



CHRONOS

McGill

Magazine of the Department of History and Classical Studies

#6 . 2020

Claire Saffitz on Her Studies at McGill and Cooking Career



As a person fortunate to have found success as a professional recipe developer, writer, and host of online cooking videos, I am frequently asked how I navigated my career in the food industry, and how my background – and particularly my graduate education at McGill – has influenced my career path. It’s an honor and a privilege to share and reflect on

this path with the McGill community.

People are sometimes surprised to learn that cooking was not a lifelong dream of mine, and that I didn’t grow up cooking elaborate meals for my family from a young age. For most of my childhood and adolescence, I focused on school. When I thought about a career, I imagined I’d become an academic.

I attended Harvard University and concentrated in American History and Literature, earning my Bachelors in 2009. Even though cooking and eating were always central activities in my family life, it didn’t even occur to me that working in the food industry might be a possibility until I was out of college and living in New York City. During that time, struggling to find direction

and purpose, cooking and baking became outlets through which I could channel my drive, curiosity, and creativity.

Inspired by the life of Julia Child, I moved to Paris in 2012 and enrolled in an 8-month certificate program in French cuisine at the École Grégoire Ferrandi, followed by an externship, working in a restaurant.

That experience of cooking in a restaurant kitchen was formative, not only because I gained valuable knowledge and skills, but because it confirmed what I’d suspected: restaurant life was not for me. I found it challenging in the wrong ways – too pressurized and frantic, and not analytical enough.

Hoping to combine my love of academics and cooking, I moved from Paris to Montreal in 2013 to study culinary history at McGill, earning a master’s degree in history. I focused my studies on ideas about food and eating in England and France in the Early Modern period in order to build a historical framework to contextualize my new knowledge of classic French cuisine. Much more so than my undergraduate studies, my academic work at McGill – studying the emergence of the restaurant as a social space, tracing the evolution of the modern cookbook from Early Modern household manuals, and looking at the intersections of food, politics, gender, and intellectual thought – resonated on a deeply personal level.

I loved my studies at McGill, but ultimately decided that cooking food would bring me greater long-term satisfaction than studying it in an academic setting.

Continued on the next page

IN THIS ISSUE...

2: Chair’s Greeting

3: Congratulations!

4-5: In Memoriam Jarrett Rudy (1970-2020)

6-7: The History Department during the Pandemic:
Reflections from the Summer of 2020

8-9: Incoming Faculty / New Post-Docs

10-11: New Books

12-13: From a Historian’s Workshop:
About Following Footnotes and Luck

14-15: Black September in the Middle East

16: The Sociabilities Research Group and the DIGITENS Project

17: History and Classics Graduate Student Association / Congratulations to our new Ph.D.s!

18-19: Classics Students Association / History Students Association

20: Department of History and Classical Studies Fundraising / Cundill Prize events 2020



McGill

Chair's Greeting



I'm delighted to represent the Department of History and Classical Studies as Chair, as well as to work in the department as a professor of early American history. The 2020-21 year will be my last as Chair, and it will certainly be a challenge. For the first time, our department will be offering mostly remote or online delivery for the Fall of 2020, and pandemic-related planning has loomed

large for us during the past several months.

But we have weathered the storm very well. Our colleagues quickly adapted to online delivery for the last few weeks of the Winter 2020 term, and worked very hard to be ready for the Fall. We exchanged ideas about classes, advising, and events for the new year, often reworking our normal teaching and advising schedules from the bottom up.

Moreover, we have brought our research and teaching to bear on the larger crisis, contributing to public discussions and debates about how to endure and overcome the medical, economic, social, and political dimensions of Covid-19. I'm truly proud of how we responded to these trying times.

Our response here calls to mind the larger purposes of our discipline. By recovering the grand dramas and forgotten episodes of the human past, we serve as a kind of general advisor for the present, reminding people of where we've been and suggesting what might come next. To be sure, our advice is often steeped in darkness and warning, for we are all too aware of the vast cruelties of which people are capable. Yet by uncovering the twists and turns of the human experience, we also remind everyone how adaptable and resilient – if not decent and kind – we can all be.

Jason M. Opal

Claire Saffitz *continued*

That decision led me to pursue food media and, fortunately, to a job in the test kitchen at Bon Appétit magazine in New York. Not only did working at Bon Appétit give me a chance to make a living in the food industry outside of the unrelenting environment of a restaurant kitchen, but it also gave me the opportunity to continue to write about food, this time for a popular audience. Both cooking and academics gave me paths to continuously learn about multiple facets of a discipline, but cooking won in the end.

My academic studies in general and my McGill studies specifically have informed my professional work in direct and indirect ways. After honing my ability to structure and support an argument in my graduate work, I am particularly aware now as a freelance recipe developer and forthcoming cookbook author that recipes contain an argument as well. Like an essay, the parts of a recipe should build upon one another and culminate in a way that the whole feels greater than the sum of its parts. In both cases, a reader can often detect when the author is unsure of him/her/their self, overreaching, or glossing over a point. Editing and sharpening one's ideas are essential as well.

Perhaps more directly, the perspective I gained from my studies in the History Department helps me see the ingredients, flavor combinations, dishes, cooking methods, and materials that make up a cuisine as historically rooted, not just a cultural wallpaper. As in any discipline, new move-

ments and trends in cooking are always evolving out of past ones, often in a cyclical way. Said another way, my education at McGill gives me a deep and broad perspective on food and cooking. When I create a new recipe, I know that I am not actually creating anything.

Every "new" idea is a reinterpretation or adaptation of one that preceded it. From decade to decade, and even century to century, I am able to draw lines and parallels between recipes and culinary styles. I could do the work I do now as a recipe developer without my academic background, but my work is richer and more fulfilling for it.

What I have taken from my history studies is a deep-seated appreciation for the cliché that to look forward you have to look backward. I have also taken the knowledge that a person does not necessarily have to work within academia in order to approach a subject with rigor. I remember the anxiety I felt as I transitioned from graduate school to food media. I worried that outside of academia, the pursuit of knowledge and learning would lose primacy in my life. However, I am happy to share that this wasn't the case. My academic studies taught me that it's possible to approach any subject with curiosity, skepticism, and rigor. It's probably the most important lesson I took from graduate school, and the one I hope current students hear and take with them, wherever their careers lead.

Congratulations!

Faculty

Professor David Wright was awarded a second term as Canada Research Chair in the History of Health Policy. Professor Heidi Wendt received tenure. Professor Don Nerbas was appointed to a two-year term as research fellow at the Montreal Institute for the Study of Canada. Professor Thomas Schlich was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and Professor Robin Yates was chosen as Honorary Member of the Board of Directors of the International Society for Chinese Law and History.

Professor Allan Greer won the *Wilson Book Prize* of the Wilson Institute for Canadian History, and the *Allan Sharlin Prize* of the Social Science History Association for his book *Property and Dispossession* (2018). Professor Elisabeth Heaman (*Tax, Order, and Good Government*, 2017) and Professor Emeritus Brian Young's (*Patrician Families and the Making of Quebec*, 2014) books were finalists in the competition for the François-Xavier Garneau Medal 2020. This year's winner of the Vogel Teaching Award in the department is Dr. Brahm Kleinman.

Professor Judith Sapor, Professor Elizabeth Elbourne, and Professor Jason Opal won SSHRC Insight Grants for their respective research projects *Academic Antisemitism, Women's Emancipation, and Jewish Assimilation, The British and the San: Hunter-Gatherers, Violence and Human Rights Debates in Southern Africa and Britain, 1800-1850*, and *Most Noble Island: Three Ages of Barbados in the Early Americas*. The Groupe de Recherche en Histoires des Sociabilités, in which Professor Brian Cowan is a member, received a FRSC group grant for the project *Fabriquer la citoyenneté: pour une histoire populaire de l'engagement politique*. Professor Thomas Schlich was the co-recipient of a SSHRC Connection Grant on *Technology and the Patient Consumer: Understanding Medical Choice and Care, 1900-2020*.

Professor Darian Totten and Professor Jeremy Tai won Social Sciences and Humanities Development Grants for their respective projects *Excavating Siponto: a shifting townscape on Italy's Adriatic Coast, 1st c. BCE - 15th c. CE*. and *Racial Capitalism and Social Difference in Modern China*. Professor Bill Gladhill won a McGill COVID-19 Rapid Response grant in the Social Sciences and Humanities competition for *Ancient Narratives of Viral Contagion and the Aftermath of Covid-19*.

Professor Wendell Adjetey is the inaugural editor of the newly-launched *Yale Journal of Canadian Studies*, and Professor Anastassios Anastassiadis was appointed to the Editorial Board of the newly established digital scholarly periodical *Bulletin de Correspondance hellénique - moderne et contemporain*.

Ph.D. Students

Angela Tozer (Ph.D. 2020) was appointed Assistant Professor in the History Department at the University of New Brunswick, Hussam Ahmed (Ph.D. 2017) Assistant Professor in the History Department at the University of Maynooth (Ireland), and Margaret Carlyle (Ph.D. 2013) Assistant Professor in the History of Science in the Department of History & Sociology at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan. Stephanie Olsen (Ph.D. 2009) was appointed Senior Researcher at the Academy of Finland Centre of Excellence in the History of Experiences at Tampere University. Yusuf Karabiçak (Ph.D. 2020) received a three-year post-doc at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, and Andrew Dial (Ph.D. 2019) a Fulbright post-doc to work at the Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris, for the academic year 2020-21.

M. Max Hamon (Ph.D. 2018) won the 2020 *Wilson Book Prize* for his book *The Audacity of His Enterprise* (2020). Rishma Johal (Ph.D. 4) won a SSHRC doctoral fellowship and a FRQSC doctoral fellowship for her dissertation *Transgressing Boundaries: South Asian-Indigenous Relations in the Pacific Northwest, 1897-1947*. Twisha Singh (Ph.D. 5) is an editor for the journal *HARF-Journal of South Asian Studies*. Céline Stantina (Ph.D. 3) was awarded the Lisa Jardine Travel Fellowship of the Royal Society (of London).

