWAN), *INTERACTING WITH PRINT*

*Interacting with Print* brings together 22 scholars who work on 18th- and 19th-century print culture. Print was a part of not just books, but also theatrical performances, conversations, and advertisements. The authors' collective composed the chapters in groups that met online as 'wiki' seeds. Although the methods of composition were novel, the result is a physical book that invites our readers to interact with it.

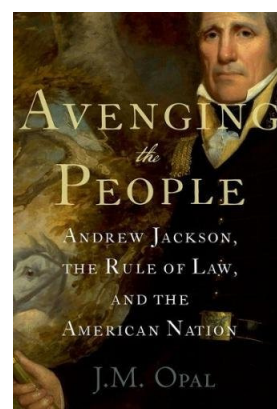
[More info.](#)



MYRON ECHENBERG, *HUMBOLDT'S MEXICO: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS GERMAN SCIENTIFIC TRAVELLER*

Alexander von Humboldt's scientific exploration of Mexico in 1803-4 included inspections of colonial silver mines, hikes to the summits of Mexico's major volcanoes, examinations of secret Spanish colonial archives, and scientific discussions of major archaeological sites of pre-Hispanic Indigenous cultures. Humboldt's sensitive ecological observations appeal to environmentalists and to international visitors attracted to Mexico's magnificent colonial heartland.

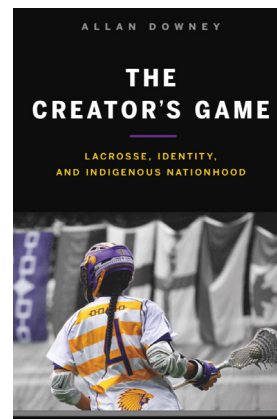
[More info.](#)



JASON OPAL, *AVENGING THE PEOPLE: ANDREW JACKSON, THE RULE OF LAW, AND THE AMERICAN NATION*

Despite conventional wisdom to the contrary, U.S. President Andrew Jackson spent much of his career limiting sovereignty, and imposing new and often unpopular legal regimes over American lands and markets. Conversely, he waged total war on the Cherokees and Creeks, brushing aside legal restraints on genocide and mass retaliation. He thereby became a hero to those who saw the United States as uniquely lawful and victimized.

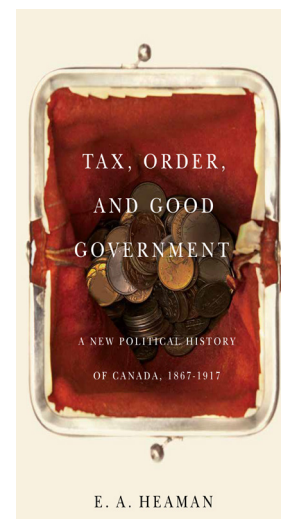
[More info.](#)



ALLAN DOWNEY, *THE CREATOR'S GAME: LACROSSE, IDENTITY, AND INDIGENOUS NATIONHOOD*

Lacrosse has been a central element of Indigenous cultures for centuries,

but once non-Indigenous players entered the sport, it became a site of appropriation – then reclamation – of Indigenous identities. *The Creator's Game* focuses on the history of lacrosse in Indigenous communities from the 1860s to the 1990s, exploring Indigenous/non-Indigenous relations and Indigenous identity

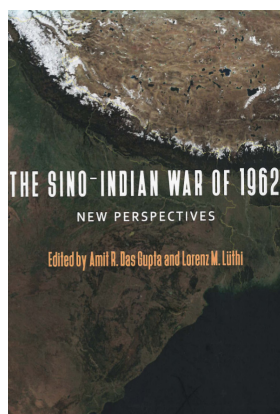


ELSIBETH HEAMAN, *TAX, ORDER, AND GOOD GOVERNMENT A NEW POLITICAL HISTORY OF CANADA, 1867-1917*

Was Canada's Dominion of 1867 an experiment in political domination? Looking to taxes provides the answer: they are a privileged measure of both political agency and political domination. To pay one's taxes was the *sine qua non* of entry into political life, but taxes are also the point of politics, which is always about the control of wealth.

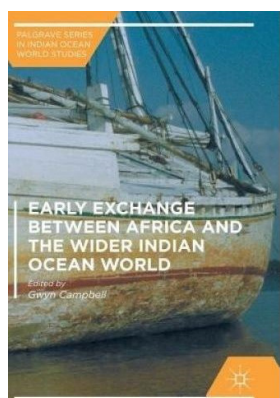
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AMIT DAS GUPTA AND LORENZ M. LÜTHI, EDs., *THE SINO-INDIAN WAR OF 1962: NEW PERSPECTIVES*  
The Sino-Indian War of 1962 was a major event in modern Asian history. It has hindered rapprochement between China and India and had a negative impact on India's domestic development. Grouped in three parts, the twelve chapters explore the bilateral relationship, the international context, and domestic politics.

