

## Catherine Evans and Padraic Scanlan: Two For the Road



L-R: Padraic, Rafe, Catherine, and Moira, 2021

When Prof. Elizabeth Elbourne asked us to write something about our experiences in the History Department at McGill, and about how our time in the Leacock Building started us on the path to the faculty at the University of Toronto, we jumped at the chance. We both grew up in Montreal (we're also proud alumni of the Liberal Arts program at Dawson College!) and we graduated from McGill with Honours degrees in History in 2008. From there, our lives and careers took different, if entangled and overlapping paths, so we've decided to each write something about what we do, how we got here, and how McGill helped us on the way.

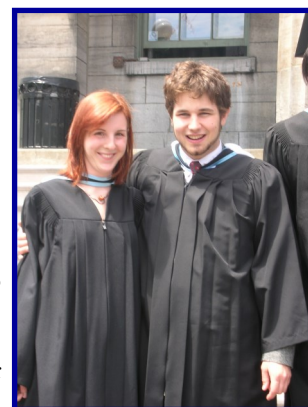
### Padraic:

After I finished my McGill BA, I quit my job working the cash register and the online-orders desk at Indigo on McGill College, and started in the graduate program in the Department of History at Princeton. At Princeton, building on great history courses led by Profs. Elbourne, Brian Cowan and Brian Lewis, I studied the British empire – especially the history of antislavery and colonialism. I wrote my dissertation on the abolition of the British slave trade in colonial Sierra Leone, under the supervision of Prof. Linda Colley. I earned my PhD in 2013, and moved to Harvard, where I took up a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for History and Economics. In 2015, I started as Assistant Professor in the Department of International History at the London School of Economics; in 2017, my first book (based on my dissertation), *Freedom's Debtors: British Antislavery in Sierra Leone in the Age of Revolution* was published by Yale University Press. In 2019, I moved to the University of Toronto, where I am Assistant Professor in the Centre

for Diaspora & Transnational Studies, where I teach courses on labour history across a wide range of fields and time periods. My second book, *Slave Empire: How Slavery Built Modern Britain*, was published in 2020 by Robinson Books. I'm writing another book, for Robinson in the UK and for Basic Books in North America, on the history of the Great Famine in Ireland. Amid moving back and forth across the Atlantic and doing history all over the place, Catherine and I got married in 2013, and had two kids – our son, Rafe, was born in 2017, and our daughter, Moira, born in 2021!

### Catherine:

Near the end of my time at McGill, I was sure I would be a lawyer. I had loved my history degree – I proudly wore my History Association sweat-shirt ('History: It's just one bloody thing after another') – but was convinced that law would be everything I liked about history, but about the present and with a higher salary. I went to Oxford, where I completed a B.A. in Jurisprudence with senior status, which compressed the usual three-year program into two years for students with a prior degree. After my first year, I visited Padraic in Princeton and tagged along when he presented a paper at a History conference at Rutgers. It was the most fun I'd had in months, and only part of that was seeing Padraic. I decided to return to History. I spent the summer in the Bodleian library trying to come up with a prospective PhD project for my application, and the following summer I moved to New Jersey to start at Princeton, too. I defended my dissertation, on criminal responsibility in nineteenth-century British imperial homicide trials, in 2016, and moved on to the Center for History and Economics at Harvard (like Padraic) as a Prize Fellow. In 2017, I moved back to Canada as an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies at the University of Toronto, where I teach courses on sociolegal studies, law and the mind, and the history of criminal justice. My first book, *Unsound Empire: Civilization and Madness in Late-Victorian Law*, was published by Yale University Press in 2021 – its official publication date was just a week after our daughter was born. I'm now starting work on my second book project about fire and law, including arson investigation and fire insurance, in the British empire.



Catherine and Padraic, at their 2008 McGill Convocation

... continued on page 2

### IN THIS ISSUE...

2: Chair's Greeting– Catherine Desbarats  
3: Congratulations  
4-5: "Why I'm studying a short-lived bank on Barbados from 1706"– Jason Opal

6: In Memoriam: Myron Echenberg  
7: In Memoriam: Michael Maxwell– Shaun Maxwell  
8-9: New Books

10-12: "Halina Czarnocka: A Polish Life"– Susan Czarnocki  
13: Incoming Faculty  
14-15: Recent Initiatives  
16-17: Student Society Reports

18: Events in the Department  
19: Celebrating Graduations and Retirements  
20: Homecoming/Cundill Lecture/ Graduate Excellence Fund

# Chair's Welcome



Professor Catherine Desbarats

Welcome, readers, to the 2022 edition of *Chronos*. Its pages will delight you. And in case you don't know so already, you will see for yourselves that the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill "contains multitudes." Except for a fleeting hint here or there, of zoom fatigue, or the tell-tale language of "in-person" vs. "virtual," you will also hardly guess that last year unfolded during new pandemic waves that challenged each of us, to one degree or another. So much got done. Colleagues

have published books and won grants and prizes and given and hosted talks. They have worked to build Indigenous research at McGill. They have kept history in the public eye with op ed pieces and interviews. Graduate students made the McGill-Queen's conference happen, made headway on their research projects despite great constraints on travel, and encouraged one another. Classics students read Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* on top of Mount Royal; they packed theatres with adaptations of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*; they produced issues of their journals *Hirundo* and *Volare*. Undergraduate History students wrote remarkable papers, sweeping seven national and international prizes; they published yet another terrific issue of *Historical Discourses*.

The opening article in this volume, by former students-turned professors Padraic Scanlan and Catherine Evans, gives a nice taste of what it is like to go through an undergraduate degree in our Department. They note the difference some thoughtful mentoring and teaching can make. Wendell Adjetey, winner of this year's Noel Fieldhouse

Teaching award, is part of a new generation of engaging professors in our Department, who bring the best of their training and empathy to classrooms and field schools. We are so fortunate to be able to welcome two new colleagues this year, Melissa Shaw, who works on Black history in Canada, and Pedro Monaville, a historian of the Congo.

We are also heartened that donors continue to think of History and Classical Studies as important areas to support with their gifts. Susan Czarnocki, a pioneer of electronic data management at McGill, has given the Department much welcome funds towards graduate studies in European History. You will read the astonishing story of her mother-in-law Halina Czarnocka, who inspired the gift, in these pages.

We lost two much-loved emeritus professors in the Department last Spring. We will have a chance to honour Myron Echenberg's life and work in African history at a memorial colloquium this fall. We thank Myron's family for the wonderful photographs that show our colleague as we will always remember him. And we thank Shaun Maxwell for the moving piece he has written about his father Michael, a distinguished historian of early modern Ireland. Those of us who knew Michael know that Shaun's words are pitch perfect. Those of you who didn't will have a taste of the colleague and friend whom we miss.

I will close with a special word of thanks to the two people who made this magazine happen: Elizabeth Elbourne brings heart and soul to everything she does within this Department and at McGill more generally. A superb mentor and scholar, and friend to us all, her generous fingerprints are all over these pages. And we have both discovered what a joy it is to work with PhD student Hannah Sparwasser Soroka. Thank you, Elizabeth and Hannah!

*Padraic and Catherine continued*

**Padraic:**

I would not have even considered going to graduate school in History if it weren't for the encouragement of Profs. Brian Cowan and Elizabeth Elbourne. And when I did apply, I was well-prepared: McGill's History program is outstanding – demanding, serious and wide-ranging. I remember the first history books I read at McGill that I recognised as having *arguments* – the *World Turned Upside Down* by Christopher Hill (still a favourite), and *The Pity of War* by Niall Ferguson (less so); that is a powerful moment for a beginner historian. And the department's emphasis on blending Masters and upper-year undergraduates into demanding seminars gave me my first experience of the thrill of meeting the archive and working with primary sources. In seminars in my last two years, I wrote a series of papers on middle- and working-class radicalism in Britain in the last decades of the eighteenth century – and I still haven't stopped thinking about the 1790s, fourteen years later.

**Catherine:**

As Padraic mentioned, we're originally from Montreal. I took the 24 Sherbrooke bus to high school, CEGEP, and university. My dad's a scientist and a professor at McGill. To me, the Roddick Gates were so familiar that starting my undergraduate career felt anti-climactic. As a result, I underestimated my good fortune. I loved my courses and hunting for books for my next term paper in the stacks of McLennan Redpath. But I didn't fully appreciate the rigour and depth of the History program, and the strength and sophistication of its faculty, until I'd left. Looking back now on my undergraduate training, I'm very grateful to my professors for helping us to think like historians for the first time. I remember fondly my seminar papers on the place of mythic history in B.R. Ambedkar's work, and on Soviet wartime fiction. When I decided to become a legal historian instead of a lawyer, I turned to my undergraduate notes and course syllabi for guidance (not to mention my wonderful faculty mentors at McGill, who generously wrote me reference letters). Padraic and I owe so much to the History department – thank you!