M.A. students Lianne Robin Koren (M.A. 2020) won the 2019 Gunn Prize, awarded by the International Migration Research Centre (IMRC) and the Canadian Immigration Historical Society (CIHS) for the best fourth-year undergraduate or graduate-level research paper on Canadian immigration. Jack Callaghan (M.A. 2020) was accepted at Princeton for a Ph.D. in history. Cameron Tardif (M.A. 2020) is joining Cornell for a Ph.D. in history. Jean-Philippe Bombay (M.A. 2020) is going to Harvard for a Ph.D. in Ottoman history. Lianne Robin Koren (M.A. 2020) is heading for a Ph.D. in history at UC Berkeley. Donald McCarthy (M.A. 2020) is attending University of Toronto for a Ph.D. in Classics. Rey George (M.A. 2020) is going to Bryn Mawr for a PhD in Classics. Margaret McDevitt-Irwin (M.A. 2018) begins a Ph.D. in Literature at University of California, Santa Cruz. And Robert Kopperud (MA 2020) was accepted at Oxford for a Ph.D. in History.

Undergraduate Students

Yaroslav Gouzenko has won the Undergraduate Essay Prize of the Canadian Association of Slavists for his paper "Shaimiev and the Tatarstan Model: A Successful Highjack," written in Professor Kristy Ironside's class on Russia in the 1990s. Neha Rahman, CSA president (2019-20), was named a Gates Cambridge Scholar.

In Memoriam Jarrett Rudy (1970-2020)

Our colleague Jarrett Rudy suddenly passed away on April 4 while recovering from quintuple bypass surgery after suffering a heart attack a month earlier.

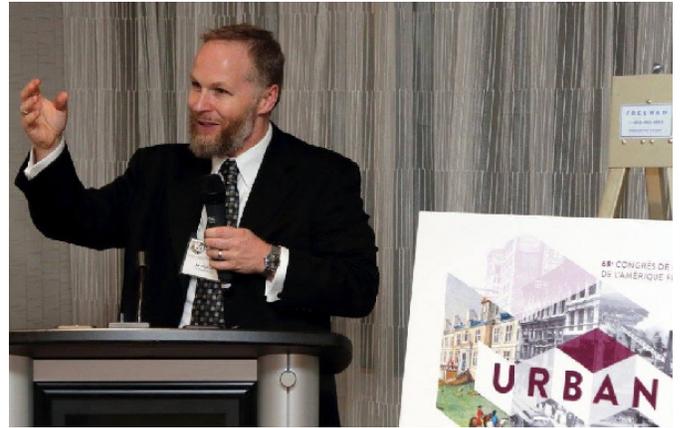
The pandemic lockdown has prevented his family, friends, colleagues, and students to celebrate his life and achievements. The Department of History and Classical Studies will organize a memorial event as soon as the situation will allow.

We are devastated by the sudden loss of beloved colleague.

Jarrett was an intellectual, teacher, social activist, colleague, and friend. He embraced life with an exuberance that reflected in his smile, sense of humour, delightful laugh, and the way he said your name. Any number of adjectives described him: happy, passionate, intelligent, unpretentious, and non-judgemental. Jarrett was a loving person who conveyed to others respect, generosity, compassion, kindness, and grace.

He was a critical member of the Montreal History Group (MHG), a research collective associated with the History Department. He was first involved as a graduate student representing the Group in Brussels and Birmingham, then as a young faculty member, and finally as principal investigator. The MHG played a key intellectual role fostering Jarrett's scholarly development and international perspective. Dynamic, innovative, and egalitarian, he brought to the Group a solid socialism, reinforcing the group's ethos as a feminist, socialist, and anti-racist collective.

In the History Workshop tradition, Jarrett defined a university intellectual as a person with community responsibilities that stretched beyond academia. He brought people together at Wing Fa Restaurant, which we liked to tease him about, following a Jeudi d'histoire presentation, at academic conferences, *L'amère à boire*, and at MHG events. As a historian bridging the 21st century, Jarrett was part of a generation that saw major transformations in gender relations. His writing emphasized changing gender roles in smoking, health care, and the workplace. While sensitive to gender issues, Jarrett was at home in his masculinity, at ease in his sociability with people regardless of their sexual identity, and for this reason was a role model for others. Jarrett enjoyed discussing the Habs and their chances of winning the Stanley Cup; making pies following the baking lessons of his great aunts; cooking chilli for MHG meetings at his home; and most certainly debating Quebec and Canadian politics.



Jarrett Rudy at Urbanité 2019

A native of Tavistock and never far from his family or small-town Ontario values, Jarrett embraced Montreal and Quebec and had a respect for the tolerance and goodness of Quebecers, even when he disagreed with some of them. He was committed to French as Quebec's public language, worked to publish French-language scholarly works in the series *Studies on the History of Quebec* he co-edited, and served on various francophone committees. Jarrett appreciated the complexities of Quebec society and explored them in the classroom, around the seminar table, and in his research and publications. He was hugely influential in his teaching, supervision of graduate students, and cutting-edge research in cultural history. While a historian, he never confined himself to a single disciplinary silo; Jarrett had been Director of Quebec Studies and an editor of the successful interdisciplinary text *Quebec Questions* with Stéphan Gervais and Christopher Kirkey. He wrote a cultural history of smoking, *The Freedom to Smoke*, from the bottom up approaching the subjects of his research with the same sensitivity he demonstrated to all of us. Jarrett drew upon his enormous energy, view of history, and keen sense of social justice to fuel his activism.

It is impossible to separate Jarrett's passion for history, Montreal, and Quebec from his progressive politics. He took to the streets to promote equity, sexual diversity, and gender equality, to fight colonialism, racism, and climate change, and to seek peace during international conflicts.

Jarrett found in his partner, Cynthia Kelly, a fellow social activist. He had a striking maturity; he could criticize and demonstrate against discrimination and ethnic nationalism but he never rejected Quebec. I was lucky enough to accompany him to some of these events protesting war in the Middle East, tuition increases, the Charter of Values, and Bill 21. Jarrett was keenly involved

in local politics, and in the face of anti-Semitism in Outremont demonstrated support publicly by reaching out to Hasidic neighbours and by dancing in the streets with Hasidic men.

It has been very hard to say goodbye to Jarrett, only made more difficult in the particular circumstances of the pandemic which emphasizes our isolation and our inability to mourn him together except remotely, hug each other, have a wake at his favourite watering hole, comfort his beloved Cynthia, or his parents, brother, sister-in-law, and nephew and niece. Jarrett leaves an enormous hole in the Montreal History Group and in the community of historians in Quebec, Canada, and around the world.

Mary Anne Poutanen is a member of the Montreal History Group, scholar in residence at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Montreal, and lecturer in the Quebec Studies Program at McGill



L'Amère à boire, Jarrett's favorite artisanal pub, has brewed and released this beer in his honor, "en souvenir...de sa celebre joie de vivre." On the beer can, in French: "Jarrett, the Prof: who loved Montreal and its neighborhoods; who loved history, and always shared and questioned it; who loved people and wanted to know their stories; who loved to learn new languages and cultures; and who loved artisanal beers, including those at L'Amère à boire."

Le décès soudain de Jarrett Rudy le 4 avril dernier laisse un grand vide au sein de la communauté mcgilloise et dans la vie de tous ceux et celles qui ont eu la chance de le côtoyer.

Jarrett était un être passionné : passionné par l'enseignement, par la recherche et la réflexion intellectuelle, il était surtout passionné par les gens. Il adorait écouter et échanger avec les autres. Son sourire contagieux, sa personnalité attachante, son esprit vif, son intérêt pour autrui et sa capacité à mettre tout le monde à l'aise en ont fait un être exceptionnel, un rassembleur hors pair.

Originaire d'Ontario, Jarrett avait un attachement profond pour le Québec et sa culture. Ardent promoteur de la langue française, il insistait pour parler en français avec ses étudiants.es francophones et les encourageait à rédiger et à publier en français.

Tout au long de mes études doctorales, Jarrett s'est avéré un mentor et un ami. Il était toujours disponible pour discuter de la théorie, du dernier ouvrage paru, de mes pistes de réflexion ou encore de la politique ou de la dernière série télé. Sa porte était toujours ouverte : il m'accueillait alors avec son sourire chaleureux et un sincère, « Bonjour Sonya! ».

J'ai rapidement compris que les étudiants.es tenaient une place particulière dans son coeur. Il s'emballait devant la qualité et l'originalité de leurs projets de recherche, par leur implication dans les discussions en classe, mais aussi par leur engagement social et politique. Jarrett reconnaissait l'apport intel lectuel des étudiants.es. Il se faisait un devoir de faire entendre leurs voix lors de la tenue de conférences, de séminaires ou dans les projets de recherches du Groupe d'histoire Montréal.

Jarrett a sans contredit marqué la vie de nombreux étudiants.es et j'ai l'immense chance de me compter parmi ces privilégiés. Il nous manquera à tous et à toutes.

Sonya Roy est membre du groupe d'histoire de Montréal

I feel honoured to be asked to compose a few words about Professor Jarrett Rudy whom I met in 1998 shortly after I started working at McGill in the Department of History. A Ph.D. student at the time, he struck me as genuine, smart, funny, and down to earth! As new support staff, Jarrett made me feel comfortable. He treated everyone equally. I could also see what a close-knit family he came from. Jarrett especially loved spending time with his nephew and niece and would grin from ear to ear whenever he talked about them. I would tell him that they must love it when Uncle Jarrett visited because they could spend time with him. He responded with, "I don't know about that; I'm sure there are many others who do the same." His comment showed me that Jarrett wasn't the type of person who made it all about himself. Jarrett was a gentleman and scholar and will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Jody Anderson is the Administrative Coordinator at McGill's Department of History

The History Department During the Pandemic: Reflections from the Summer of 2020

By Jason Opal, Griet Vankeerberghen, and Lorenz Lüthi

The pandemic lockdown on March 13 hit the department and McGill at large unprepared. Since early 2020, the virus that causes Covid-19 had been in the news, first in reports from China and then from Italy. Few could probably imagine that Canada would soon be in a lockdown for months and Montreal become the country's epicenter of the pandemic. Many Quebecers used the spring break in the first week of March to escape the winter and travelled south. As a result, they ran a greater risk of returning home sick with symptoms or completely a-symptomatic.