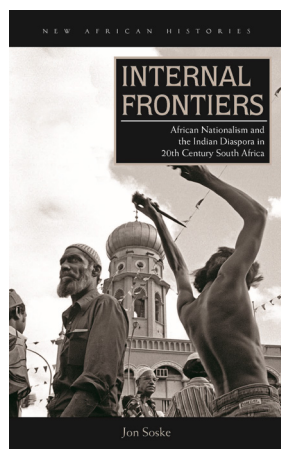
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GWYN CAMPBELL, ED., *EARLY EXCHANGE BETWEEN AFRICA AND THE WIDER INDIAN OCEAN WORLD*  
This volume explores the exchange relationship between Africa and the wider Indian Ocean world, a macro-region running from East Africa to China, from early times to about 1300 CE. The monsoon system, which facilitated the early

emergence of long-distance maritime exchange of commodities, peoples, plants, animals, technologies and ideas, was of central significance to this "world" region.

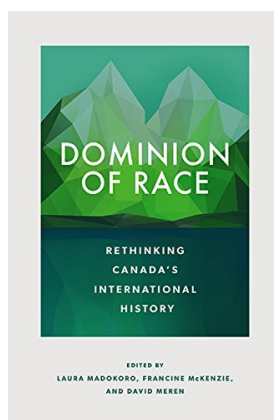
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JON SOSKE, *INTERNAL FRONTIERS: AFRICAN NATIONALISM AND THE INDIAN DIASPORA IN 20TH CENTURY SOUTH AFRICA*

This new history of the antiapartheid struggle places India and the Indian diaspora at the center of the African National Congress's development of an inclusive philosophy of nationalism. Even as Indian independence provided South African intellectuals with new models of conceptualizing sovereignty, debates over the place of the Indian diaspora forced a reconsideration of the nation's internal and external boundaries.

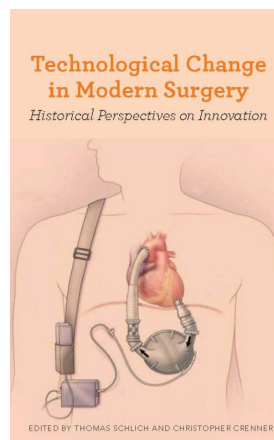
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LAURA MADOKORO, FRANCINE MCKENZIE, AND DAVID MEREN, EDs., *DOMINION OF RACE: RETHINKING CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL HISTORY*

This critical intervention on the history of race in Canada explores the relationship between empire, identity, and liberal internationalism. Leading scholars of Canada's international history expose how race has informed the priorities of governments, citizens and NGOs, and their sense of Canada's place in the international community that itself was understood, and ordered, according to racialized beliefs.

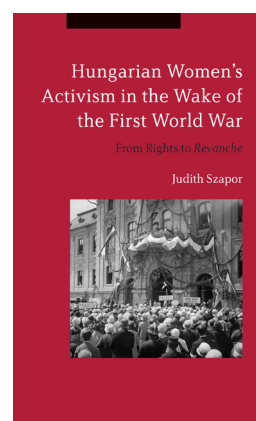
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THOMAS SCHLICH AND CHRISTOPHER CRENER EDs., *TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE IN MODERN SURGERY: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON INNOVATION*

Surgery is an ideal field for examining the processes of technological change in medicine. The book brings together contributions that go beyond the concept of innovation but instead explore the historical contexts of change in surgery, looking at the complex dynamics of the various treatment options available as well as the variable character of the new technologies themselves.

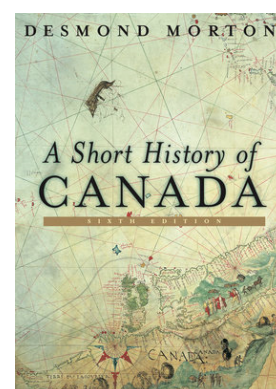
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JUDITH SZAPOR, *HUNGARIAN WOMEN'S ACTIVISM IN THE WAKE OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR: FROM RIGHTS TO REVANCHE*

On the basis of a wide range of previously unpublished archival, written, and visual sources, the book explores women's activism in Hungary during the post-war revolutions and counter-revolution, offering the first gendered history of the aftermath of the First World War.

[More info.](#)



DESMOND MORTON, *A SHORT HISTORY OF CANADA (6TH EDITION)*

The book explores the political compromises, international challenges and the moral questions that Canada faced in its history from Indigenous people to the evolution of different colonies, the bilingual union in 1867, and its rise as one of the largest countries in the world.

[More Info.](#)



CATHERINE LEGRAND, *COLONIZACIÓN Y PROTESTA CAMPESENA EN COLOMBIA (1850-1950)*

This book provides essential historical background to understanding the rural struggles that gave rise to the FARC guerrilla movement and the armed struggle in Colombia that lasted more than fifty years. First published in 1986, the book was reissued in Colombia in Spanish in 2016 because of its relevance to the contemporary peace process.

[More info.](#)

## RESURRECTING LIFE ON THE LAGOON: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS AT SALAPIA (PUGLIA, ITALY)

In 1615, the bishop of Trani (Puglia, Italy) recorded the demise of the neighboring medieval town of Salpi: “And finally the city of Salpi was turned up from the bottom.” The image is of total ruin. We have some historical records that explain how this happened. By 1547, Salpi had lost its diocese while it was suffering a long agricultural crisis because of the encroachment of its pasture land. This is, however, a history of institutions that offers little evidence of how the inhabitants managed this urban unraveling.