Baby Moira with the paperback edition of Padraic's book *Slave Empire*

Editors: Elizabeth Elbourne and Hannah Sparwasser Soroka Designer: Hannah Sparwasser Soroka



# Congratulations!

## FACULTY GRANTS, AWARDS, & HONOURS

**Professor Wendell Nii Laryea Adjete**y won the H. Noel Fieldhouse Award for Distinguished Teaching in the Faculty of Arts. **Professor Tassos Anastassiadis** was awarded the June 2022 Prix Louise-Dandurand du FRQSC (Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et Culture) for his book *La réforme orthodoxe: Église, État et société en Grèce à l'époque de la confessionnalisation post-ottomane (1833-1940)* (Athènes: École Française d'Athènes, 2020). **Professor Lorenz Lüthi** was awarded a Humboldt Research Award which will allow him to spend the next academic year at the Free University, Berlin to research his book, *Cold War Berlin, 1945-1994*. Professor **Kristy Ironside** was awarded a Fellowship at the Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia at New York University.

**Professor Wendell Nii Laryea Adjete**y won a SSHRC Insight Grant for a project entitled "The 1826 Battle of Katamansu Revisited" and is co-investigator on another project which also gained funding through a SSHRC Insight Grant. **Professor Darian Totten** won a SSHRC Insight Grant for her project "Excavating Sipontum: environmental archaeology on southern Italy's Adriatic coast, 2nd c. BCE- 13th c. CE." **Professor Totten** was also awarded a Loeb Classical Library Foundation Grant to support this research. **Professor Nicholas Dew** will be co-investigator on a three-year SSHRC Partnership Development Grant entitled "Hidden Hands in Colonial Natural History Collections," along with Dr. Victoria Dickenson (McGill University), Professor Gloria Bell (Art History and Communications Studies, McGill University), and Professor Vikram Bhatta (Architecture, McGill University); this project will connect McGill University to six partner institutions in five countries. **Professor Elizabeth Elbourne** is co-investigator, under Primary Investigator Professor Sarita Kennedy (Education, Concordia University) on a SSHRC Insight Grant entitled "The effects of Bill 21 on secondary school students in Quebec." **Professor Edward Dunsworth** has, along with Professor Laura Madokoro (History, Carleton University), been awarded a Canadian Heritage Grant for his project "Active History on Display"; please see page 15 of *Chronos* for more details on this research.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Dr. Cynthia Tang** (Ph.D. 2021) received an AMS History of Medicine Postdoctoral Fellowship and a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship. Dr. Tang will be undertaking the fellowships consecutively in Science, Technology and Innovation Studies and at the Centre for Biomedicine, Self and Society at the University of Edinburgh. **Dr. Rebekah McCallum** (Ph.D. 2022) is a Humanities in the World Postdoctoral Scholar at Penn State's Humanities Institute and Just Transformations Initiative. **Dr. Shawn McCutcheon** (Ph.D. 2021) is undertaking a post-doc at UQAM. He will also take up a position as Professor of History (replacement) at Collégial International Sainte-Anne. **Courtney Krolikoski** (ABD) will take up a position as Assistant Professor of History at Jacksonville University this fall.

**Dr. Urvi Desai** (Ph.D. 2022) won a McGill-Ingénium Fellowship in the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology.

**Dr. Ian Beattie** (Ph.D. 2021) won the Walter D. Love prize of the North American Conference of British Studies for the best article published in 2020 by a North American scholar on any aspect of British history, for his article "Class Analysis and the Killing of the Newborn Child: Manchester, 1790-1860," *History Workshop Journal* 89, Spring 2020.

**Riley Wallace** (PhD3) was awarded a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship and an FRQSC bourse de doctorat en recherche for his dissertation project "Archives, Governance, and the Politics of Information in post-Conquest Quebec, 1759-1791." **Briar Bennet-Flammer** (PhD3) was awarded a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship and an FRQSC bourse de doctorat en recherche for her project "Pagan-Christian Interactions in Britain after the Collapse of Roman Imperial Rule." **Hannah Sparwasser Soroka** (PhD2) was awarded a SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship-Doctoral (CGS-D) for her dissertation project "Jews in Space: Diaspora, Indigeneity, and Eschatology in the Seventeenth Century." **Teddy Paikin** (PhD2) was awarded a SSHRC CGS-D for his project "Early Modern Political Thought and Economic Development: State and Economy in Locke and Montesquieu."

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PRIZES

**Internal Awards:** Maurice and Sara Greenblatt Memorial Scholarships were awarded to three students in the Department of History and Classical Studies: **Hana Bobrow-Strain**, **Adam Rosengarten**, and **Pierina Gonzalez Cautela**. **Elijah Aedo-Castillo** won McGill's Historical Society's Prize. **Signy Harnad** won the Senator Lazarus Phillips Scholarship in History as well as the Howard Weinroth Essay Prize. The Madalene Hodgson Prize in History was awarded to **Victoria Sicurello** and **Ava Merker**. The C. C. Bayley Prize in History was awarded to **Thibault Passet**. The Henry Chapman Medal for Classical Languages and Literatures was awarded to **Félix Gariépy**. **Xin Yi (Cindy) Zeng** and **Taryn Alicia Power** each won a Peterson Memorial Scholarship in Classics. **Marie-Christine Levesque** won the Woodhead Memorial Prize in Greek and Latin as well as a Sir Edward Beatty Memorial Scholarship in Classics. The Charles Alexander Scholarship was awarded to **Audrey Michel**. The Dr. James Barclay Scholarship was awarded to **Charlène Frigon-Beaupré**. **Emma Rachel Weiser** won the Barbara Schott Scholarship. The following students were each awarded a Paul F. McCullagh Prize in Ancient Greek and Latin: **Anita Felizitas Martin**, **Libby Deerkowsky**, **Delêtre Aélia May-Ly**, **Camille Therese Deslongchamps**, and **Na An**. **Félix Gariépy** won the Audrey Charlton Cameron Scholarship.

**External Awards:** **Professor Suzanne Morton** has developed a course on the history of McGill in which she leads students into McGill's own archives and history. In the 2021-22 academic term, three students in this class won external awards for their work. **Jonah Fried** won UCLA's Nazarian Center for Israel Studies Award for Best Undergraduate Paper at the 2022 Undergraduate Scholars Conference in Israel Studies for his essay "McGill University's Arab-Israeli Conflict". **Mathilde Lehoux** won the James McGill Society Student Prize award for her essay "King Cook". **Gabrielle Gagnon** was a joint winner of the William Weintraub Prize in Quebec Studies for her video "The Birth Control Handbooks 1969-1975". Three students from **Professor Elizabeth Elbourne's** Honours seminar "Poverty and Class in Modern Britain" won essay prizes awarded by the North American Conference on British Studies: **Genowefa Kleiner**, "The Effects of the National Health Service on Maternity Care in Britain, 1948-1974", **Georg Gaidoschik**, "Hillsborough: a case study of how 'establishment versus the people' dynamics come into play in modern Britain", **Signy Harnad**, "The Old Past in the Living Present: Cultural Constructions of the Aged Poor, c 1870-1900". **Manum Shahid** was awarded the national Gunn Prize for the best historical essay on migration to and settlement in Canada for her essay "Agency and Resilience: South Asian Migration to Canada, 1900-1967", which was written for **Professor Edward Dunsworth's** "Migrants, Borders, and States" seminar.

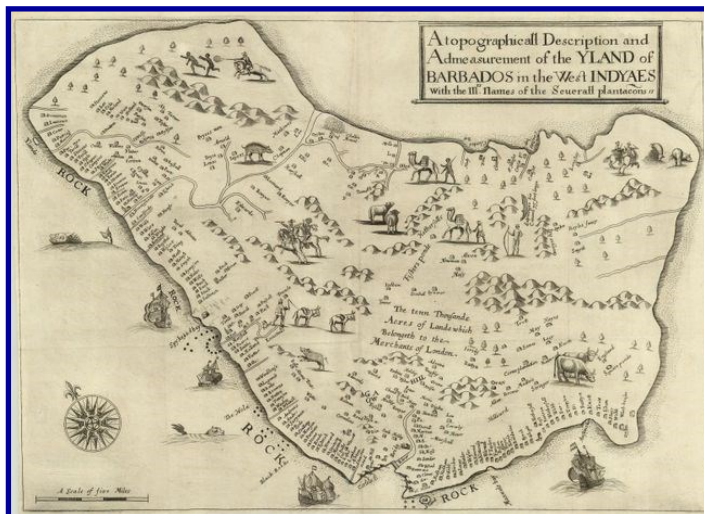
# Why I'm studying a short-lived bank on Barbados from 1706

By Jason Opal

For a few weeks in the summer of 1706, the third year of another war between England and France over supremacy in Europe and the Americas, a new sort of bank opened on the Caribbean island of Barbados, England's most prized colony in the western Atlantic.

Perhaps "bank" is saying too much. In effect, it was an office where the island's treasurer, John Holder, gave out paper notes to anyone who could offer real estate as collateral. On this sugar island, real estate could mean either land or enslaved people—and Barbados had a large population of poor tenants and small farmers who owned between one and five African captives. These *petits blancs* were among the first in line to receive what was, in effect, a new kind of island currency.