Professors, lecturers, and students received an e-mail message on the evening of March 12 – Thursday after the spring break – that the university would be closed the following day until further notice. On Friday, an e-mail followed that the university would shutdown for two weeks and teach the remaining two weeks of the semester (starting on March 30) on-line. As Montrealers stormed supermarkets to buy weeks of supplies on March 13 and 14, faculty members at the Department of History and Classical Studies pondered how to solve the technical and other problems of on-line teaching, which most had never done before. The university quickly decreed that no new teaching content – either recorded lectures or scanned materials – was allowed to be introduced to course-related on-line platforms during the shutdown since this would disadvantage sick students or those scrambling home – either in North America or to countries overseas. As McGill quickly acquired ZOOM licenses for its faculty members stranded at home due to the lockdown, academic meetings moved online. The department had consecutive meetings as early as March 15 and 16 to discuss how to move forward. By then, professors and lecturers in the department had already figured out the basics of providing four weeks of in-person teaching crammed into two weeks of on-line teaching.

As most colleagues can attest, our chair, Prof. Jason Opal, turned out to be perfect man for the task of leading the department during the shutdown, even if he would not admit to it. A model of far-sightedness and composure, he navigated the department through these difficult times. The onset of the lockdown followed exactly a week after our Undergraduate Program Director, Prof. Jarrett Rudy, suffered a heart attack and then passed away within a month despite a

successful quintuple bypass operation (see previous pages). Professor Opal assumed the UPD position ad interim, and Professors Elsbeth Heaman and David Wright took up to finish teaching Prof. Rudy's courses.

As courses vary greatly in nature, the online teaching experiences of faculty members during the last two weeks of the spring semester also differed from each other. Large lecture courses without intensive student-teacher interaction simply required a switch to recorded lectures. All final exams became automatically 72-hour take home exams. Faculty members who were teaching intensive seminar-style or language courses that required personal interaction faced much greater difficulties in providing adequate teaching. No online teaching tool, however advanced, replaces personal interactions in a classroom. Ultimately, the department managed to finish the semester by extending deadlines for papers and de-

ferring exams for students who had fallen ill, were in quarantine in their home countries, or dealt with other personal difficulties.

The Graduate Program faced its own set of problems, largely since graduate training is primarily based on study outside of formal classes. Professor Griet Vankeerberghen, our Graduate Program Director, tackled a double challenge.

On the one hand, in the wake of provincial legislation on M.A. programs from 2019, she had to shepherd a scheduled M.A. program reform through the university bureaucracy during the lockdown. On the other hand, she had to find accommodations to various and distinct problems of graduate students. Graduate programs are time-sensitive, not only because of deadlines, but also because students are bound by study-permits, grants about to run out, research travel plans, or plans made for future study at other institutions. With the library closed, graduate students lost access to both urgently needed research materials and their reserved study carrels, where they kept loaned books or personal things, in the library building. With dissertation defenses scheduled many months in advance, the university was flexible in letting them go ahead during the two-week shutdown and afterwards. The continued closing of the university even after the shutdown in the second half of March meant that a whole cohort of students would not celebrate their dissertation defense or graduation with friends and family, as it is the custom. Recognizing how important such celebrations are,



the university plans a special event at Convocation in 2021. Still, for all those students, who graduated this spring: Congratulations! And we are very sorry that we could not celebrate you in person and in appropriate style!

At a moment of great crisis and chaos, members of the department put their knowledge into larger service by contributing to media discussions about the pandemic. In moments like these, rumors abound and conspiracy theories thrive. Do lockdowns ever end? Had Canadians and Americans over-shut down their economies and societies like this before? How should the general public evaluate the performance of the government(s)? What lessons can we gain from past societies about how to live through such times? One of our colleagues won a grant to put this crisis in context using Ancient Greek texts. Another spoke with a popular radio program about the similarities to the polio outbreaks (and lockdowns) of the post-WWII period. Still another wrote about the US context in the *Los Angeles Times* while proposing some solutions for future outbreaks in the *Globe and Mail*.

As the department prepared for the fall semester, scheduled to be taught fully on-line in its entirety, professors and lecturers reflected on their spring semester experiences. As has often been remarked, this pandemic has the unique ability to lay bare the vulnerabilities and fragilities of societies and institutions. Some of the lessons learned since March are obvious. The university will function on-line as a stopgap measure as long as the pandemic lasts – but definitely not beyond. Online teaching is not a full substitute for in-person teaching. It requires a greater amount of preparations by professors and lecturers, and more time to interact with students, particularly those who happened to be in other time zones because access to consulates closed for visa applications, lack of travel opportunities, shut borders, and quarantine regulations leave them with no other choice. Also, students need greater discipline to attend classes on-line and alone – without the support of fellow peers and in a rather impersonal manner. Surveys from universities around the world indicate that students crave personal interactions with fellow students and teaching personnel. Studying at home – alone and in front of a screen – is alienating in the long term. As we know from summer courses taught on-line at McGill, on-line teaching is exhausting for professors, lecturers, and students alike.

Because the library is the lab for historians, keeping it closed means trouble for research projects. Access to on-line resources helps, but neither are all physical books available in such a form, nor is reading books on-line all the time a long-term solution. Anyway, the lockdown has forced students and faculty alike to move a significant part of their lives in front of computer screens, with consequences to physical and mental health, which we still do not fully understand.

More worryingly, the experiences since March 13



have divulged major issues of inequality. For professors and lecturers with children, who cannot attend daycare or school, teaching from home is fraught with multiple difficulties, particularly if no quiet and separate office space is available, or if partners cannot take up childcare due to their own professional obligations. Many of them are able to fulfill their teaching responsibilities, but research projects and service obligations are falling by the wayside. For colleagues with book deadlines, for example, this is a major issue of concern. Luckily, tenure deadlines and most research grants have been extended by a full year.

Students have managed with the lockdown in a wide variety of ways, again divulging inequalities at many levels in the process. Of course, some managed well, particularly if they were self-driven or had a supportive personal environment. Yet, a significant number faced difficulties, which are not easily addressed even by careful planning for the fall semester. Some need study space at the university since they live in cramped apartments. Others need access to computer labs because they don't own a laptop. Households with multiple students – the norm for many McGill students as they share apartments – face problems with unreliable internet connections, and issues of noise when more than one resident is taking an on-line course at the same time. Many students, even those without health problems, face difficulties of self-motivation if they don't have a structured day in the form of on-campus classes, particularly since on-line teaching is not 100% live (synchronous) at McGill in the fall semester and thus does not provide structure.

The professors and lecturers at the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill are keenly aware of the multiple problems which on-line teaching during the pandemic poses. They are dedicated to provide the best possible teaching in the fall semester 2020. At the same time, the department is committed to a policy, which does not allow the pandemic to dictate wholly the professional and private lives of its members. Department members hope that the university will soon be in a position to return to on-campus and in-person teaching by 2021, which is what high-quality teaching requires.

Incoming Faculty

Ed Dunsworth is a historian of migration and labour whose work places Canada within a global context. He comes to McGill from York University, where he was a SSHRC postdoctoral Fellow in 2019-20, after completing his Ph.D. in history at the University of Toronto in 2019. A graduate of McGill (B.A.H. in History, 2008), Ed Dunsworth spent a few years working in the non-profit sector before pursuing an M.A. (Queen's University, 2013) and eventually a Ph.D.

Ed Dunsworth's current book project, *Harvesting Labour: Tobacco and the Global Making of Canada's Agricultural Workforce*, is under contract with McGill-Queen's University Press for its series *Rethinking Canada in the World*. Revised from his Ph.D. dissertation, the book uses a case study of farm labour in the tobacco sector of south-western Ontario to advance a significant reinterpretation of the histories of farm labour and temporary foreign worker programs in Canada.

In particular, the book argues that Canadian farmers' eventual shift to guestworkers from the Global South resulted not from a perpetual unwillingness of Canadians to take agricultural jobs, but rather from economic changes within the sector. Furthermore, guestworker programs, and the farm labour force writ large, were shaped not only by Canadian government officials and employers, but also, in critical ways on an international scale, by the governments of migrant-sending countries.

Ed Dunsworth is collaborating with Gabriel Allahdua, a migrant farm worker-turned-activist from St. Lucia, to write Allahdua's memoir, a project they are completing via oral history interviews. At McGill, Ed will be teaching courses in Canadian history, with particular emphasis on migration, labour and Canada in the world. He will be continuing to work on his research programme which focuses on the historical origins of our contemporary globalized world.



New Post-Docs



Pierre-Luc Brisson is a Banting post-doctoral fellow, working under the supervision of Prof. Michael Fronda. Previously, Dr. Brisson received a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (2017-2020) and two doctoral fellowships granted by the prestigious École française de Rome (2018, 2019). His work adopts an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Roman imperialism at the intersection of international relations studies and classical history. His doctoral dissertation "Le moment unipolaire: Rome et la Méditerranée hellénistique, 188-146 av. n. ère" was completed under the supervision of Prof. Gaétan Thériault (UQAM) and Prof. Andrew Erskine (Edinburgh). Applying the concept of international unipolarity to the Ancient Hellenistic world (188-146 BCE), it explores relations between Rome and the Greek states during the crucial period that saw the rise of Roman imperialism in the Mediterranean. The dissertation will be published by Laval University Press (Québec City) in the supplements to *Phoenix*, the journal of the Classical Association of Canada (CAC), at the end of 2020.