In fact, Salpi's abandonment was just one point in a much longer history of settlement along the Salpi Lagoon on Italy's southern Adriatic Coast (inset below). In the 1st century BCE, the town of Salapia was re-established by the Romans. The Roman historian Vitruvius, in his *de Architectura* (I.4), tells us that the residents of Salapia Vetus were constantly sick from the encroaching inland marsh. They asked the local Roman magistrate, Marcus Hostilius, to help relocate them, and he did so on a healthy site along the Salpi Lagoon. Vitruvius invested in this sole individual - like many Roman foundation stories - what was no doubt the long, arduous process of urban development. After Vitruvius' brief account, the historical record is scant, with some scholars arguing that Salapia had disappeared by the 4th century CE.

The meagre historical evidence raises deeper questions beyond snapshots of urban establishment and death. How did Salapia develop after its (re-)foundation? How do we understand the transition from the Roman site to the medieval one? And how did the lagoon—which offered natural resources like a harbor and salt but also imparted continuous health risks—affect prospects for long-term settlement? Answering these questions requires a rigorous exploration of the material evidence at Salapia/Salpi through archaeological research. The organization of these settlements—the spaces built and inhabited, the objects produced, traded and valued—are the main features through which we write the narrative of towns like this one, their connections through time, and their relationship to the lagoon.

In 2013, my colleagues Roberto Goffredo and Giovanni

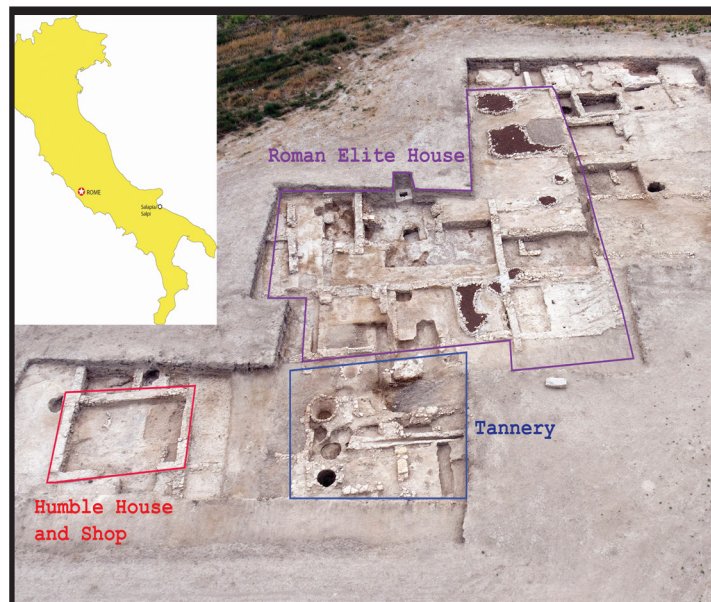
DeVenuto and I set out to perform an archaeological field survey in the territory long-called the Monte di Salpi, an artificial hill positioned on the low, flat coastal plain, encapsulating the remains of the medieval site. We aimed to generate conclusive evidence that Roman and medieval Salapia/Salpi largely occupied the same place in this landscape. After imposing a grid of 20x20m quadrants over the mound and the adjacent plain, we collected broken ceramic, glass, animal bone, coins, and architectural decoration and recorded the concentrations of tiles, to understand the density of settlement in this area, as well as to reconstruct its chronology. We established that the plain was dominated by an ample Roman settlement, with particularly high quantities of late material (from the 4th to 7th

centuries CE), showing that Salapia had not disappeared after the imperial period. Atop the Monte, nearly 75% of remains were medieval, dating to the 13th century CE and later. But interestingly, 25% were Late Antique, strong initial evidence that the medieval site was in part constructed atop the remains of the western portion of the Roman town. A magnetometry survey, a non-invasive technique, has resurrected the urban plan of the Roman town (grid streets, a city wall with towers, and possibly a theater) and given us hints at the medieval town's form too. Surely, the habitation in this area was complex, dense, long-lived, and possibly uninterrupted.

To acquire details on specific lived contexts, we opened two large areas for excavation in the period of 2014-16

to expose architectural features. We identified and investigated the successive layers of life in the town: each architectural transformation, each new pavement, each accumulation of detritus of everyday life represented a phase in Salapia's history. Excavation can be time consuming. The care required to dig, record, and study archaeological remains means that we have only covered about 1% of the once inhabited Roman site. Therefore, our findings, while exciting, remain tentative.