Holder gave out about £55,000 in notes that summer, double the debt that the island's government had accumulated in three years of war. The money circulated in both large and small bills, stimulating the economy and, as its supporters insisted, "enlivening" a colony long beset by yellow fever and smallpox. Then, in October, Queen Anne's Privy Council rejected the bank as a "pernicious" violation of imperial property rights. In November, nearly 1,000 island residents signed petitions protesting both the bank and the assemblymen who had chartered it, and by December fist-fights broke out in Barbados courts between supporters and opponents of the "Paper Credit." One legislator even warned of a "General Massacre" and civil war.



A map of Barbados from Richard Ligon's *True and Exact History of the Island of Barbados* (1657; 1673)

Why did a makeshift bank on a small island provoke such an empire-wide controversy? What can we learn *about* this long-forgotten conflict, and what can we learn *from* it?

I'm in the midst of a book about Barbados in "vast Early America," a term for the zones of European settlement in the long period from the onset of Spanish colonization to the outbreak of the American Revolution. For me, the choice of subject was easy: Barbados was the most valuable part of the English and early British Empires in America, due to what Captain John Smith of Virginia called the "mighty wealth" of sugar canes. Around 1640, some Barbados planters built a sugar *engenbo* to crush the canes, and with the help of Dutch traders in Brazil and Portuguese planters on Cape Verde, they learned how to boil and refine the juice into brown and white sugar.

Making sugar was brutal work. It involved cutting down huge numbers of trees, both to clear fields and fuel the fires to boil the cane

juice, as well as a grueling schedule of planting, manuring, harvesting, and cutting. The boiling houses were sometimes underground, and with the intense heat of the fires, the workers often lost consciousness and fell into the boiling vats. To deliver the sweet taste of sugar to distant consumers, Barbados became a Hell on Earth.

Benguela, Fulani, Asante, Oyo, and Ibgo peoples were brought in chains to Barbados. After a major effort by the enslaved to destroy the planters in 1675, Barbados doubled-down on its especially vicious model of slavery, in which white islanders had easy access to huge numbers of inexpensive captives.

As of 1680, when Barbados became one of the first English territories to perform a thorough census, the island towered over the other colonies. The richest Barbadians received knighthoods and baronets in London; Barbadian emigrants ruled the new colonies of South Carolina and Jamaica; and the island's total output of sugar was

twice as valuable as that of all other English American colonies combined.

Then a series of disasters began.

Because of their frantic importation of enslaved people from huge stretches of Africa, the islanders brought a wide range of pathogens to their colony. This included smallpox, which broke out in the slave dungeons of present-day Ghana and Cameroon in 1684 before making its way to Barbados. Around the same time, yellow fever—a mosquito-borne pathogen of West African origin—

exploded in the island's main city of Bridgetown.

Between 1684 and 1703, these diseases joined a range of other infections to depopulate whole swaths of Barbados. The colonists fled west, spreading their ideas about slavery—and their slaves—from Venezuela to Virginia, from Cuba to Massachusetts. Desperate for help, some whites sought treatment from enslaved healers, who called upon a range of pharmacological and supernatural means known as Obeah to relieve those who were Yarra, sick.

War with France deepened the island's misery. Worried that invaders could rally the enslaved to their side, the government required all white men to stay on active duty for weeks on end. That meant that they left their wives alone with the enslaved, which they increasingly refused to do; other militiamen balked at orders to guard Bridgetown, which they saw as permanently contagious. To make matters worse, imperial authorities changed the value of silver coins in 1704, resulting in the mass movement of those coins from



Barbados to North America.

Which brings us back to the bank. In 1703, a new governor, Bevil Granville arrived with orders to improve Barbados's defenses. For reasons that are not yet clear to me—the surviving archive is spotty—Granville alienated many planters and merchants while joining hands with a group of popular, if not populist leaders.

By increasing the money supply with bank bills, these men made it easier for islanders to pay their debts to English merchants and to buy provisions from American traders. The tenants and small farmers who made a living by renting out their few enslaved people could also buy more captives.

Who wouldn't want more money? The main answer was the roughly two dozen London merchants who sent ships to Barbados each year. These men did not want to be paid in "Barbados bills," because if they presented those bills to answer their own debts in the metropole, or perhaps even at the Bank of England (opened in 1695), they would be laughed at. The Royal African Company, based in London, objected for the same reasons.

But this was no simple class conflict between rich and poor. John Holder, the treasurer of the new bank, and the dozen or so assemblymen who allied with Governor Granville to pass it were wealthy planters too. They were also highly leveraged, and wanted to water down their debts. "Much in Debt – an Execution against him – He was for the Paper Bill," the island's leading merchant wrote of one pro-bank leader in a secret memo. "And paid several of his Debts with those Bills."

On the other hand, no fewer than 948 Barbadians signed petitions criticizing the bank after the Crown abolished it. This represents almost one in four white Barbadian men; clearly, not all anti-bank people were rich merchants. What were these petitioners thinking? How did they locate themselves within the growing colossus later known as the British Empire?

I am working on these questions by gathering information about the 948 petitioners. This is not easy. The year in question, 1706, falls between the census data of 1680 and that of another major census in 1715; matching names from the petitions to these lists is of limited utility for sickly Barbados, where most people alive in 1680 were dead ten years later. Digitized documents from the National Archives of the United Kingdom offer some help; so do probate records held in both England and Barbados. Moreover, this colony was among the most heavily mapped of all British territories, so it is sometimes possible to find where a given petitioner lived.

My impressions so far: Anti-bank sentiment was strongest in Bridgetown and its close environs. This urban area was most con-

nected to the British Atlantic world, most tied to creditors and customers who sailed in from London each year, bearing news, ideas, fashions, and (some) currency from Europe. Among the city-dwellers were large numbers of widows, who made a living renting out their homes to Atlantic passersby; there was also a community of Sephardic Jews who could not own land on Barbados and who therefore embraced commerce—and its emerging rules about credit and currency.

On the other hand, the pro-bank leaders tended to come from inland parts of the island, especially from St. Thomas, the only landlocked parish. They were second-, third-, or even fourth-generation Barbadians who remembered the island's glory days and blamed the Empire—not just London bankers but also new sugar competitors in Jamaica and Antigua—for their decline. Some were tenants who clung to their tiny plots of the island and relied on its internal economy of slave rentals, for which the new bank bills would suffice just as well as silver coins or London bank notes.

More broadly, the 1706 bank controversy was an early episode in a long and growing conflict between metropolitan and local interests

in the British world, between those who identified as imperial subjects and those who felt like colonial patriots. Money was often the flashpoint here.

Taking their cues from Barbados, mainland colonies after 1706 learned how to print bills without drawing London's ire, using limited emissions of "proclamation money" to satisfy specific needs. Royal governors and other imperial officials tended to look the other way, but whenever a colony went too far in printing

money—such as Massachusetts, which was closely tied to Barbados, in 1740—then the full force of the Crown's displeasure came crashing down on the provincials.

Years later, the American revolutionary John Adams insisted that imperial suppression of the Massachusetts bank in 1740, as well as similar hard-money policies such as the Currency Act of 1764, did more to embitter the colonials against London than any tax on tea or stamps.

History is about perspective, about updating our view of the world with a sharper and more honest account of how it came to be. And when you study early America from and through Barbados, you find a story that is much deeper and richer than the brief life of the island's first bank might suggest.

*Jason Opal came to McGill in 2009 and served as the Chair of the Department from 2018 to 2021. He teaches early American history, US constitutionalism, and the history of the Atlantic slave trade and infectious diseases. His new project is Empire's Island: Three Ages of Barbados in the Early Americas.*



Mercers' Hall, London, the site of the first Bank of England

## In Memoriam: Myron Echenberg



Myron Echenberg. Photo courtesy of Eva Neisser Echenberg.

Myron Echenberg, who died on January 27, 2022 in Mexico of complications from Covid, was a seminal historian of West Africa and of the social history of medicine.

Myron Echenberg was born in 1940 to Leon and Anne Echenberg in Sherbrooke, Québec. Québec's Eastern Townships retained lifelong importance to him, as did the French language. In 1959 he began his enduring association with McGill University as a student in History and Political Science. After an MA, also at McGill, he moved to Madison, Wisconsin to become one of the first PhD students in that university's pioneering African history program, initially part of Comparative Tropical History. At the very first departmental get-together for foreign students Myron met Eva Neisser, who would become his lifelong partner. He returned to McGill in 1969 as assistant professor in the Department of History, initially teaching both African and Latin American history. He played a crucial role in building the presence of African history in Canada and in combatting its frequent marginalization in Canadian universities. A central figure in the early days of the Canadian Association of African Studies, founded in 1970-71, he became its President in 1986. In 1972 he became co-editor of the *Canadian Journal of African Studies* and would retain a life-long association with the journal. Throughout his career he mentored many emerging researchers in African history.