In the next two years, Dr. Brisson will pursue two research projects. First, in line with his previous work on international unipolarity, he will analyze the impact of fear as an inherent consequence of the unipolar structure of the Mediterranean world in the first half of the 2nd century BCE (200-146 BCE). Particularly, he will explore the role of fear in the decision-making process of the Roman political class, and its impact on the assemblies of the Roman people. Dr. Brisson aims to contribute to the larger discussion on the value of psychology to the study of international relations, and the role of perceptions in the maintenance of peace under international unipolarity. And second, Dr. Brisson will focus on the composition of the Roman political elite – a project that will lead to a biographical monograph on L. Aemilius Paullus Macedonicus (c. 230-160 BCE), one of the most prominent generals and statesmen of the first half of the 2nd century BCE.

Joana Joachim earned her Ph.D. in the Department of Art History and Communication Studies and at the Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies at McGill University with Dr. Charmaine A. Nelson. Her research interests include Black feminist studies, Black Canadian studies and Canadian slavery studies. Joana Joachim's SSHRC-funded doctoral work, *There/Then, Here/Now: Black Women's Hair and Dress in the French Empire*, examines the visual culture of Black women's hair and dress in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, investigating practices of self-preservation and self-care through the lens of creolization. Starting in fall 2020, as a Provostial Research Scholar in Institutional Histories, Slavery, and Colonialism (Post-Doctoral fellow), Joana Joachim will be investigating the lives of Sarah, Marie, Marie-Louise, and the other enslaved individuals who survived the James McGill household. Her project will employ what she terms Black Feminist Art Historical praxis in the McGill Visual Arts Collection and the James McGill archival fonds to centre Black and Indigenous experiences in Canada's history through an exploration of the collection's holdings.



Photo credit Ève Lafontaine (2019)

In 2017, Joana Joachim became the first Black research and exhibitions coordinator at Artexte library and exhibition centre where she worked until the completion of her doctorate. During her tenure at Artexte she coordinated such projects as: the collective reading night *Decolonial Alliances*, the conference *After Arts Against Post-racialism*, and the exhibition *SPECULATIONS*. Her exhibition *Blackity* is set to open during the fall of 2020. Joana Joachim's writing has been published nationally in *C Magazine* (Spring 2020), *Spaces and Places of Canadian Popular Culture* (2019), *RACAR* (Fall 2018), locally in *art/iculation magazine* (2017), *Tic Art Toc* (Fall 2015) as well as internationally in *Americana: E-Journal of American Studies* in Hungary (Spring 2017). Her book chapter "Hoodies and Regimentals: Black Attire and Access in the Canadian Art Museum" is to be featured in *History, Art and Blackness in Canada* (forthcoming).

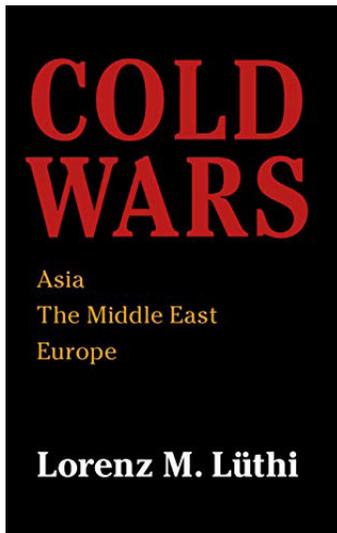


Melissa N. Shaw is currently completing her Ph.D. in History at Queen's University (to be defended in the fall of 2020). Her dissertation "Blackness and British 'Fair Play': Burgeoning Black Social Activism in Ontario and its Responses to the Canadian Colour Line, 1919-1939" explores the symbiotic relationship between anti-Black racisms in Canada and the rise of Black Canadian socio-political activism in Ontario. Centering the 'everyday' acts of resistance Black Canadians employed during this period, her study considers community-building as strategic and carefully crafted responses to the Canadian colour-line at the local level. It also considers the collaborations and networks local activists formed with other people of African descent in places like Detroit, New York, and Washington. In this way, the project engages modern Canadian history and expands studies on Black internationalism during the twentieth century. Melissa N. Shaw is intrigued by the interconnections between intellectual and social history. As a Black Canadian woman, she is committed to honouring the complicated legacies of her resilient forebears. As a scholar of

Black Canadian history, she is deeply concerned with the role of historical contingency when dealing with weaponized racial identities.

In January 2021, Melissa N. Shaw joins McGill's Provostial Research Scholars in Institutional Histories, Slavery, and Colonialism as a post-doctoral fellow. Collaborating with a dynamic group of dedicated scholars, she will assess how blackness, indigeneity, and whiteness informed McGill's development from the 1800s into the nineteenth-century. Her fellowship work will chart how, over time, McGill – now a world-renowned institution – participated in and perpetuated systems of enslavement and colonialization that normalized the exploitation and oppression of Black and Indigenous people. Working on this project is a timely expansion of Melissa N. Shaw's MA graduate studies at Queen's that focused on the histories of colonial North American societies. This graduate work augmented her undergraduate background in History and Political Science (Specialist) with minors in Francophone Studies and Philosophy of Science, which she pursued at the University of Toronto. Melissa N. Shaw's work has appeared in *Histoire sociale/Social History* and Paul E. Lovejoy and Vanessa S. Oliveira's edited volume *Slavery, Memory, Citizenship*. She is also the former book review editor for the African American Intellectual History Society's (AAIHS) award-winning blog *Black Perspectives*: the leading online platform for public scholarship on global Black thought, history, and culture.

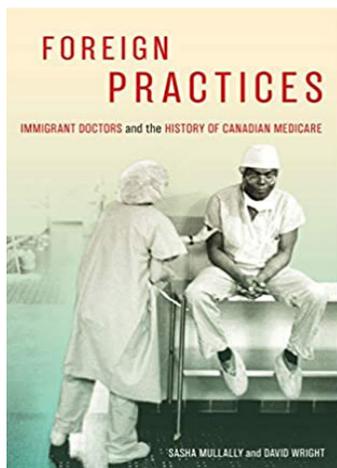
NEW BOOKS



Lorenz M. Lüthi, *Cold Wars: Asia, the Middle East, Europe*

Cold Wars offers a radically different account of the global conflict, restoring agency to regional powers in Asia, the Middle East and Europe, and revealing how regional and national developments shaped the course of the international politics of the era.

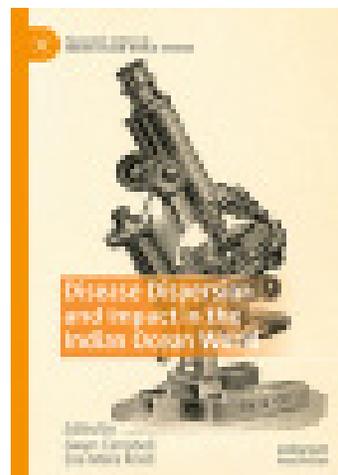
[More info](#)



David J. Wright, and Sasha Mullally, *Foreign Practices: Immigrant Doctors and the History of Canadian Medicare*

Foreign Practices reconsiders the early history of Medicare through the stories of foreign-trained doctors who entered the country in the three decades after the Second World War. Oral history, contemporary medical debates, and the doctors' life histories demonstrate that foreign doctors arrived by the hundreds at a pivotal moment for health care services.

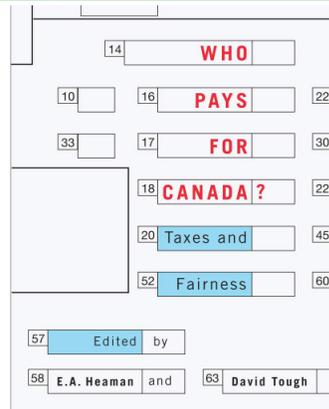
[More info](#)



Gwyn Campbell, and Eva-Maria Knoll, eds., *Disease Dispersion and Impact in the Indian Ocean World*

Disease and its interaction with climatic conditions, natural and manmade crises and disasters, human migration and trade is essential to our understanding of the key historical developments underpinning the foundation of contemporary Indian Ocean World (IOW) societies.

[More info](#)



Elsbeth A. Heaman and David Tough, eds., *Who Pays for Canada?: Taxes and Fairness*

Canadians can never not argue about taxes. From the Chinese head tax to the Panama Papers, from the National Policy to the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement, tax grievances always inspire private resentments and public debates.

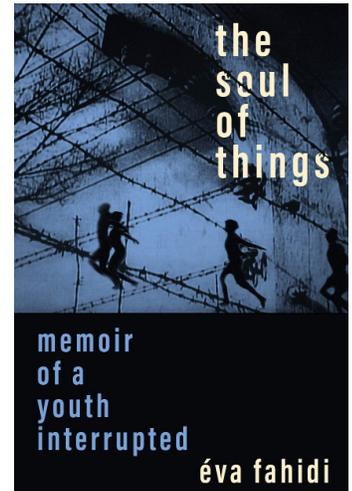
[More info](#)



Gershon David Hundert, Jonatan Meir, and Dimtry Shumsky, eds., *Am ve'olam: Shai le Yisrael Bartal* [Festschrift for Professor Israel Bartal].

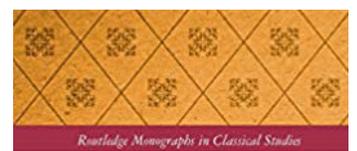
A gift of appreciation to Professor Israel Bartel (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), this

Festschrift reflects the range of his research spanning from Eastern Europe to Israel and from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. [More info](#)



Éva Fahidi, *The Soul of Things: Memoir of a Youth Interrupted*, ed. by Judith Szapor

An exceptional document of an extraordinary life, *The Soul of Things* is the memoir of Holocaust survivor Éva Fahidi. *The Soul of Things* combines a rare depiction of upper-middle-class Jewish life in pre-war Hungary with the chronicle of a woman's deportation and survival in the camps. [More info](#)



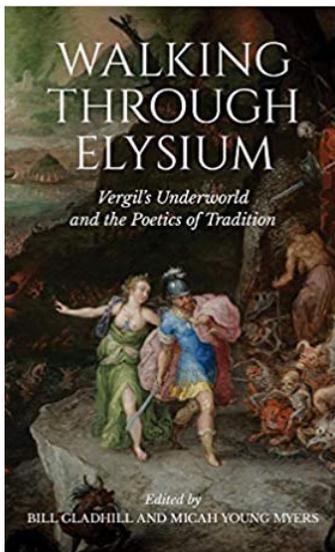
Edited by Jeremy Armstrong and Michael P. Fronda



Michael P. Fronda, and Jeremy Armstrong, eds., *Romans at War: Soldiers, Citizens, and Society in the Roman Republic*

Bringing together emerging and established scholars, this volume addresses the fundamental importance of the army, warfare, and military service to the development of both the Roman Republic and wider Italic society in the second half of the first millennium BCE.