While we have found limited evidence from the start of the city's life (from the 1st century BCE to the 2nd century CE), it became apparent that this area had been reworked for centuries, indicating a certain dynamism of this settlement. In fact, the most visible and interpretable contexts of urban life date from the 3rd century CE onward, with a particularly detailed phase in Late Antiquity. We found a large house (domus) dating from between the 2nd to 4th centuries CE, with mosaic floors in many rooms, as well



Excavated remains from Salapia, with specific areas named in the text outlined

Inset: Salapia's location in Italy



as an adjacent tannery, accessible via an entrance from the house. The tannery had vats of different shapes and depths; analysis of organic residues from the vats revealed phosphates and cholesterol, the remains of animal fats. Intriguing too is the juxtaposition of a productive space and a great elite residence, likely both owned by a single wealthy family. Tanning leather was a stinky industry, and the proximity between these spaces meant that elite Romans living in this house also smelled rotting flesh and curing animal skins. Hardly what we would expect, given how richly the domus was decorated.

Across the street from the elite house, a small shop and modest house, constructed sometime in the mid-4th century, were excavated. Unfortunately, the original character of these humble spaces remains obscure, but an earlier sequence of beaten earth pavements indicates that the previous spaces were not much different. It clearly had a different function and appearance from the domus, and tells us that the wealthy and the lower classes lived side-by-side at Salapia. Life in these spaces stopped *in medias res* when, sometime in the later 5th century, a fire brought down the roof, sealing all activity beneath the collapsed tiles and thick ash. This is precious data of daily life because the remains were found exactly as the inhabitants were using them that day. They cooked on a simple hearth made of reused tiles. The shop likely traded in imported wine, as amphorae from the Eastern Mediterranean were crushed among the building's debris. A deposit of more than two hundred small bronze coins from the 4th and 5th centuries, many of which had fused together from the heat, were also found, reinforcing that this was a space of small-scale economic exchange.

Parallel to this late-5th century collapse, other major changes in and around the domus occurred. The urban character of the place was changing quickly. The older rooms, once well-appointed, were replaced by huts likely belonging to individual families who installed roofs supported by wooden posts that punctured the rich mosaic pavements of the previous phase. This new occupation continues for about one hundred years over which time garbage dumps connected to these huts accumulated in rooms of the former domus. These layers not only contained broken domestic ceramics and glass, but also cooking waste from meat and vegetables, for example. We have not found such dumping in an earlier phase, meaning that by the 6th century, there was an evident shift in practices that made such disposal inside the settlement permissible—likely handled by

individual families by this time, and not removed through organized community collection. Salapia was losing its urban character. An increasingly sparse, village-like settlement persisted at Salapia at least into the mid-7th century, after which traces of human activity become less perceptible.

Brief textual sources provide one bridge between the 7th century and the medieval site: a notation from the 4th-century Peutinger Table had already mentioned salinis, or salt pans, nearby. A Lombard text from 774 gave the monastery of Santa Sophia in Benevento the right to harvest salt along the lagoon, pointing to continued recovery of this resource. It seems that this area then was still accessible and productive. Is it possible that a village settlement

connected to salt extraction was the bridge between Late Antique and medieval Salpi?

After the 7th century, our archaeological traces are more difficult to interpret chronologically. The systematic removal of many walls from the Roman town tells us that in the medieval period, inhabitants were mining Salapia for building materials. Archaeological evidence from the plain is sparse: a coin of Manfredi, the Svevan king (1232-66) and a 13th-century burial without grave goods (dated

by carbon-14) from the adjacent plain, perhaps dating a period of significant construction. The activity appears to have been intermittent (perhaps there were teams of workmen who dug up the walls?), and indicates that the former Roman settlement became both a “quarry” for the quickly developing medieval town and a place to bury marginal members of this community.

As this new medieval town seemingly began on the foundations—and with the stones—of Salapia, so it too was destined to come to an end. Perhaps the gradual transformations of the Roman site from town to village can offer an indication of the altered fortunes of the settlement from foundation to decay, providing further nuance and complexity to the broader picture at Salapia/Salpi over nearly 1,500 years of its history.

*Thanks to the AIA Cotsen Grant, Loeb Classical Library Foundation and Davidson College (Davidson, NC) for support for this research.*

*Darian Marie Totten joined the department in August 2016. She is currently working with her colleagues to publish the first four years of fieldwork data from Salapia. Also in progress is a monograph on economic regionalism in Southern Italy during the Roman and Late Antique periods.*



*The Salapia team at season's end, 2016*

### CLASSICS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION BY ZOE BLECHER-COHEN

This year, the Classics Students' Association has carried on its recent trend of having one of the highest ratios of involved students to majors/minors in all of Arts—we have around 15 variously associated executives for a student body of under 100. The advantage to having such active members is apparent in the number, variety, and quality of events which the CSA puts forth. This fall the CSA debuted “Panem et Circenses”, a welcome back event attended by undergraduate and graduate students, which was a resounding success. Most of our activities lay somewhere in between academic and social, such as the joint lecture series that has become a staple in recent years. In concert with the HSA (for the third year in a row) we held both a Halloween and a Valentine's Day lecture series – two of our best attended events. Students enjoy hearing professors and graduate students give short, topical presentations in an informal setting— and of



*The Classics Students Association Executive*



*Plato's Symposium: a new translation by Alexandru Martalogu and Meghan Poplacean*

course, the multitudes of snacks provided.