Myron's first book was *Colonial Conscripts: The Tirailleurs Sénégalais in French West Africa, 1857-1960* (Heinemann, 1991). Foregrounding the lived experience of African soldiers and making a seminal contribution to the social history of war, it won the Herskovits award of the Association of African Studies, as that year's best book in African studies. Myron also made major contributions to the social history of medicine. In *Black Death, White Medicine: Bubonic Plague and the Politics of Colonial Health, 1914-1945* (Heinemann, 2001), he explored the devastating interactions of colonialism and disease. In 2007, he published his important comparative study of the social impacts of plague, *Plague Ports: The Global Urban Impact of Bubonic Plague between 1894 and 1901* and in 2011, *Africa in the Time of Cholera: A History of Pandemics from 1917 to the Present*. All of Myron's work on the social history of medicine had much to say about how racism and economic inequality shaped the direction and impact of pandemics: lessons surely pertinent to our current circumstances. Myron's last book *Humboldt's Mexico: In the Footsteps of the Illustrious German Scientific Traveller* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2017) combined historical research with a guided tour of the places the German naturalist Alexander von Humboldt

visited in Mexico in the early 1800s, reflecting Myron's deep connection with Mexico. Myron also co-authored a history of the Echenberg family, over sixty of whom emigrated from Ostropol in what is now Ukraine, to Sherbrooke, Québec: *The Echenbergs of Sherbrooke and Ostropol: A Tale of Two Shetls*.

Myron was a very important figure at McGill, where he worked until his retirement as Emeritus Professor in 2008. He chaired the Department of History (now History and Classical Studies) from 1987 to 1990. A brilliant and beloved teacher, he influenced generations of undergraduate and graduate students. Myron contained multitudes: a keen sportsman who completed cross-country ski marathons in ten different countries; an enthusiast of the history of Québec's Jewish community; a lively raconteur. He will be remembered as a mentor, generous colleague and beloved friend. He leaves his wife Eva Neisser Echenberg, their children David and Margo, and the myriad people whose lives he touched.



Myron Echenberg and Eva Neisser Echenberg. Photo courtesy of Eva Neisser Echenberg.



## In Memoriam: Michael Maxwell

*Dr. Michael Perceval-Maxwell died on May 21, 2022. A member of the Department of History and Classical Studies since 1963, he had been an emeritus professor since 2001. He was a major and widely respected historian of seventeenth-century Ireland, known for his even-handedness, whose works included two indispensable books: The Scottish Migration to Ulster in the Reign of James I (1973; reissued 2021) and The Outbreak of the Irish Rebellion of 1641 (1994). He served as Chair of what was then the Department of History as well as two terms as Dean of Arts. He will be enormously missed by his wife Réjeanne, his sons Dylan and Shaun, his daughter-in-law Elsbeth Heaman of the Department of History and Classical Studies and many other family members, friends and colleagues. What follows is an excerpt from the eulogy given by his son Shaun Maxwell at the celebration of his life in Montreal:*

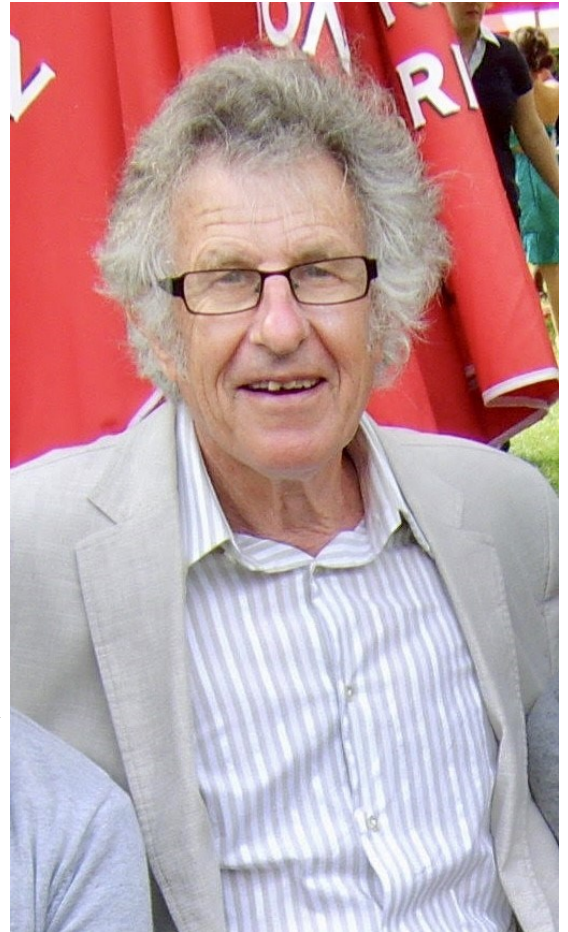
Michael was the youngest son of a large Anglo-Irish family. He grew up in big house, with hundreds of acres of farmland, servants, and a Rolls Royce. Much to his initial regret, at age 9, in 1942, he was sent to boarding school, and in 1946 he started at Eton, like his eldest brother Robin and his father Jock before him. When he graduated, Jock told him that having received the best education possible, he was now on his own. After refusing opportunities to help manage a cookie factory or study law he decided to become a farmer in the Canadian west, where the government offered cheap land. He trained in a variety of roles on the family farm and enrolled in a two-year agriculture program at Macdonald College in Montreal. In June of 1952, his mother Phoebe waved a tearful goodbye as he boarded the boat for Canada, with his tuition paid and twenty Canadian dollars in his pocket.

In the summers of '52 and '53 Michael worked on farms across the country, including time spent as a cowboy, corralling cattle from horseback out west. In his second year at the collage, he took a history course as an elective. Needless to say, he excelled. His teacher encouraged him to switch to history; further teachers encouraged him to do graduate work. While working on his doctorate he saw a beautiful Hungarian woman on the bus, carrying a pile of encyclopedias she was selling door to door, and gallantly offered to carry them. Maria and Michael were married in Caracas in 1961 and Dylan and I followed in '64 and '67. Now a young McGill professor, Michael became deeply involved in the anti-war movement. He helped found an activist group called Our Generation Against Nuclear War which organized Montreal's first large anti-war demonstrations. I vividly remember American draft doggers and AWOL soldiers that we used to host in our apartment until they found a place of their own.

[...] Even as he and Maria steered Dylan and I through adolescence and early adulthood, Michael was also serving as dean of arts and working on his second book, significant challenges in their own right. But without doubt, the two greatest challenges of his life were the last years of Maria's struggle with cancer and his own struggle with Parkinson's. Maria understandably chose to spend as long as possible in our family home, only going to the hospice for the last couple of weeks of her life. Michael had help, but caring for Maria, particularly towards the end, took its toll. I remember hearing Michael speak in ways I had never heard before, of how difficult he found the situation both before she passed and in the following months. He had a grim determination to carry on with the tasks at hand, but he suffered terribly.

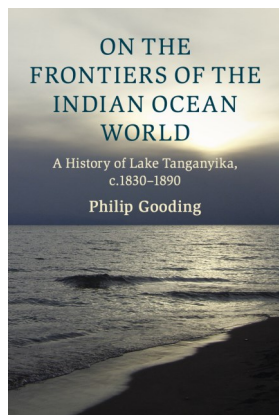
Fortunately, within the year, he started to reconnect with a circle of friends that included Réjeanne. Falling in love with her, and then being able to sell the old house and move in with Réjeanne and her children brought Michael from a dark time to one filled with light, music and joy. Michael grew particularly close to both Katia and Erica. They, along with Réjeanne, his retirement, and the arrival of his first grandchildren, Liam and Neela, and Réjeanne's grandchildren, made the late 1990s and 2000s some of the happiest years of his life.

[...] On April 15th, Dylan, Julie, Elsbeth and I took Michael out to Westmount Park and told him that a tumor in his liver was causing jaundice and that he would die as a result, in a matter of weeks, or months. His eyes moistened a little, and he told us how he had hoped to be able to enjoy some of the summer, but that he had had a very good life, and was prepared to say goodbye. His equanimity in the face of death, was one final example he gave to all of us of how to live one's life, and face its end. Michael Benjamin Perceval-Maxwell was a man of great integrity, wisdom, and kindness. He will be missed dearly by all who had the good fortune to know him.



Michael Maxwell in 2010. Photo courtesy of Shaun Maxwell.

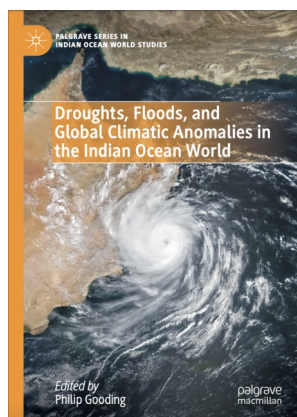
# NEW BOOKS



Philip Gooding, *On the Frontiers of the Indian Ocean World*

“This is the first interdisciplinary history of Lake Tanganyika and of eastern Africa's relationship with the wider Indian Ocean World during the nineteenth century[...] Gooding shows that Lake Tanganyika's shape, location, and distinctive lacustrine environment contributed to phenomena traditionally associated with the history of the wider Indian Ocean World being negotiated, contested, and re-imagined in particularly robust ways.”

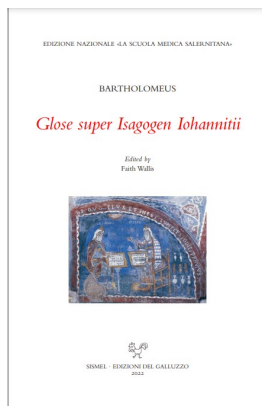
[More info](#)



Philip Gooding, ed., *Droughts, Floods, and Global Climatic Anomalies in the Indian Ocean World*

This book “explores the impact of climatic anomalies on human and environmental systems across the Indian Ocean World[,] traces the climate history of the macro-region from the twelfth to the early twentieth centuries[, and] provides historical case studies to contextualize the potential effects of global warming.”