[More info](#)



Bill Gladhill, and Micah Young Myers, eds., *Walking through Elysium: Vergil's Underworld and the Poetics of Tradition*

Walking through Elysium stresses the subtle and intricate ways writers across time and space wove Vergil's underworld in Aeneid 6 into their works though allusions that operate on many levels, from the literary and political to the religious and spiritual.

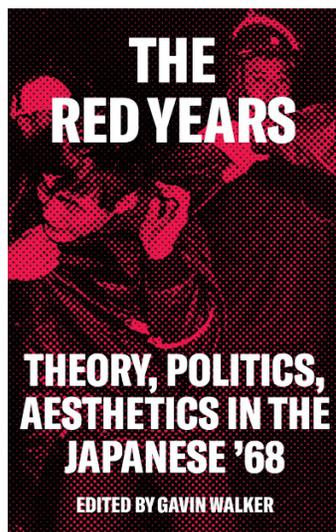
[More info](#)

Marx
Towards the
Centre
of Possibility
Kōjin Karatani

Kojin Karatani, *Marx: Towards the Centre of Possibility*, ed. by Gavin Walker

Originally published in 1974, Kojin Karatani's book has been among his most enduring and pioneering works in critical theory, laying the groundwork for a new reading, unfamiliar to the existing Marxist discourse in Japan.

[More info](#)

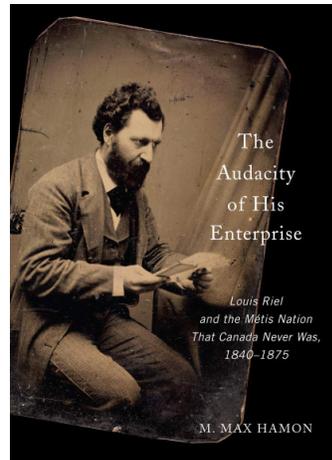


Gavin Walker, ed., *The Red Years: Theory, Politics, and Aesthetics in the Japanese '68*

Japan experienced a complex and intense round of mass mobilisations through the 1960s and early 1970s. The Japanese

New Left produced one of the most vibrant decades of political organization, political thought, and political aesthetics in the global twentieth century.

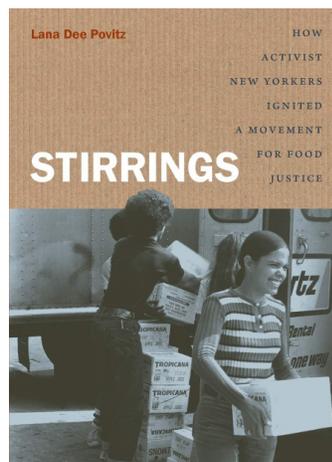
[More info](#)



M. Max Hamon, *The Audacity of His Enterprise: Louis Riel and the Métis Nation That Canada Never Was, 1840-1875*

The Audacity of His Enterprise revisits the life of Louis Riel (1844-1885), an iconic Métis figure in Canadian history, through his own eyes, illuminating how he and the Métis were much more involved in state-making than historians have previously acknowledged.

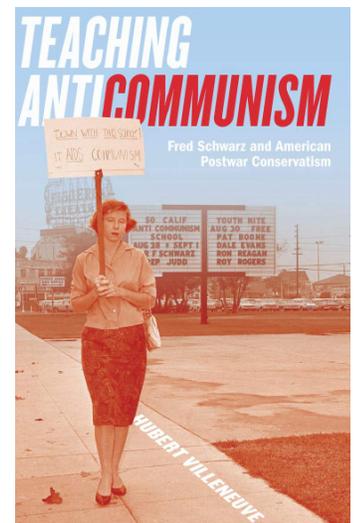
[More info](#)



Lana Dee Povitz, *Stirrings: How Activist New Yorkers Ignited a Movement for Food Justice*

In response to government cutbacks, stagnating wages, AIDS, and gentrification, New Yorkers set the stage for a nationwide food justice movement in the last three decades of the twentieth century.

[More info](#)



Hubert Villeneuve, *Teaching Anticommunism: Fred Schwarz and American Postwar Conservatism*

An Australian-born medical doctor, Fred C. Schwarz (1913-2009) founded the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade in the United States. His work as an anti-communist educator spanned five decades, attracting large crowds, strengthening grassroots conservatism, and influencing political leaders.

[More info](#)

From a Historian's Workshop: About Following Footnotes and Luck

This is a story about how I found favour in the eyes of Clio. It illustrates that sometimes chance and coincidence are more important than cleverness, and that checking footnotes is always important.

In 2007-2008, I spent my sabbatical at The Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem with a group studying Hasidism. That year I had completed work on a massive project and had begun to gather material for my new topic: a book on the Ukrainian town of Uman, beginning with a chapter on the Hajdamak-Cossack uprising and the accompanying pogrom of 1768. In the course of reviewing archival sources published in Ukraine and Poland, I unexpectedly found court records of the trial of the leaders of an attack in 1759 by bandits called Opryszki, not Cossacks or Hajdamaks, on the town of Bolechów (Bolekhiv), in western Ukraine. In this event, the attackers burned many houses, robbed the inhabitants and murdered at least three people. I remembered that the *Memoirs of Dov Ber of Bolechow* by Dov Ber Birkenthal, published by Mark Wischnitzer (1882-1955) in 1922, includes a description of that attack. Within a couple of months, I published a short article comparing the archival account with the one in the *Memoirs*.

I found that there was a striking accord between the descriptions of the attacks in the records of the trials of the Opryszki leaders and the one in Birkenthal's *Memoirs*. This was the first of several "accidents" in this story. By the way, rushing into print was a mistake. I subsequently found a third account by a victim of the attack!

At the same time as I was pursuing my research programme on Uman, I was reviewing the Hebrew translation of my book on 18th-century Poland-Lithuania. I came across a footnote for a quotation from Birkenthal's other book, *Understanding Words* [*Divre binah*], but it was not clear whether the scholar who published the material from that book – A. Y. Brawer (1884-1975) – was quoting from the manuscript or paraphrasing it. I said to myself, the actual manuscript is 50 metres from here in the Manuscript Division of the Israel National Library; I will go and have a look. What I found "opened my eyes".

By the way, what makes Birkenthal's writings particularly important is that we have only a tiny number of first-person writings (often termed ego documents or self-

writing) by city-dwellers, as opposed to nobility, who lived in Poland-Lithuania in the 18th century.

When the manuscript was brought to me, it was immediately obvious that Brawer had published only a very small proportion of the book. Then, I began reading from the beginning and found that it opens with a remarkable fifty-page description of Ber Birkenthal's era that served as an introduction to the book. He mentions, for example, the Toleranzpatent of Joseph II, the lack of belief in providence among the "clean-shaven young men from German lands," and he devotes a number of pages to Hasidism, referring explicitly to Israel Baal Shem Tov, the putative founder of the movement.

Now, I was part of a group at the Institute that was studying Hasidism. In addition to regular weekly seminars, the group had lunch together daily and had developed the custom of very short talks at these lunches when members would raise topics for discussion. I reported my findings at lunch, I think the next day, and my colleagues were thunderstruck that I had found an unknown reference to the beginnings of Hasidism.

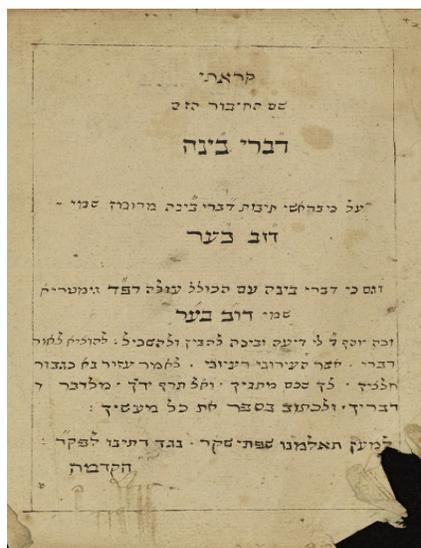
Brawer had found the manuscript of *Divre binah* in a library in Ukraine and he published excerpts from the text in installments between 1917 and 1921. Brawer writes that it would be unjustified to publish the entire book because a large proportion is merely the transcription of material from other printed books. Brawer was convinced that he had copied the only valuable and "original" parts of the book.

Divre binah is mainly a history of messianic movements, which concentrates on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century developments. It is true that much space is devoted to the compilation of quotations. These quotations, however, are not of consecutive pages and are studded with interpolations.

Birkenthal intended to publish *Divre binah*, but the rabbi of Lwów, Tsevi Hirsh Rozanes, refused to grant him an approbation because of the text's many negative remarks about Christianity; Rozanes advised Birkenthal to correct them. Brawer admits that these comments also made him hesitant to publish the complete text.

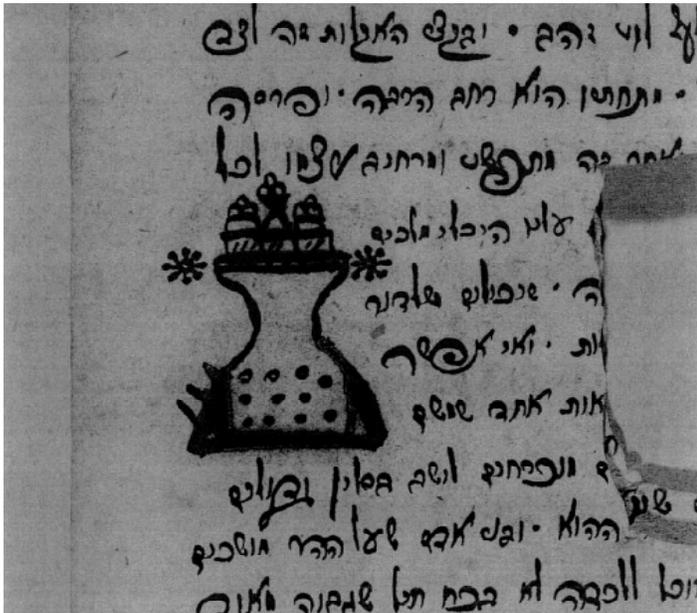
This conjuncture of finding the material about the Opryszki attack of 1759 with my eye-opening discovery of the full contents of *Divre binah* made me return for a closer reading of Birkenthal's memoir.