One of the events our students are best known for is the annual McGill Classics Play, translated from the original text over the summer and then directed and performed in the spring. This year's play was in fact, no play at all, but a fascinating re-imagining of Plato's Symposium as a modern college party. It was translated and directed by Alexandru Martalogu and Meghan Poplacean, both Master's students in the department. Keep an eye out for next year's play: Plautus' *Pseudolus*, directed by Celia Taylor.

On the academic end, the CSA worked with Concordia and the Université de Montréal to organize and host the 9th Annual Montreal Classics Colloquium where 9 out of the 18 student speakers were from McGill. The Colloquium continues to be an amazing opportunity for students to present their own research and, uniquely, to explore subjects off the beaten path. McGill presentations included topics such as: Roman public toilets, local Greek cuisine, and the Roman opinions of lesbians. The Colloquium concluded with a panel on barbarians and foreigners in the Ancient Mediterranean, which segued into an impressively intellectual wine and cheese.

Our other impressive wine and cheese was the launch of our journal, *Hirundo*. Not only were the articles stunning and well-written, but the Editor-in-Chief, Harrison Brewer, also debuted his second project – the Rostra Lecture Series. A joint initiative with the CSA, the Rostra series is a new platform for undergraduates to present and receive feedback on their research from peers and professors. The presentations at the wine and cheese were well received and bode well for the future of this new endeavor. The year ended on a high note as the CSA received three AUS awards – Most Outstanding Small Departmental Association, Most Outstanding Academic Event (Classics Colloquium), and Most Outstanding Journal (*Hirundo*).



*The award-winning journal Hirundo*



*Editors Halle Ashby & Olivia Maccioni launch Historical Discourses*

### THE HISTORY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION BY KATE BAUER

The HSA executive for 2016-17 represents the interests of and provides programming and services to the nearly 900 students studying History at McGill. This past year, we held a number of events that brought together undergrads, grad students and faculty in social and collaborative settings, and oversaw the publication of our annual journal, *Historical Discourses*.

**Academic Endeavours:** McGill University's annual undergraduate history journal received an incredible number of submissions this year. The journal, published in April 2017, contended with the theme of "historical intimacy." *Historical Discourses* is entirely edited, published and printed by undergraduates and represents the quality and diversity of historical research conducted by upper-year undergraduate students at McGill. The HSA also ran a number of workshops on research and writing skills in coordination with Eamon Duffy, the History and Classical Studies Liaison Librarian, as well as organized free tutoring sessions for students in numerous history classes. Next year, the HSA hopes to work on putting together a "historian's handbook" with academic tips for undergrad history students.

**Public Engagement:** In collaboration with both the History and Classics Graduate Students Association and the Classics Students Association, the HSA organized a number of public lectures each focusing on specific historical themes. Faculty and graduate students were invited to present



lectures on themes such as sexuality at the Stuart court, witchcraft and queerness in modern Britain, and the historical precedents of the 2016 US election cycle.

**Social Settings:** The HSA held two incredibly successful trivia nights at Gerts Bar in November and March. The champions of our fall history trivia night, graduate students playing under the moniker of, “The Good, the Grad, and the Ugly,” were unseated in the spring by a group of spirited and knowledgeable undergraduates! The HSA hopes to continue the tradition of history trivia in the coming year. Our final event, “Salon Night” fostered an incredible sense of community between students of all levels in the history department and celebrated the end of yet another successful year.

**Resurgence of the Robert Vogel Award:** Lost (on sabbatical?) for nearly seven years in the office of Professor Jason Opal, the student-sponsored Robert Vogel award resurfaced this year to be awarded to a deserving professor in the department. Nominated by undergraduates and dedicated to the professor who best exemplified the teaching and mentorship values of Professor Vogel, this plaque represents the students’ appreciation for the support, passion and knowledge of a particular professor who made the greatest impact on their students during the academic year. Based on popular support (and with a stroke of perfect irony), the plaque was awarded again by popular vote to Dr. Jason Opal for his estimable teaching abilities, passion, and capacity to inspire greatness in his students. The HSA congratulates Professor Opal for his achievement (and kindly encourages him to return the plaque promptly)!



*Dr. Jason Opal with Holly Buss, Luke and Anya*



*Vincenza Masseo, Cynthia Tang and Stavroula Theodorakopoulou of the HCSGA*

## HISTORY & CLASSICS GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION BY CARLEIGH NICHOLLS & CYNTHIA TANG

The History and Classics Graduate Student Association held a number of academic and community-building events throughout the year, including the Topics on Tap seminar series featuring works in progress in a convivial atmosphere, a Holiday Lecture series, and the ever-popular afternoon Coffee & Cake events. The 2016/17 academic year was kicked off with our first ever “GROSH” orientation week to welcome our incoming graduate students to the Department. HCGSA is also proud to have supported stimulating student-run initiatives such as a discussion panel on the Untold Story of Slavery in Montreal, and the Gender and Professionalism Workshop. Stay tuned for the McGill-Queen’s Graduate Conference in History which returns to McGill in Spring 2018 and will explore Violence of the Mind through the ages. If you’d like to stay up-to-date with HCGSA news, please follow us on Twitter @hcgsmcgill or visit our new website:

<https://mcgillhcgsmcgill.wordpress.com/>

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NEW PHDs

**BEN DANGL**, “Centuries march the streets: the power of the past in Bolivian indigenous movements, 1970-2000” (supervisor: Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert)

**OMRI BASSEWITCH FRENKEL**, “Transplantation of Asian spices in the Spanish empire 1518-1640: entrepreneurship, empiricism, and the crown” (supervisor: Gwyn Campbell)

**JUSTIN IRWIN**, “Benjamin Keach and Baptist confessional identity in post-restoration London, 1664-1704” (supervisor: Brian Cowan)

**MARIE CAROLYNN McNALLY**, “L’union fait la force: les réseaux de famille, les mariages exogames et l’identité acadienne, 1881-1937” (supervisor: Suzanne Morton)

**REBECCA ROBINSON**, “Cult and calendars in the ancient empires of Qin, Han, and Rome” (supervisors: Hans Beck and Robin Yates)

**LUKE RYDER**, “Slovak Society, the Second World War, and the Search for Slovak ‘Stateness’” (supervisor: James Krapfl)

**VLAD SOLOMON**, “Straining the law: the creation of a British model of political policing, 1881-1914” (supervisor: Brian Lewis)

### THE UNTOLD STORY OF SLAVERY IN CANADA & MONTREAL BY NADIR KHAN

On 13 February 2017, over 100 attendees including students, professors and community members gathered at McGill to discuss Canada's history of slavery. Organized in collaboration with McGill's Social Equity and Diversity Education Office in the context of Black History Month, the event featured three accomplished scholars in the field of slavery studies, Professor Charmaine Nelson, Dr. Dorothy Williams and CUNY PhD candidate Delice Mugabo. The speakers addressed various aspects of Canada's implication in slavery and the slave trade. Dr. Williams asked the audience to interrogate and understand who stood to benefit from "not knowing" our local history of slavery and noted how far the conversation had come since she began her work in the field. Dr. Nelson, meanwhile, situated the discussion with a broad overview. This discussion tackled the challenges of archival work in slavery studies, offered a description of different forms of violence and resistance, and explained Canada's implication in the wider circuits of Transatlantic trade. Dr. Nelson also described a fascinating story of a slave named "Joe" who, as far as we know, escaped some six times during his enslavement by William Brown, a Montreal based printer (meaning that it is likely Joe also personally printed several runaway slave ads). Finally, Ms. Mugabo explored her research on enslaved Black women outside the urban centres of Quebec beyond Trois Rivières, Montreal and Quebec City. She also explored the potential dangers of implementing slavery into provincial curricula; namely those associated with distorting history. Following the event, members of audience expressed their enthusiasm and positive feedback as they felt they left having learnt a great deal.

The event was organized and moderated by Casarina Hocevar, a U3 student majoring in African Studies, with minors in Italian Studies and History, and Nadir Khan, an MA candidate studying the history of slavery in the Atlantic world with a focus on Canada. The event was also made possible with generous support from Charmaine Nelson, QPIRG Concordia, the Black Students Network, and the History and Classics Graduate Student Association.



*Casarina Hocevar and Nadir Khan, with panelists Dr. Charmaine Nelson, Dr. Dorothy Williams and Delice Mugabo*

### THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC HISTORY: CURATING AN EXHIBITION ON THE HISTORY OF VACCINATION CONTROVERSY BY CYNTHIA TANG



*Dr. Rob Boddice and Cynthia Tang at the exhibition vernissage*

In January 2015 the public was warned that a measles outbreak had originated at Disneyland a few weeks earlier. By mid-February, 136 cases linked to the outbreak were traced to eight American states, as well as to Canada and Mexico. Like many others, the outbreak at Disneyland made me consider the question of how this could happen when we have been able to safely and reliably vaccinate against measles for over fifty years. Why do so many parents choose not to vaccinate their children? What inspires anti-vaccination movements and why does such passionate objection to vaccines exist? At the time I was pursuing a Masters degree in the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill, and was taking a course in the history of public health. I decided to use the research for this course to explore the history of anti-vaccination movements in an attempt to understand the motivation behind them. I was surprised to find that not only have anti-vaccination beliefs existed since Edward Jenner introduced the procedure in 1798, but also that the arguments made both for and against vaccination over the past 200 years remain strikingly similar. This realization made current vaccination politics all the more frustrating to me. History clearly shows that the arguments used by doctors and scientists to convince people of the benefits of vaccination have not been effective in changing the minds of those who are against vaccination. This is the underlying message of the current exhibition on display at McGill's Osler Library of the History of Medicine, curated by myself and Dr. Rob Boddice of the Friedrich Meinecke Institut, Freie Universität Berlin.