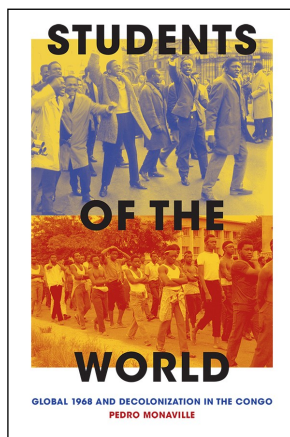
[More info](#)



Faith Wallis, ed., *Bartholomeus' Glose super Isagogen Iohannitii*

“The *Isagoge* is a beginner's key to the essential concepts of Galenism: it covers the body itself, its constituents, structures and functions; the relationship of the body to its changeable material environment; and the causes and symptoms of diseases [...] Bartholomeus' *Isagoge* commentary survives in *reportata* by his students, as well as in an incomplete revised edition prepared by the master himself.”

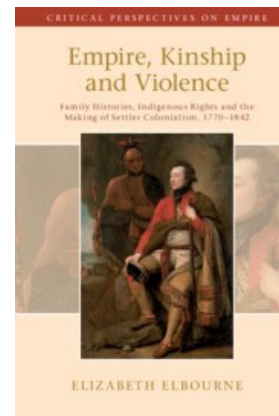
[More info](#)



Pedro Monaville, *Students of the World: Global 1968 and Decolonization in Congo*

“In *Students of the World*, Pedro Monaville traces a generation of Congolese student activists who refused to accept the foreclosure of the future Lumumba envisioned [...] He outlines a trajectory of radicalization in which gender constructions, cosmopolitan dispositions, and the influence of a dissident popular culture mattered as much as access to various networks of activism and revolutionary thinking.”

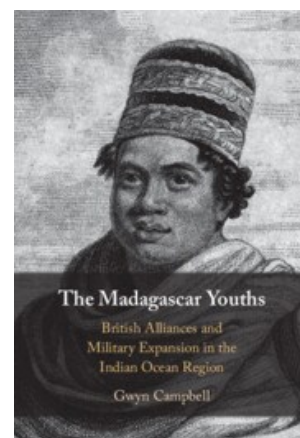
[More info](#)



Elizabeth Elbourne, *Empire, Kinship and Violence: Family Histories, Indigenous Rights and the Making of Settler Colonialism, 1770-1842*

“Empire, Kinship and Violence traces the history of three linked imperial families in Britain and across contested colonial borderlands from 1770 to 1842 [...] By recounting the conflicts that these interlinked families were involved in [Elbourne] tells a larger story about the development of British and American settler colonialism and the betrayal of Indigenous peoples.”

[More info](#)

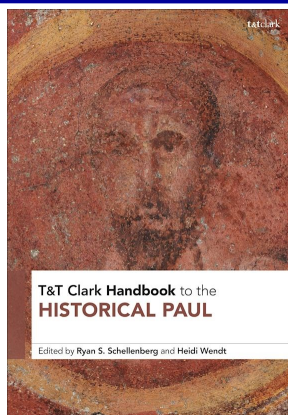


Gwyn Campbell, *The Madagascar Youths: British Alliances and Military Expansion in the Indian Ocean Region*

“In 1820, King Radama of Imerina, Madagascar signed a treaty allowing approximately one hundred young Malagasy to train abroad under official British supervision, the so-called 'Madagascar Youths'. In this lively and carefully researched book, Gwyn Campbell traces the Youths' untold history, from the signing of the treaty to their eventual recall to Madagascar.”

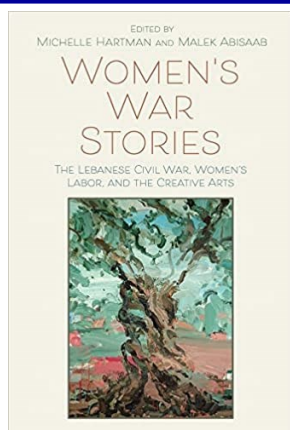
[More info](#)





Heidi Wendt and Ryan S. Schellenberg, eds., *T&T Clark Handbook to the Historical Paul*

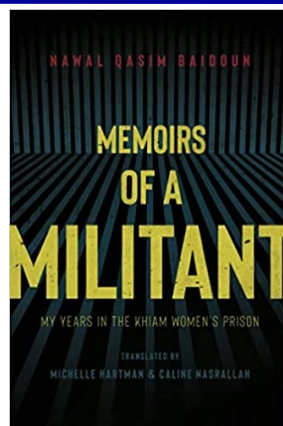
“The *T&T Clark Handbook to the Historical Paul* gathers leading voices on various aspects of Paul's biography into a thorough reconsideration of him as a historical figure [...] Through careful attention to biographical detail, social context, and historical method, it seeks to describe him as a contextually plausible social actor.”



Malek Abisaab and Michelle Hartman, eds., *Women's War Stories: The Lebanese Civil War, Women's Labor, and the Creative Arts*

“Developed out of a larger oral history project collecting and archiving the ways in which women narrated their experiences of the Lebanese Civil War, this book focuses on a wide range of subjects, all framed as women telling their ‘war stories.’”

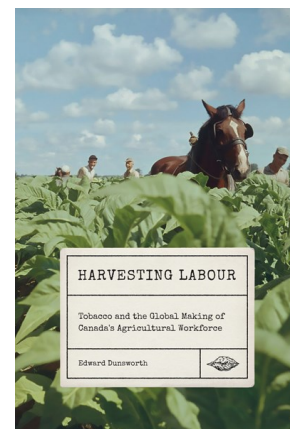
[More info](#)



Malek Abisaab, ed., Caline Nasrallah and Michelle Hartman, trans., Nawal Qasim Baidoun, *Memoirs of a Militant: My Years in the Khiam Women's Prison*

“Nawal Baidoun offers us her first-person account of the life of a young woman activist imprisoned for four years, as well as the events leading up to her arrest and detention.”

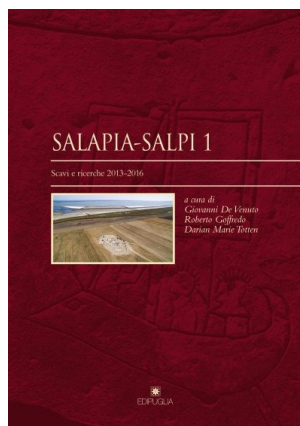
[More info](#)



Edward Dunsworth, *Harvesting Labour: Tobacco and the Global Making of Canada's Agricultural Workforce*

“In *Harvesting Labour* Edward Dunsworth examines the history of farm work in one of Canada's underrecognized but most important crop sectors - Ontario tobacco.”

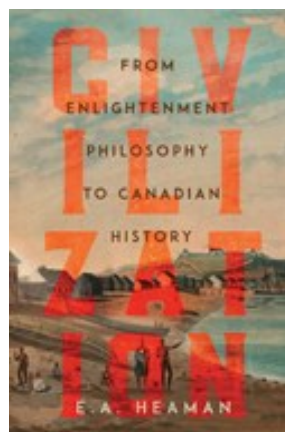
[More info](#)



Darian Marie Totten, Giovanni de Venuto, and Roberto Goffredo, eds., *SALAPIA-SALPI 1 Scavi e ricerche 2013-2016*

“The volume presents the results of the first four years (2013-2016) of investigations conducted on the southern shores of the wetland and the Trinitapoli-Margherita di Savoia salt pans, where it was already assumed that the structures of the Roman city of Salapia were buried for some time.”

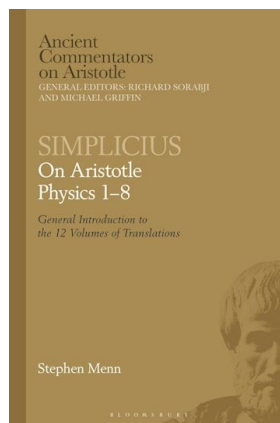
[More info](#)



E. A. Heaman, *Civilization: From Enlightenment Philosophy to Canadian History*

“E.A. Heaman shows that the view from colonial Canada matters for intellectual and political history. Canada posed serious challenges to the Scottish Enlightenment, the Pax Britannica, American manifest destiny, and the emerging model of the nation-state.”

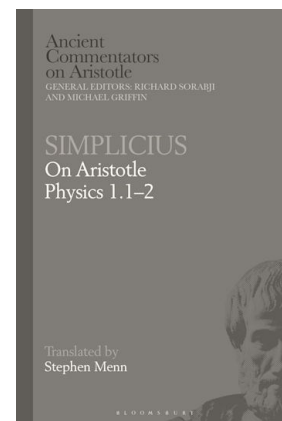
[More info](#)



Stephen Menn, trans. *Simplicius on Aristotle Physics 1-8*

“Supporting the twelve volumes of translation of Simplicius' great commentary on Aristotle's *Physics*, all published by Bloomsbury in the Ancient Commentators on Aristotle series, between 1992 and 2021, this volume presents a general introduction to the commentary.”