As mentioned, M. Wischnitzer published portions of a manuscript of the memoir that at the time was in the Jews College Library in London. We do not know how it got there. The



Second Page of *Divre binah*

Gershon Hundert



Page fragment from Birkenthal's Memoirs

portion of the manuscript that he published was in six discrete sections. He entitled the publication *The Memoirs of Ber of Bolechow* (1723-1805). In this way, on the one hand, he rendered a great service to the community of historians, particularly since he published the work simultaneously in the original Hebrew and in Yiddish and English translations.

On the other hand, Wischnitzer's version suffers from the defect of his having arranged the six fragments incorrectly. The first reviewers of the book in 1925 noticed this. Using reasoning similar to Brawer's, Wischnitzer omitted publishing the first 42 pages of the manuscript he had found in the Jews College Library. Most but not all of those pages are devoted to Birkenthal's translation of portions of two books: Giovanni Botero's *Relazioni Universali*, and Humphrey Prideaux's *The Old and New Testament Connected in the History of the Jews and Neighbouring Nations from the Declension of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah to the Time of Christ*. Except for "a few autobiographical notes," Wischnitzer omitted those pages, which, he says, "contain otherwise only translations from printed books, and are therefore not worth reproducing."

Wischnitzer references two scholars who, before him, had published "only a few passages" of the manuscript. I checked those footnotes and found, to my astonishment, that those authors refer to **two** manuscript versions of Birkenthal's book. Wischnitzer unaccountably fails to note the existence of two versions in his book even though he refers to these publications. The two scholars who had preceded Wischnitzer were Louis Lewin (1868-1941) and Arthur Marmorstein (1882-1946).

I thought there was a chance of finding the manuscript

of the other version of the Memoirs in the archives of one or both of these scholars. The Yeshiva University Library holds Lewin's papers; although there is a hand list for that collection, the librarian told me it was not necessarily reliable. I spent an interesting day reviewing Lewin's papers, but I did not find what I was looking for. This left Marmorstein, who had taught at Jews College in London until his death in 1946. *Professor Google* revealed, after some searching, that Marmorstein's books had gone to the John Rylands Library in Manchester. I sent an email to the librarians there asking if the collection included manuscripts as well as books. "No," they answered, "we received only books." Stymied. Subsequently I came to know through a coincidence (another accident) that Marmorstein's grandson lived in London. I called him on the telephone to ask if he or members of the family had papers left from his grandfather. "No, everything went to Manchester." "They say they have only books," I said. "They don't know what they have," he responded. I then wrote to one of the people listed as teaching Jewish Studies at Manchester, asking if they would inquire personally about this matter at the library. A few weeks later, I received an apologetic note from the librarian. They had found a box. The box had been unopened since 1954, and would have to be processed which would take a month or so before they could open it after such a long time. Eventually, the librarian wrote to me that inside the box there were two large bound Hebrew manuscripts and a file folder labeled, "The Memoirs of Dov Ber of Bolechow" that included a thick sheaf of pages of a clearly old Hebrew manuscript. He did not know Hebrew and could not tell me anything about the contents.

I almost immediately went to Manchester, opened the file folder, and found more than a hundred pages of a version of the Memoirs that overlapped with what Wischnitzer had published but clearly was a different draft. It included some remarkable passages that do not appear in the Jews College manuscript. It has taken me almost ten years to edit and annotate Birkenthal's two books. If I continue to find favour with Clio, my edition will be published in two volumes in the coming year.

Born in Toronto and educated at Columbia University, studying with Andzej Kaminski and Zvi Ankori, Gershon Hundert is Professor of History and holds the Leonor Segal Chair in Jewish Studies at McGill. His publications relate mainly to aspects of the history of Jews in east central Europe during the years between 1500 and 1800. He served as editor in chief of the YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe (yivoencyclopedia.org). Gershon Hundert is a past president of the American Academy for Jewish Research and a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Black September in the Middle East

Looking Back on a Violent Month Half a Century Later



*Arafat, Nasser, and Hussein in Cairo, September 27, 1970
(Sadat standing between Arafat and Nasser)*

Sandwiched between the June War of 1967 and the October War of 1973, Black September usually invokes pictures of radical Palestinians blowing up four Western airliners on an abandoned airfield in the Jordanian desert. Yet, the two wars and the exploding planes have helped to push the other momentous events in Jordan during September 1970 in the background of our collective memory. The month symbolized not only an important step in the destruction of the Palestinian dream of a state, but also the transition from Gamal Abdel Nasser to Anwar Sadat in Egypt – i.e., the shift from pan-Arabism to Egyptian nationalism. In essence, Black September linked the two major Middle Eastern wars that stand seventy-six months apart from each other.

The June War of 1967 was caused equally by all participants. Since 1964, Syria and Egypt had engaged in a rhetorical battle for leadership in the Arab world. Their preferred tool was the fate of 750,000 Palestinian refugees who had lost their homes as a result of establishment of Israel in 1948. Damascus ramped up its anti-Israeli propaganda in the hope to force Cairo to take military measures against Israel and to resolve the Palestinian refugee issue. Anxious not to lose its own pre-eminence in the Arab world, Egypt followed suit with its own propaganda, with Syria responding in the spring of 1967 by provoking small-scale military clashes with Israel. Despite compelling each other to increase belligerence, neither was ready to go to war. Damascus was militarily too weak, and Cairo had sent its best troops to Yemen in the struggle over that country with Riyadh. In the face of the perceived threat, Israel's civilian government still remained prudent throughout most of May 1967. However, Israeli generals had prepared, for almost a decade, a war plan against the

Arab neighbors with the goal of removing permanently the perceived Arab military threat and occupying Arab territory to achieve strategic depth. As uncoordinated steps on all sides allowed the situation to spin out of control in late May, Israel decided to go to pre-emptive war in early June. The military clash lasted six days and ended in Israel's complete victory and its occupation of Egypt's Sinai up to the east bank of the Suez Canal, the Gaza Strip, Jordan's East Jerusalem and West Bank, and Syria's Golan Heights.

As a result of the war, 280,000 Palestinian left their homes from East Jerusalem and the West Bank, mostly for Jordan. Half of them became refugees for a second time within only two decades, since a large number of Palestinians, who had lost their homes during 1947-49 in what was to become Israel, had fled to East Jerusalem and the West Bank. In the spring of 1950, Jordan had unilaterally annexed both territories and provided Palestinians living there with citizenship. Through that very step, the small and economically poor Arab kingdom more than doubled the number of its citizens and turned itself into an economically viable entity. After June 1967, Palestinians from East Jerusalem and the West Bank fled to Jordan proper, where they settled in Palestinian neighborhoods in Amman and other cities. In the wake of the war, Palestinian guerilla organizations used these strongholds to create de facto statelets with parallel institutions outside the control of the Jordanian state. These strongholds served as sources of financing and as military bases for indiscriminate violence against Israeli civilians and attacks on the Israeli occupation forces in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, but also as platforms for military strikes against the Jordanian monarchy.

In the wake of the June War, the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Nations tried to mediate in the Middle East in the hope of finding a comprehensive peace. This included calls for Arab recognition of Israel, Israeli withdrawal from Arab territory occupied in 1967, and Palestinian statehood in the West Bank and the Gaza strip. But little agreement beyond these three interconnected goals existed among them. The superpowers had made mutually exclusive commitments to the one or the other side as early as the June War. The United States demanded Arab recognition of Israel before Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands, while the Soviet Union demanded Israeli

Lorenz Lüthi

withdrawal before Arab recognition. Israel itself played on time, hoping to exploit its position of military strength gained in the June War. Syria was obstinate, Saudi Arabia in continued conflict with Egypt, and Egypt itself unsure what to do. Gamal Abdel Nasser, the Egyptian President, had understood shortly after the June War that the key to the solving the Middle East crisis was in the United States; only Washington could force Tel Aviv to come to the negotiation table and make concessions. However, his own hasty actions during the June War – cutting diplomatic relations with the United States in the erroneous assumption of American-Israeli co-belligerency – had forced him into an alliance with the Soviet Union. This move was designed to regain military strength in the ongoing War of Attrition – i.e., the continued military Israeli-Egyptian tit-for-tat military clashes at the closed Suez Canal. The UN mediation effort failed by the fall of 1969, largely because Israel was not willing to make any concessions.

By the spring of 1970, the United States launched the Rogers Plan in the hope of ending the War of Attrition, restarting the failed UN mission, negotiating Israeli withdrawal, and obtaining a comprehensive peace agreement. Desperate for a pause in the ongoing clashes at the Suez Canal, Egypt agreed to a 90-day ceasefire to take effect on August 7. Suffering from a coalition crisis, Israel's government followed suit, with Jordan to accept on July 26. At this point, all seemed set for negotiations to resolve problems created by the June War of 1967. Yet, the Arab acceptance of the Rogers Plan sparked a Palestinian challenge in Jordan.

Also by the spring of 1970, the domestic situation in Jordan had greatly deteriorated. The parallel governmental authority which Palestinian organizations had established in Palestinian neighborhoods in Jordanian cities had become an existential threat to the Jordanian monarchy. King Hus-



The PFLP blows up four Western airlines in the Jordanian desert on September 12, 1970

sein first tried repressive measures, but when they failed, he toyed with the idea of a sharing power with the Palestinians, given that many were citizens anyway. By June, he offered the position of prime minister to Yasser Arafat, the leader of Fatah, the largest Palestinian organization. The offer posed a serious dilemma to Arafat; accepting it implicitly meant making Jordan into a Palestinian homeland instead of Palestine itself, but rejecting it would legitimize governmental suppression of Palestinian organizations. For a brief moment, Arafat entertained the idea of overthrowing the king, but internal disagreements among his cadres let him recoil.