Open to the public, *Vaccination: Fame, Fear and Controversy, 1798-1998*, explores the history of vaccination and anti-vaccination beliefs in an effort to understand current issues of vaccination hesitancy. By analyzing the long history of controversy over vaccination we can begin to see how perhaps it is time to change the way we engage with those who are not as sure about vaccination as its advocates. But the importance of this exhibit is not just in its message. Its importance is in its participation in the Public History movement to share academic findings with a wider audience outside the university and to participate in public debates. Recently, the Department of History and Classical Studies has partnered with the Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation to establish a Public History Fellowship in the History





Cowpox vaccine and certificates of vaccination

of Science, Medicine, and Technology. As one of the program's inaugural research fellows I had the good fortune to have access to the Museum's collection of medical artifacts, allowing me to deepen my research further and enhance the exhibit with items such as a capillary tube of smallpox vaccine from the 1930s. Vaccination: Fame, Fear and Controversy, 1798-1998 is on display at the Osler Library until September 2017. It will be relocated to the McLennan Humanities and Social Sciences Library in January 2018 before moving to the Glen Site of the McGill University Health Centre in the summer, where it will be available for viewing by patients and visitors of the hospital.

*Cynthia Tang is a PhD Candidate studying the History of Medicine in the Departments of Social Studies of Medicine and of History and Classical Studies. She has an interest in understanding the social and political mechanisms that facilitate the spread and acceptance of medical knowledge and technologies.*

## ON CAMPOBELLO ISLAND, NEW BRUNSWICK BY KATE BAUER

In the summer of 2016, I travelled to an isolated community in New Brunswick to serve as the sole research intern for a non-profit group undertaking the restoration of Canada's second oldest wooden lighthouse, Head Harbour Lightstation. The internship provided me the opportunity to immerse myself in the past of my own nation, and participate in the creation of a new historical narrative out of scattered and hidden clues. I hoped to learn a great deal about the role of Head Harbour Lighthouse itself in the Bay of Fundy, as well as to examine the individual histories of the families and keepers from Campobello Island and beyond who lived inside its walls.

Campobello Island, New Brunswick is one of the most isolated communities in Eastern Canada. The organization that I worked for is a non-profit organization based locally but composed of members from as far as Virginia, who own and maintain Head Harbour Lighthouse. The group purchased the deed to the lighthouse in 2006, and for over a decade have devoted countless volunteer hours to repairing, repainting and reinvigorating the structure that had been left unattended since 1986. Its mission is to "preserve, protect and promote the unique heritage of Head Harbour Lightstation for the enjoyment and education of all," as well as to promote tourism to the island and provide and sustain long-term employment for locals. Since the FHHL have worked on rebuilding and repairing the physical structure, my role was to rebuild the history and the memories of the former keepers of the lighthouse. The intern before me was able to uncover much of the information about the early history: when it was built, the costs associated, the first keepers and their families. I was given by my supervisors free reign to pursue the paths of research that I felt would best achieve the goal of putting together a cohesive historical narrative of the lighthouse. I used digitized and archived newspapers and obituaries, ancestry.ca and other genealogy databases, Sessional and Annual reports of both the province of New Brunswick and the Government of Canada (Department of Marine, Auditor General's Reports), and local oral history to trace and confirm the sequential list of lighthouse keepers from 1880 until 1986, when the lighthouse was closed.



Inside the Head Harbour Lighthouse



Head Harbour Lightstation, Campobello Island

A major highlight of my internship was interviewing locals both in person and over the phone about their experiences with the lighthouse. Most lighthouse keepers moved to Head Harbour with their families, and many of their children are still alive and still around Campobello Island today. Listening to the granddaughter of the keeper in the 1950s recount her escapades throwing paper airplanes off the lighthouse tower and visiting the 93-year-old widow of another keeper to hear her reminisce about her husband's treacherous treks over the rocks at low tide to check the light during storms were but two of the incredibly personal and human moments recounted to me while conducting my research. They breathed life back into the pursuit of history; pulling it off of the page and into the very wind that swept around the red and white tower of the light.

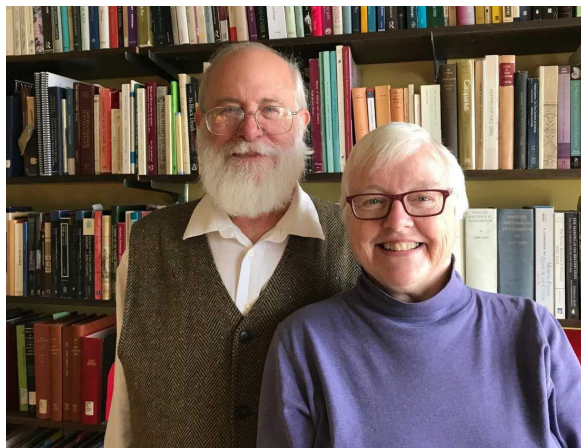
This summer opened my eyes to a significant deficit in the protection of Canadian historical landmarks. Lighthouses all along the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantic coastline became automatic in the 1980s and rendered useless the role of full-time keeper, leaving many of these iconic structures to the mercy of the salt and wind of the northern Atlantic. Although in 2008 the Canadian government passed the Lighthouse Heritage Protection Act, officially defining lighthouses as a critical and important part of the history of Canada, no funding came along with the decree. Thus, unless private projects or groups such as the one on Campobello have stepped forward to put time and money towards the maintenance of these lights, many—if not most—of these landmarks have fallen into a state of dilapidation beyond repair. This internship has broadened my understanding in the way that the government treats and thinks about heritage and preservation, and has motivated me in the direction of continuing research on lighthouses at the masters or doctorate level or pursuing a career in cultural and historical preservation.