[More info](#)



Stephen Menn, trans. *Simplicius: On Aristotle Physics 1.1-2*

“With this translation, all 12 volumes of translation of Simplicius' commentary on Aristotle's *Physics* have been published. In *Physics 1.1-2*, Aristotle raises the question of the number and character of the first principles of nature and feels the need to oppose the challenge of the paradoxical Eleatic philosophers who had denied that there could be more than one unchanging thing.”

[More info](#)

# Halina Czarnocka (1900-1998): A Polish Life

By Susan Hook Czarnocki

*Susan Czarnocki has generously created the Halina Czarnocka graduate fellowship to support a student undertaking a PhD in European history in the Department of History and Classical Studies. Who was Halina Czarnocki? In this article, Susan Czarnocki tells the story of her mother-in-law Halina Czarnocka, whose turbulent life, almost exactly coinciding with the twentieth century as a whole, was interwoven with the complex tragedies of the Polish, Russian and Ukrainian past.*

In 1900, when my mother-in-law, Halina Czarnocka (née Karpowicz) was born, there were people all across Europe who dreamed, argued, wrote poetry, and published books in Polish – but Poland did not appear on any map as an independent state. By the end of the Napoleonic era, three empires, Austria-Hungary, Prussia and Tsarist Russia, had partitioned the entire territory of the Polish state among themselves. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were repeated attempts by Poles to resurrect it, all ending in failure. As the 20<sup>th</sup> century dawned, there was a questioning of the failed tactics – but the goal of ‘a free Poland’ was still the undying dream for many like Halina.

Halina was born into a gentry family. She spent her youth in Warsaw. Her father, Stanisław Karpowicz, was a significant figure in Polish pedagogy, developing his own model for expansive learning which often ran afoul of tsarist-imposed regulations. His creative energy, and his deep patriotism, made him a role-model for Halina. Her maternal grandfather, Juliusz Kruszewski, offered another model of opposition. He participated in the January Uprising of 1863 against Tsarist rule and was sent to Siberia, inspiring a strong patriotic tradition across generations of the family. Halina eagerly devoted her life to that tradition of resistance.

## The Revolution of 1905

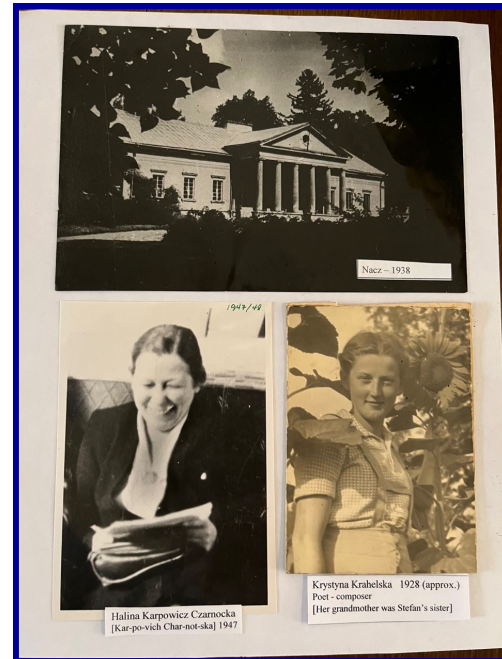
By the time of Halina’s birth, the failures of tsarist rule were increasingly obvious. Agriculatural crises, poverty, famine and strikes led to increasing discontent. Unrest in Moscow and St. Petersburg in January, 1905, rippled across the Empire, eventually forcing Nicolas II to sign a manifesto granting a fledgling parliament (Duma) and limited civic rights. A breach had been opened in the “impregnable fortress” of tsarist autocracy.

Halina, a five-year old in Warsaw at the time, later recollected hearing bombs go off, and being told that her own mother and several of her aunts and uncles had been arrested and jailed during this turbulent period.

## World War I and the Russian Revolution

Halina and her family were spending the summer in the countryside, when word of the outbreak of World War One reached them. Arrangements were made for Halina and her sister to attend school in rural Wolkowysk, rather than in Warsaw, until December, 1914. In 1916, the whole family moved to Moscow. Halina’s father was invited to coordinate curricula for teaching the children of Poles trapped in Moscow by the war.

One year into their stay in Moscow, Halina and her family found themselves in the midst of revolutionary turmoil. In February, 1917, failing food supplies brought calls for the Tsar’s resignation. On March 2, Nicolas abdicated. Ecstatic over the collapse of Tsarist autocracy, Halina’s class marched in street demonstrations with the Polish Socialist Party (PPS), which supported Polish autonomy. She had vivid memories of attending public meetings and hearing the oratory of leading political figures hoping to give direction to the political ferment. Movement toward representative governance was crushed when the Bolsheviks overthrew the Provisional Government in November (October 25 O.S.), 1917, and took the reins of power.



Extract from a family photograph album. Top: Nacz estate. Bottom left: Halina Czarnocka, 1947. Bottom right: Krystyna Krahelska, a great niece of Halina and Stefan, killed in the Warsaw Uprising. Courtesy of Susan Hook Czarnocki

After the coup, crowds choked the streets. The trams were packed. Halina often had to walk the 5 kms to her school. Hunger ruled. She would take a couple of raw potatoes and eat them on the way. In recollections taped many years later, Halina recounts that there was a ration of 1/8th pound of bread per day, resulting in “the daily decision: eat it all at once in the evening, eat it all at once in the morning – or divide it into thirds, to have the impression that you had something in your stomach throughout the day.” Schools did close, but only for a few days. Upon return to classes, Halina and other members of her eighth-grade class tried to forget their hunger by creating skits about their teachers. Not even a revolution could keep them from their year-end ‘szopka’ (spoof)!

The Bolsheviks pulled Russia out of the war with the signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1918. In May, 1918, Halina and her family were able to obtain papers that allowed them to return to Warsaw, through what had become a main battleground between the “Whites” and the “Reds” (pro- and anti-Bolshevik forces). When the White Army withdrew at the end of December, 1919, the Red army began pushing to overrun Poland and reach Germany, where the Bolsheviks expected revolution to break out at any moment.

In the Fall of 1918, Halina began studies at the Main School of Rural Economics (SGGW – *Szkoła Główna Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego*). Halina joined the throngs of students and youth supporting the Polish army and worked to organize nursing help for the front.

During the offensive of May 1920, Halina’s older brother, Waclaw, serving in the Polish Artillery, was killed. But an impressive victory



was eventually achieved by the Polish army, and a revised border for the second Polish republic was confirmed in 1921. It included territory that is today part of Ukraine and Belarus.

It was a stressful time for Halina. Her exams took place late in June, 1921. She passed 11 oral and written exams, while mourning the death of her father who had died the previous week, on June 16, and still grieving the death of her brother in 1920. The beginning of a happier future was however already under construction.

During her years as a student, she had made close friendships with distant cousins, Wanda and Zygmunt Czarnocky, who were also studying at SGGW. They introduced her to their brother, Stefan.

Halina and Stefan became constant companions. They pledged to marry once Halina finished her studies. They were married in 1922. They began married life renting a room at the home of one of Stefan's aunts in Warsaw. A short time later they moved to the Czarnocki estate, "Nacz", located near Baranowicze, now in Belarus. Stefan focused on modernizing Polish agricultural practices, giving talks and organizing courses on farming and orchard management. In 1925 he concluded his studies and received a diploma in agricultural engineering, also from the SGGW.



Map of Volhynia. Courtesy of Susan Hook Czarnocki.

The manor house at Nacz still stands. It was used as an outpost for German soldiers during WW2. After the war the orchards and fields became a state farm that produced apple cider, then vinegar, and is now derelict.

### Poland reborn confronts an impossible legacy

Governing the resurrected Republic was fraught. Along with four various legal systems, the Republic inherited six different currencies, three railway networks (with different track-widths), and three administrative and fiscal systems. The area had also been devastated by six years of war. From November 1918 to May 1926, no fewer than 14 different governments rose and fell.

Such was the reality facing the generation that was seeking to rebuild the newly independent Poland. Stefan's colleagues convinced him he needed a more powerful sphere of action than informal courses at Nacz for a few interested landowners. He accepted the challenge. In October 1926, he began training in the administrative offices in the *Powiat* of Kosów, now Kosova, Polisia, Belarus. In February 1927, he was appointed *starosta* (chief administrator) for that *powiat*. He and Halina stayed in Kosów for three years, starting their family there.

Halina arrived back in Kosów in February, 1928, having given birth

to Hanna in Warsaw, on January 11. After about six weeks rest, Halina became once again fully engaged in organizing local services. One of her major achievements was setting up and managing three maternity clinics in the area: one in Kosów, one in a nearby village, and one mobile unit that travelled around the region. In 1930, after serving three years in Kosów, Stefan was appointed *starosta* for the *powiat* of Krzemieniec (now Kremenets, Ukraine). In that same year, on November 17, Halina gave birth to her son Bohdan, my future husband.

Halina was asked to make a public presentation soon after her arrival and became quickly involved in local activities. She agreed to be the leader of the local chapter of the Women's Civic Labour Union (*Związek Pracy Obywatelskiej Kobiet*) which had recently been set up to encourage women to engage in public life. Halina helped organize a variety of projects involving educational and health (particularly women's) initiatives, and summer camps for children. These were carried out as much as possible in Ukrainian, which Halina understood well, although she did not speak it fluently.