The Egyptian and Jordanian acceptance of the Rogers Plan in July changed the situation for the Palestinians. All Palestinian organizations plus Syria and Iraq rejected the American proposal. Inspired by Chinese and Vietnamese revolutionary rhetoric, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) – a radical splinter group and rival to Fatah – eventually high-jacked the four airliners on September 6 and 9, freed all passengers except Israeli citizens, and blew up the planes on the 12th before a large crowd of international journalists. The daring publicity stunt threatened Fatah's pre-eminence among the Palestinian groups in Jordan. But King Hussein preempted Fatah's plans for insurrection by launching a massive counterinsurgency campaign that led to two weeks of civil war in Jordan's cities – Black September. Syria and Iraq tried to support the Palestinian fighters in Jordan with a military intervention, but Soviet diplomatic pressure forced them into withdrawing their troops, while the United States leaned on Israel to stay put. Urged by Egypt, the Jordanian monarchy and Fatah agreed to a draft ceasefire on September 26. The following day, Gamal Abdel Nasser personally mediated between Hussein and Arafat in a meeting in Cairo, to which both had arrived with loaded guns. No shots were fired, however, and Nasser was able to make them sign a ceasefire that had been tabled by the Arab League and that re-established the status quo ante in Jordan. As Nasser was seeing off Hussein, Arafat, and Arab League leaders on Cairo's airport on September 28, he suffered a massive heart attack. Within hours, the Egyptian leader was dead.

Continued on page 19

*Lorenz M. Lüthi is an Associate Professor of International History at the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill University. He published a major reinterpretation of the Cold War, entitled *Cold Wars: Asia, the Middle East, and Europe*, with Cambridge University Press in the spring of 2020.*

The international Groupe d'Interêt Scientifique (GIS) is devoted to the study of the history of sociability in the long eighteenth century (c. 1650 – c. 1850). Apart from McGill, this GIS includes universities and cultural institutions in Europe and North America, such as the Université de Brest Occidentale (UBO), the Université de Paris 13, and the Musée Cognacq Jay in France, Warwick University and Liverpool University in the UK, the Ernst-Moritz-Arndt Universität Greifswald in Germany, the Università Gabriele d'Annunzio Chieti-Pescara in Italy, as well as the Groupe de Recherche en Histoire des Sociabilités at UQAM in Quebec. Prof. Brian Cowan of the Department of History and Classical Studies has served as the President of the Council of the GIS since its foundation in 2017.

Sociability has been a key concept in the development of social thought ever since the eighteenth century. While it has been variously defined, sociability refers to the informal ways in which people come together in groups. More colloquially, sociability refers to the practices of 'hanging out' that often take up much of our time and which often bring the most joy and satisfaction of individuals. The mission of the GIS is to advance new research on the history of sociability in Europe and the European world in the long eighteenth century, to develop a new theoretical understanding of sociability itself, and to investigate the relationship between sociability and modernity. The GIS sponsors regular conferences and workshops devoted to the history of sociability in the long eighteenth century. The first was devoted to 'Sociability in France and in Great Britain during the Enlightenment: The Emergence of a New Model of Society' (2012) and the second considered 'Sociable Spaces in the Long Eighteenth Century (1650-1850) from Present-day Perspectives: Europe and its Imperial Worlds' (2019).

The GIS also sponsors regular talks in Paris at the Musée Cognacq Jay. In December 2019, Prof. Cowan spoke in Paris on 'Celebrity and Politics in Post-Revolutionary England.'

In 2018, the GIS was awarded a major research grant from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (MSCA-RISE-2018) program of the European Commission Horizon 2020 competition. This grant has allowed the group to begin work on a digital encyclopedia of the history of sociability in the long eighteenth century. The project is called DIGITENS, reflecting the digital enterprise (DIGIT) as well as the object of study, enlightenment sociability (ENS). When complete, the DIGITENS project will host an open-access online digital encyclopedia comprised of original articles relating to key people, places, objects, practices, and con-

cepts required to fully understand the varieties and significance of sociable exchanges in the long eighteenth century. The DIGITENS site may be accessed online at: <http://www.digitens.fr/1/accueil>. A few preliminary entries have already been published online and we expect to publish many more in the coming years.

A central aspect of the DIGITENS project is a series of staff exchanges between the institutions involved in the project. DIGITENS members are eligible to undertake secondments to other participating institutions. McGill has already hosted two visiting scholars, Dr. Clara Manco and Dr. Pierre Labrune, both from the Sorbonne University, Paris. Regarding her visit to McGill in July 2019, Dr. Manco writes: « Je tiens à remercier l'équipe DIGITENS, Brian Cowan pour la générosité de son accueil à McGill, ainsi que le personnel de la bibliothèque des manuscrits de l'université, serviable et à l'écoute. Mon séjour à Montréal a également été l'occasion d'échanges amicaux avec d'autres membres du réseau, qui ont contribué à faire de ce séjour de recherche une véritable réussite. » For his visit to McGill in August 2019, Dr. Labrune notes: "I mainly worked on the Redpath Tracts. The Redpath Tracts are a collection of over 20,000 tracts, dating from the late XVIth century to the late XIXth century, which has been collected over the years by the Redpath family and which is now hosted at McGill Library. I therefore explored the catalogue of this huge collection with the help of Ann Marie Holland, so as to consult pamphlets and satirical tracts about schism, the uniformity of the church, and the progress of methodism. My secondment at McGill University was also the opportunity to meet Professors Brian Cowan, Elizabeth Elbourne, Fiona Richie, and Peter Sabor, and Ph.D candidates Mathieu Bouchard, Catherine Nygren, Nathan Richards-Velinou, and Willow White to discuss their researches and mine."

McGill's membership in the GIS is due to the generous support of the Department of History & Classical Studies. In the future, we hope to extend our activities at McGill to include members of other departments as well.

*Prof. Brian Cowan is an Associate Professor of History in the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill University. He was educated at Reed College and Princeton University in the USA, and has taught at the University of Sussex in the UK, and Yale University in the USA before coming to McGill in 2004. He is the author of *The Social Life of Coffee: The Emergence of the British Coffeehouse* (Yale University Press, 2005), editor of *The State Trial of Doctor Henry Sacheverell*, (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012), and a contributor to the *Multigraph Collective's Interacting with Print: Elements of Reading in the Era of Print Saturation*, (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2018). He is currently editing the age of enlightenment volume of *The Cultural History of Fame for Bloomsbury Academic*.*

History and Classics Graduate Student Association

Sherrie Li

The 2019/2020 History and Classics Graduate Student Association (HCGSA) has had a very dynamic year, with a host of events that have been academically stimulating and have helped foster a tight-knit community. In the fall, we welcomed back all our returning students, as well as one of the largest new cohorts in the department's history. Through our annual GROSH orientation events, we introduced incoming students to the program with a dinner and a historic tour of Montréal, as well as a potluck at Parc Jeanne Mance, and a tour of the Rare Books library. Our Topics on Tap events have continued to be extremely popular, showcasing a diverse array of historical subjects in a friendly and supportive environment. Some of this year's topics include monsters and marshes in the Middle Ages, Roman electioneering, the origins of American pumpkin pie (accompanied by historic pie tasting), and representations of fashion and feminism in the 1995 film *Tank Girl*. In the fall, we hosted our first inter-university trivia night, as well as our annual Wine and Cheese party at the end of the semester. This year was the third annual Cundill Fringe, which featured a graduate discussion of this year's three finalists, and participants selected Mary Fulbrook's *Reckonings* as this year's recipient of the People's Choice Award. To read the discussion and more, check out the Cundill Fringe's twitter (@CundillFringe).

In the spring, we held a lively coffee and cake event, alongside a very successful book sale to raise money for the 2020 McGill-Queen's Graduate History Conference, which was made possible through generous donations by the His-



Cundill Fringe event 2019 [Qian Zhang, Mike La Monica, Christopher Chanco]

tory and Classics Faculty. This year's conference was the very aptly themed "The End of the World as We Know It," and keynote speakers included the department's own Professor Kristy Ironside, as well as Professor Mark Anderson from Carleton University. Thank you to all our representatives for their hard work this year, and to everyone in the department who came out to our events! We hope everyone stays in good health and had a relaxing summer, and we look forward to seeing everyone again soon!

To get in touch with the HCGSA and be updated on our activities, you can reach us at our website: <https://mcgillhcgsa.wixsite.com/home> or at our Facebook page!

Congratulations to our new Ph.D.s!

Tyler Yank: "Women, slavery, and British imperial interventions in Mauritius, 1810 -1845"
Supervisor: Gwyn Campbell

Qian Zhang: "China's India war: Sino-Indian relations, 1945-64"
Supervisor: Lorenz Lüthi

Geoffrey Wallace: "The history and geography of beeswax extraction in the northern Maya lowlands, 1540-1700"
Supervisor: Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert

Caley McCarthy: "Civic religion in late medieval Marseille: the Hospital of Saint-Esprit, 1306-1457"
Supervisor: Faith Wallis

Angela Tozer: "Universal nation: Settler colonialism and the Canadian public debt over Mi'kma'ki, 1820-1873"
Supervisor: Elizabeth Elbourne

Yusuf Karabiçak: "Local Patriots and Ecumenical Ottomans: The Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople in the Ottoman Configuration of Power, 1768-1828"
Supervisor: Anastassios Anastassiadis

Classics Students Association

Neha Rahman (2019-20 CSA President)

Although it was unfortunately cut short – this was another great year for the CSA. We started in the fall with a trip up Mont Royal while the weather was still nice for a picnic and a live reading of Euripides' *Medea*, a second installation of our BYOBacchae event. Then it was time for our annual collaborative event with the HSA – Haunted Histories, our Halloween Lecture Series! The Classics speakers were Professor Bill Gladhill who taught us about the terrifying Ancient Greek bogey(woman), the *lamia*, and Daniel Whittle, a second-year masters student who provided an allegorical reading of the plague narrative in Lucretius' *De Rerum Natura*. This was followed by our fall wine and cheese, an opportunity for students to socialize and learn more about the department. We also had our third annual *Rostra* undergraduate speaker series featuring talks by Neha Rahman, Avery Warkentin, and Taryn Power. This year the CSA finished off the fall semester with a screening and discussion of *O Brother Where Art Thou* (2000 dir. Joel and Ethan Coen), the start of our new series of classics movie nights.