*Kate Bauer graduated from McGill in 2017 with a degree in Honours History. She starts her MA in History at McGill in the fall.*

## NEW INITIATIVES & GIFTS

### A GIFT TO SUPPORT GRADUATE STUDENTS

Professor Faith Wallis and her husband Kendall Wallis have initiated a new endowed fund to support the Department's graduate students: the History and Classical Studies Graduate Excellence Fund. Faculty, alumni and friends of the Department are invited to contribute to its growth so that the Department will continue to attract the best students to its Ph.D. program. The Fund will also enable the Department to offer fellowships for extended research travel and for opportunities such as attendance at language schools, academic



Professor Faith Wallis and her husband Kendall Wallis

exchanges and workshops in specialized skills. Professor Wallis is a leading scholar of medieval Europe, particularly in the field of history of medicine, and a dedicated teacher. Her husband Kendall Wallis was a long-time reference librarian in McLennan Library known to many History and Classics alumni for his encyclopedic knowledge, his instructional skills, and his role in the instigation of the system of liaison librarians—the pilot project for which was History. Both Professor Wallis and Mr. Wallis are double alumni of McGill - Professor Wallis earned a First Class Honours BA in History in 1971, and a Master's degree in History in 1974. The HCS Graduate Excellence Fund comprises an Endowment Fund to which any and all are invited to donate. While the endowment is being built up to a usable level, the Wallises have committed to sustaining a parallel operating fund to support annual grants for travel, research expenses, special training, or thesis support to graduate students, effective immediately. In addition, they have donated an insurance policy, which when cashed out at maturity will yield a very substantial amount for the endowment. Faith Wallis regards this gift as a gesture of gratitude for the Department which fostered her vocation as a historian when she was a budding graduate student. Kendall Wallis sees it as an extension of the support and care he bestowed

on History and Classics in his professional career as a librarian. Both see it as a gesture of confidence in the Department's future as one of the premier environments for graduate training in North America. The department is thrilled about this gift and wants to thank the Wallises for their generosity.

### A NEW CHAIR IN CANADIAN-SCOTTISH STUDIES

The Department would like to thank the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal and the McEuen Scholarship Foundation, as well as over one hundred individuals, foundations and corporations, for endowing the St. Andrew's Society/McEuen Scholarship Foundation Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies. Scots played important roles in Canadian and Quebec history, whether economic, cultural, political or military. Scottish diaspora networks were also crucial in tying Canada to the rest of the world. This history has been, however, relatively under-explored. This Chair will help bring it to light. As Scots arrived, they established civil society organizations in all of Canada to help fellow Scots. One such organization was the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal, established in 1835. The Society motto—"aid the distressed"—spoke to a role that was supplemented over time with the task of maintaining Scottish culture, through athletics, the military and support for cultural traditions. From the beginning, Scots also played a key role in supporting education, including helping to found the Montreal Mechanics' Institute (an early self-improvement organization, now the Atwater Library), as well as, of course, McGill University itself. The St. Andrew's Society and the McEuen Scholarship Foundation continue to offer numerous post-secondary scholarships. The current generous gift builds on these historical precedents. The Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies will encourage research on the impact of Scots and Scottish networks on the history of Canada, Quebec and Montreal, including on Indigenous history. The chair holder will provide outreach to the Montreal Scottish community, will mentor students, and will attract scholars to McGill who will further deepen our knowledge of the role of Scots in Canada's history. McGill is excited about the naming of Dr. Don Nerbas, whose work ranges from the history of Scottish capitalism to the history of Scottish migrant mine workers, as the inaugural Chair of Canadian-Scottish Studies (for more about Dr. Nerbas' work, please see page 7). McGill is particularly grateful that the Canadian-Scottish Chair Fundraising Committee plans to support the work of the Chair by continued fundraising for travel scholarships, fellowships, and possibly a specific teaching space on campus.

*The Department of History and Classical Studies is launching a fundraising campaign for an **ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP FOR AN INDIGENOUS STUDENT** to pursue graduate work in History. The final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2016) issued a number of Calls to Action, including requests to build capacity in post-secondary education for Indigenous peoples and to commemorate and investigate Indigenous history. Our department's initiative complements McGill's recent creation of an Indigenous Studies Program and its ongoing commitment to integrating Indigenous perspectives and experiences in all facets of McGill's academic mission. For more information about this fellowship, please contact Scott Corbett, Senior Development Officer, Faculty of Arts at (514) 398-5005 or [scott.corbett@mcgill.ca](mailto:scott.corbett@mcgill.ca).*

*We are deeply grateful for all donations, which make a significant difference in the lives of students. We are also grateful to the Canada Science & Technology Museums Corporation and to the donors to the Arts Internship program for generously supporting public history and student research. Please find more information on all departmental fundraising campaigns [here](#).*

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