In 1936 Stefan was appointed Director of the Krzemieniec Liceum, sometimes referred to as "the Volhynian Athens," which had been set up in 1805 by Tadeusz Czacki, but was closed after the November 1831 uprising against Tsarist rule. During the interwar period, from 1922 to 1939, it flourished again as a complex of secondary schools and colleges, teaching trades as well as standard educational subjects. Restoring *Liceum Krzemienieckie* to a place of regional prominence was another cherished goal.

### World War Two

On March 12, 1939, Nazi Germany moved troops into Czechoslovakia. The summer of 1939 was filled with negotiations aiming to shore up the Versailles Treaty, against Hitler's aggressive behavior. England went the furthest in stating it would guarantee Poland's security. No overall counter-weight to Hitler materialized, however. Instead Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia signed a non-aggression pact on August 23.

On September 1, 1939, Hitler invaded Poland from the west. Two weeks later, the Soviet Union invaded the eastern portion of the Polish Republic, which included Krzemieniec. Stefan was immediately arrested as a "counter-revolutionary" by the newly-arrived Soviet authorities, and sent to the local prison. Later, after a sham trial, he was sentenced to death for "treason". The sentence was commuted, and he was deported to a camp in the Urals.

In February 1940, Stefan sent Halina a *gryps* (smuggled note from prison), encouraging her to leave as soon as possible. He was signaling that further assistance to him was not worth the risk. Together with her two children, she fled from the Russian sector, crossing the line of demarcation between the two occupiers. They reached Warsaw, under Nazi occupation, six weeks later.

There, Halina found old friends and like-minded colleagues. She immediately engaged with them to help construct a local cell of the Union of Armed Struggle: *Związek Walki Zbrojnej* (ZWZ). The ZWZ later united with other underground groups around the country, to become the *Armia Krajowa* (AK), the Polish Home Army, the largest underground army in Nazi-occupied Europe. Halina was commissioned to train couriers for the Underground. After a year, she was ordered to report to General Tadeusz Pelczyński, Chief of Staff of the ZWZ. Halina, already a captain, became his Administrator-in-Chief.

On April 23, 1943, on her way to meet a contact, Halina was arrested on the street. She proclaimed her innocence. Despite her protestations, she was pushed into an Opel and taken straight to Gestapo

headquarters on Szucha Avenue. On the way, they grabbed and searched her handbag, somewhat cursorily. After being brutally interrogated, beaten and bruised, she was taken to the so-called “tram” where prisoners sat on benches one behind the other. While sitting there, bleeding and bruised, she realized she had coded information about entry to AK Headquarters in her pocket. She managed to sneak it into her mouth, chew it and, with great difficulty, swallow it.

Six days later, still at Gestapo HQ on Szucha, her handbag was returned. She was relieved to find they had not found her handwritten combative article concealed in a hidden compartment. Worried they might search the bag again and find it, she began groaning loudly, saying she needed to go to the toilet. Escorted by a guard, she continued to moan loudly to disguise the sound of tearing paper. She managed to flush it down the toilet.

Nazi officials in Warsaw did not realize that they had captured the person in charge of coordinating communications between units of the Home Army. She knew names, addresses and phone numbers, as well as the pseudonyms of those involved in many underground departments. From the moment she was captured, she pretended to be an unsophisticated peasant woman. She later mused that had her interrogators been Russian, they would likely have detected her ruse..

After a few weeks of incarceration at the notorious Pawiak prison in Warsaw, Halina was sent to Auschwitz, arriving on May 12, 1943.

Halina and her fellow prisoners would spend evenings telling each other their life stories. Halina had an excellent memory and she helped to keep up her fellow prisoners’ spirits up by reciting songs, plays, poetry. She also managed to write down some Polish classics on the paper sent in the parcels from her family. They could then be shared with others. What she records of her experience as a prisoner, in the tape-recordings, is her relentless use of her familial and cultural heritage as inspiration to survive.

On the January 15, 1945, the surviving prisoners capable of walking were force-marched from Auschwitz to the border with Germany, then crammed into open trains cars and taken to Buchenwald, and finally trucked to Bergen Belsen. The camp was liberated by British troops on May 5, 1945. One of the men there recognized Halina as one of the officers who had worked in the AK central office in Warsaw. She went immediately to see the Officer in charge. She explained that her daughter was in Niederlangen and received permission to see to her safety, traveling in the company of another officer.

Hanna barely recognised her mother, who barely recognized her. But they were both alive and together again. After a joyous reunion they traveled to Italy, where AK veterans were being registered at facilities located in Porto San Giorgio.

Halina then returned to Bergen Belsen to carry out her commission. She had been made a *komendantka kompanii zbiorczej*, i.e. in charge of traveling to camps in that part of Germany, to register women who had served in the AK. Hanna accompanied her on these visits.

Retrieving her son, Bohdan, would be more complicated. He had served as a courier during the Warsaw Rising (August 1-October 2, 1944), but at age 14, he was one year too young to qualify as an official member of the AK. He escaped from Warsaw during the round-up of civilians after the Uprising. By hiding during the day and following the train tracks at night, he avoided capture by German patrols. He reached his relatives in Lodz and attended the Salesian Boarding School there.

On her trip back from Italy, Halina learned about the Salesian Boarding School in Battersea, London. She arranged for them to admit Bohdan. Her sister, Wanda, arranged for false documents, and he left Communist Poland using an ID as a French Jew.

In a sad repeat of history, once again there was no independent Poland, to which those who had sacrificed so much could return. Recognizing Poland's independence as a major *causatus-belli*, England developed a re-settlement plan for surviving members of the AK and their families in England.



Bohdan Czarnocki, center, on the shoulders of his parents, Halina and Stefan. Courtesy of Susan Hook Czarnocki.

For a long time, Halina and her children had no news of Stefan, and for years they lived in hope that he would return from the Soviet Union. His story was eventually pieced together from eyewitness accounts. Stalin’s price for freeing thousands of Poles imprisoned in the Soviet Union was their formation into a Polish battalion to face Nazi bullets in the Anders’ Army. Stefan is reported to have perished in an accident at Urga, on the banks of the Aral Sea, in 1941, on his way to join this army.

The remainder of Halina’s long life was spent in Britain. She played a key role in establishing “The Polish Underground Movement (1938-1945) Study Trust” (Studium Polski Podziemnej) in 1947. She became its main archivist and editor. Under her supervision, 6 volumes of documents relating to the *Armia Krajowa* were published.

She was awarded the Silver Cross of the Virtuti Militari (1946) and the Commander’s Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta in 1986.

*Susan Hook Czarnocki holds a BA and MA in Russian History from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She also earned an MA in Sociology from McGill University in 1989. As she was completing her degree, she began to work with digital technology and data management. This turned into a position as an Electronic Data Specialist at the McGill Library, from which she retired in 2013. During her time at McGill, Susan was deeply involved in MUNASA’s (McGill University Non-Academic Staff Association) and MWAA’s (McGill Women’s Alumni Association) advocacy advocated for women’s and LGBTQ+ equity on campus. She is particularly proud of her work helping MWAA raise over \$150,000 (and counting) for a McGill Women’s Alumnae 130th Anniversary Scholarship, in addition to her support for the Halina Czarnocka fellowship.*



## Incoming Faculty

We are delighted to introduce our readers to our new colleague **Dr. Pedro Monaville**, who will be joining us as Associate Professor of African history in January 2023. He comes to McGill from NYU and NYU Abu Dhabi, where he has been an Assistant Professor of History since 2015. He has also held positions as a Research Fellow at the University of Michigan (2014-2015) and as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Williams College (2013-2014). He obtained his PhD in 2013 from the University of Michigan, winning the Arthur Fondiler Dissertation Award for Best Dissertation in the Department of History. He holds MA degrees from the European University Institute, Florence and from the Université Catholique de Louvain. He has also been an Invited Researcher at the Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin and a visiting scholar at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.



Professor Pedro Monaville

Pedro Monaville is a historian of modern Africa, focusing on the history of decolonization, state violence, youth activism, Congolese culture, and memory work. His recently published book, *Students of the World: Global 1968 and Decolonization in the Congo* (Duke University Press, 2022) takes up Patrice Lumumba's vow to move the country beyond its colonial past and his assassination shortly thereafter as crystallizing moments for a generation of Congolese student activists. Situating these movements within a broader context of Global 1968, Dr. Monaville argues that the cultural contexts of gender deconstructions, cosmopolitanism, and popular culture were as important as radical political networks in shaping student activism.

Dr. Monaville is currently working on a new book project, *The Bishop and the Colonel*, on the decolonization of the Catholic Church in the Congo and its political role under the dictatorship of General Mobutu. He is also working on two edited volumes, one on the work of Congolese street artist Papa Mfumu'eto and another bringing together an English translation of Congolese writer Yoka Lye Mudaba's *Kinshasa: Signes de Vie* with six responses. Dr. Monaville is also editing a special journal issue on the legacy of the late Congolese historian T. K. Biaya. He has a wide range of teaching expertise, from Black internationalism to "love in Africa" to the history of the Congo, which he is excited to share with McGill students.