We started the winter semester with another movie night, screening *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* (2010, dir. Chris Columbus). February featured the 2020 Classics play *Medea*, which was a well-crafted adaptation, directed by Marina Martin and Michaela Drouillard, and a rousing success with an entirely sold-out run and rave reviews! This was accompanied by a lecture by Prof. Florence Yoon from UBC on the role of children in ancient Greek tragedy. Then we had our annual collaborative Valentine's Day lecture series with the HSA, *Love in the Time Of*. The Classics speakers were Prof. Darian Totten on *bromances* in Ancient Rome, and first-year master's student Sam Riemann who offered a reading of the painting *Sacred and Profane Love* by Titian.



Our plans to host the 12th annual Montreal Classics Colloquium, our annual collaborative event with classics students from Concordia and UdeM were prevented by the pandemic, as was our final wine and cheese and launch of our student journal *Hirundo*. However, the CSA has adapted to the times. All the talks from the speakers who would have presented at this year's colloquium will be compiled into a journal launched in Fall 2020. *Hirundo* (edited by Emma Davidson), with its sister publication *Volare*, the Classics Creative Journal (edited by Sara Merker), was launched digitally on April 21st, Rome's 2773rd birthday, with plans to come out with a physical version as soon as possible. We congratulate and thank the journal and colloquium teams for their creativity and adaptability and hard work.

We also thank the director of Classical Studies Professor Lynn Kozak for all their support and generosity throughout the year. Though much of this year's CSA executive is graduating and moving on, next year's team led by president-elect Taryn Power will ensure a year full of engaging events and Classics community building.

History Students Association

Charlotte Scott-Frater
(2019-20 HSA President)

Despite a somewhat abrupt ending, the 2019-2020 executive of the History Students Association could not be more proud of the work we've done this year. We have built on the achievements of last year, maintaining the raised levels of event attendance and general engagement, and worked to ensure that History students' voices were represented in all possible forums.

This year saw the continuation of our popular annual events, as well as many well-regarded new offerings.

Beginning with our annual welcome back wine and cheese, we continued to match last year's record attendance for our annual events. Most notably, this included our fall and winter trivia nights, which had 60 participants!

We collaborated once again with our colleagues in the Classics Students Association for our Halloween and Valentine's Day lecture series, which received glowing feedback. Much thanks to Professors Gladhill, Tai, Lüthi, Ironside, Elbourne, Totten, and master's student Daniel Whittle for their wonderful talks. Beyond our annual events, we also brought in several new events which were ever successful and well-attended. Among these was our collaborative lecture series with the European Students' Society on the legacies of 1989, featuring Professors Krapfl, Tai, Studnicki-Gizbert, and Popova.

Also new this year was our Halloween haunted tours of McGill, featuring students resurrecting the macabre and oft-ignored parts of McGill's history. Through this event, we successfully fundraised over 600 dollars for the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society. Of all of our events this year, we are especially thrilled to have participated in Cundill Forum, a new event in the slate of Cundill Prize programming, that featured this year's finalists and last year's winner in a panel on the subject of Fake News and True Histories. For all who are interested, the panel was broadcast as part of CBC's Ideas radio show, and is available for download as a podcast on the CBC website.

The HSA membership also spent the year making history students' voices and concerns heard in new venues. We would like to thank Christelle Tesson and Dharana Needham who served as the undergraduate representatives on the African and Canadian history hiring committees, as well as the many students who came to the job talks and smaller discussions with the candidates. Their input and engagement was highly appreciated. HSA members sat on internal committees, including the Library Partnerships Committee and the Financial Management Committee of the Arts Undergraduate Society in order to better serve our constituents and forward their concerns. We began development of two initiatives which will (hopefully!) play out

over the next academic year.

First, in recognition of the lack of study spaces, given the library renovations, the HSA successfully applied for funding from the Arts Undergraduate Improvement Fund to spruce up the Leacock 6th floor kitchen and transform it into a more welcoming space for history students. Second, as part of our planning for our own McGill bicentennial counter programming, we successfully lobbied the SSMU to rename a room in the Shatner Building after Marlene Dixon, a McGill professor who was forced to resign in the 1970s because of her on-campus activism. We look forward to continuing these initiatives next year.

While we weren't able to complete our programming slate because of the global pandemic, we found one silver lining. Since we couldn't spend all of our funding, we donated our surplus to the McGill Student Mutual Aid fund in the hopes that through this mechanism, we can continue to support our students.

This year's HSA did exceptional work and deserves all the commendation in the world. I'd like to thank Kevin Vogel (Finance), Ashton Mathias (Events), Bee Khaleeli (Communications and Publicity), Julia Zuchetti (Internal), Claire Diamant (First Year Representative) and Dalton Liggett (External), who will be taking over as president for next year.

Lorenz Lüthi *continued*

Despite the facade of the status quo ante restored, much had changed in September 1970. Within a year, King Hussein forced Palestinian organizations out of his kingdom with a massive counterinsurgency campaign. Some Palestinian cadres left for the West Bank, where they were quickly arrested by Israeli occupation forces. Others managed to escape to Lebanon, which had hosted a large Palestinian refugee community since 1947. The inflow of these cadres, however, further upset the fragile political balance between Sunni and Shia Muslims, Druze, and members of various Christian denominations in the country. In 1975, a fifteen-year long civil war between Muslims, Druze, Christians, and Palestinians started in Lebanon.

Yet, the most significant change happened in Egypt, as the following three years would show. Initially, observers saw Nasser's successor, Anwar Sadat, as a transitional figure. Sadat, however, quickly signaled to the United States that he wanted to re-establish relations, and that he considered Nasser's alliance with the Soviet Union an obstacle to peace in the Middle East. With Saudi mediation and indirect American encouragement, he eventually expelled Soviet military advisers in July 1972 in a signal of good will to the United States. However, U.S. President Richard Nixon neither had a policy ready for this development, nor was willing to engage with a politically sensitive issue in an election year. Disappointed, Sadat tried to re-

surrect good relations with the Soviet Union, but received the cold shoulder. On October 24, 1972, he decided to go to war against Israel – not for military gains at the Suez Canal, but to force the Middle East crisis on the American agenda. Detailed political and military preparations as well as a complex deception campaign designed to lull Israel in a false sense of security helped to restore Arab unity, increase military capabilities, and allow Egypt to go to war on October 6, 1973. Despite almost losing the war, Egypt hung on until the United States understood that Sadat was willing to lose the war on the battlefield in order to win it in the political arena. On the 16th, Washington communicated to Cairo – via Iranian diplomatic channels – that it had finally understood the Egyptian desire for a comprehensive Middle Eastern peace. Yet, even if the United States agreed to establish relations and engage in a peace process, Washington's policy in subsequent years focused primarily on keeping Moscow's influence out of the region at the expense of seeking a comprehensive solution to the Middle Eastern crisis. Sadat eventually understood that the United States was not acting as the honest broker he had hoped for, which is why he proposed a bilateral peace with Israel during his seminal visit to Jerusalem in November 1977. Sadat's abandonment of long-standing Arab positions not to seek a separate peace with Israeli cost the Palestinians the sliver chance to their own state in the West Bank in the long-term, as well as his own life in 1981.

Department of History and Classical Studies Fundraising

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 at scott.corbett@mcgill.ca. For more information on all departmental fundraising campaigns, please consult: <https://www.mcgill.ca/history/outreach-donate/>

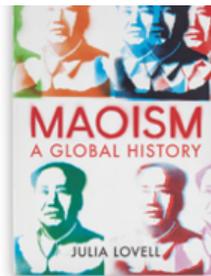
Donate Now

Cundill Prize events 2020

This year's Cundill Prize for History Writing awards ceremony and related events will take place virtually. Details have yet to be finalized, and links will be posted on the Cundill website: <https://www.cundillprize.com/>. As usual, the Department of History and Classical Studies will be in the thick of the action, hosting the Cundill Lecture by the 2019 prize-winner Julia Lovell (Birkbeck College, University of London), staging the Cundill Forum, and holding a panel discussion featuring Dr. Lovell and the three 2020 finalists. Last year, the Forum tackled the question of "Real History in the Age of Fake News" before a lively audience. The recorded discussion was aired on CBC Radio's Ideas; if you missed it, you can listen to the episode at <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/deepfaked-speeches-and-contested-facts-how-today-s-historians-manage-to-do-their-job-1.5464487>. We anticipate that this year's Forum will also be the subject of a broadcast.



2019 Winner: Julia Lovell



Faith Wallis

This year, over 300 titles were submitted for the 2020 prize. An initial triage carried out by Prof. Jason Opal, Prof. Faith Wallis and Dean Antonia Maioni whittled the list down to about 40. The jury this year is chaired by Peter Frankopan (Oxford), and will include Anne Applebaum (Pulizer Prize winner and senior fellow at Johns Hopkins), Canadian journalist and BBC International Correspondent Lyse Doucet, Eliga Gould (University of New Hampshire) and Sujit Sivasundaram (Cambridge). They will announce the short list of seven titles on Tuesday, September 22nd in New York. The three finalists will be revealed at an event in Massey College (University of Toronto) on Tuesday, October 20th.



The big reveal of the 2020 winner is scheduled to take place at the virtual Gala on Thursday 19 November (please check announcements on <https://www.cundillprize.com/>). The department will be there, and we hope that CHRONOS readers will join the live-stream event.

Editor : Lorenz M. Lüthi, Design : Twisha Singh