Professor Melissa N. Shaw

The Department of History and Classical Studies is excited to welcome **Dr. Melissa N. Shaw** as an Assistant Professor of Canadian history specializing in Black Canadian/Black North American history. Dr. Shaw holds a PhD and an MA from Queen's University and a BA (Hons.) from the University of Toronto. Her 2021 PhD dissertation "Blackness and British 'Fair Play': Burgeoning Black Social Activism in Ontario and its Grassroots Responses to the Canadian Colour Line, 1919-1939" was awarded the 2020-2021 Queen's University Department of History PhD Dissertation Prize. It also received an Honourable Mention from the CHA's 2022 John Bullen Prize committee for the best dissertation in Canadian history. Her first monograph, tentatively entitled *Unblemished Citizenship: Black Canadian Women's Fight for Racial Justice*, analyses the understudied community-building activism of women who strategically used grassroots, national, continental, and global Black Diaspora networks to combat anti-Black racism and inculcate intra-racial solidarity and Black pride in Ontario.

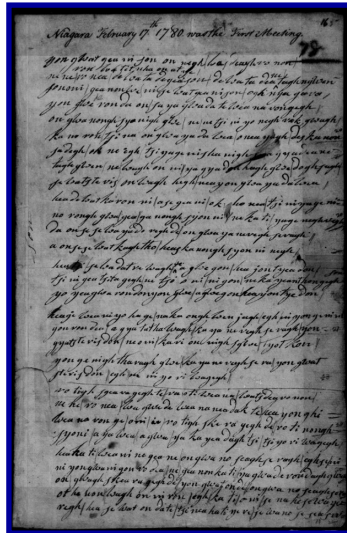
Dr. Shaw has published work in *Histoire sociale/ Social History* and Paul E. Lovejoy and Vanessa S. Oliveira's edited collection *Slavery, Memory Citizenship*. She is also a former book review editor for the African American Intellectual History Society's (AAIHS) award-winning blog *Black Perspectives*, the leading online platform for public scholarship on global Black thought, history, and culture. Her forthcoming writing will be featured in the *Journal of African American History* and the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*.

Having been appointed as a Provostial Research Scholar in Institutional Histories, Slavery and Colonialism from July 2020 to August 2022, Dr. Shaw is already a familiar face in the department. As a Research Scholar, she conducted archival work to assess how Blackness, Indigeneity, and whiteness informed McGill's development from the 1800s into the twentieth century. Her research will continue as a second monograph that explores Black slavery in Montreal, McGill's institutional history, and the role of historical contingency when dealing with weaponized racial identities. Dr. Shaw has also taught at Dalhousie University (2018-2020). This year she will be pioneering three new courses for McGill students: Race, Gender, and the Practice of Power; Black Canadian Women: Belonging and Liberation Politics; and Black Canadian History: Racial Slavery and Freedom-Making.

# SPOTLIGHT ON RECENT INITIATIVES

## Revitalizing Indigenous Languages and Knowledges

A crucial aspect of Indigenous resurgence is the revitalization of Indigenous languages and knowledges. Before the advent of Europeans, perhaps approximately 1000 different languages were spoken across the Americas, from multiple language families. Today, there has been a catastrophic loss of both the diversity of languages spoken and the number of mother-tongue speakers. In Canada, for example, an estimated 229,000 people speak an Indigenous language at home as a first or second language. Although some languages, such as Ojibwemowin, Eeyou (Cree), Inuktitut and Atikamekw, have large enough bases of mother-tongue speakers to be readily self-sustaining, most languages do not. Languages were lost not only through the long-term and multi-faceted impacts of English, French and Spanish colonialism, but also through the more targeted impact of residential schooling. Attendance at residential schools was mandated by the government for all Indigenous children from 1894 to 1947, even as the system of boarding schools aimed at assimilation



Minutes in Kanien'kéha (Mohawk) of a meeting during the American Revolution between Haudenosaunee delegates fighting on the American side and Haudenosaunee supporting the British at a refugee camp at Fort Niagara, February 17, 1780. Library and Archives Canada, Claus family fonds.

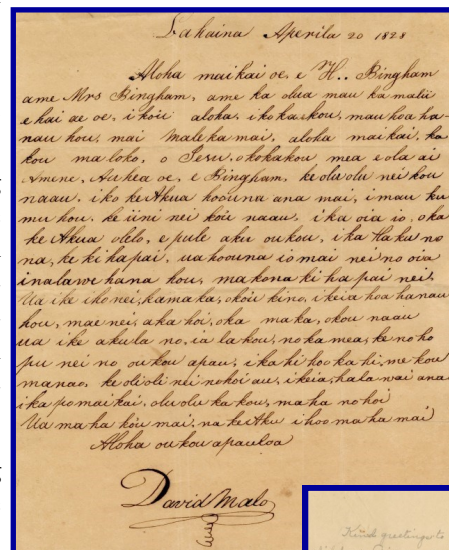
both preceded and followed this high point of coercion. Children in residential schools in Canada were prevented from living in their homes, in multi-generational households where they would learn their language, history and culture. In schools they were punished and prevented from speaking their mother tongues and learning proceeded only in colonial English or French languages. The result was a traumatic generation gap, as younger generations lost their ties to family and language. With the severing of children from language came also planned, catastrophic threats to the transmission of Indigenous forms of knowledge.

The project of language revitalization has grown in multiple places: from immersion movements in the Pacific with Maori and Hawaiian leading the way, and across the Americas in Cherokee, Lakota, Ojibwe, Wampanoag communities the desire and means to bring language home is increasing. A leading example near McGill is the revitalization of Kanien'kéha (Mohawk language) schooling in Kahnawà:ke, spear-headed by the creation of the Kahnawake Survival School in 1978 and continuing in widening form today. Former McGill History MA student Sandra-Lynn Leclaire is playing an important role in helping to develop Kanien'kéha-language curricula and teaching materials for her community.

The Department of History and Classical Studies has a humbling opportunity to play a role. Gerald Rimer and the Rimer family have made a tremendously generous donation of \$13 million to McGill, of which \$10 million will be put towards rebuilding the Leacock Building (principal home of the Department) and \$3 million towards creating an Institute for Indigenous Research and Knowledges. The IIRK will be housed in the remade building, to be renamed the Rimer Building in honour of Gerald and his late wife Judie. A central aim of the Institute will be to support language revitalization. To that end, the IIRK will include an Indigenous Language

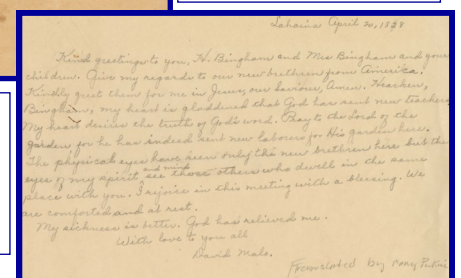
Reclamation and Revitalization Lab that will support Indigenous students, faculty and community members in the crucial project of preserving Indigenous languages and expanding their use. The creation of the IIRK Lab is being spearheaded by Dr. Noelani Arista of the Department of History and Classical Studies and brings together well-established scholars in the field of Indigenous Linguistics, Dr. James Crippen and Dr. Jessica Coon, as well as Indigenous Professors at McGill whose work engages Indigenous languages more broadly. Future plans include the pursuit of new technologies and tools to support community efforts in language reclamation, the hosting of on-site knowledge keepers, and events and symposia designed to support Indigenous research on language in its various contexts. Dr. Arista brings extensive experience in the revitalization of Hawaiian language to the project, including her work to preserve, translate and make accessible Hawaiian-language archives, to her community and the public.

Dr. Arista states “I am really excited. The language lab is going to bring together language reclamation, Indigenous communities and technology, in a way that doesn’t exist in any other program in Canada or the US to this point.” She also stresses the importance of placing language in context: “people tend to think of language reclamation as a linguistic project, but it is also about the wider historical and cultural context.”



Above: Letter in Hawaiian from Hawaiian historian David Malo. Malo, Davida, “HMCSL-HEA-Archive-Malo, Davida.” Hawaiian Mission Houses Digital Archive.

Below: Translation of David Malo's letter by Mary Kawna Pukui, a Hawaiian scholar who wrote many books about Hawaiian knowledge.





## Prize for Hellenic Studies

By Professor Anastassios Anastassiadis

On April 2022, McGill University signed a gift agreement with the Mount-Royal Chapter of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) for the establishment of a Prize for Hellenic Studies at McGill.

Starting in 2023, the Prize, which carries a nominal value of \$1,000, will be awarded annually by the Faculty of Arts upon the recommendation of the Phrixos Papachristidis Chair in Modern Greek and Greek-Canadian Studies to one undergraduate student who has demonstrated academic excellence in Hellenic studies.

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (usually referred to as the Order of AHEPA) is a non-governmental organization founded by immigrants to the USA on July 26, 1922, in Atlanta, Georgia. It aimed to fight for civil rights and against discrimination, bigotry, and hatred felt at the hands of the Ku Klux Klan. It has since become the largest and oldest grassroots diaspora association of Hellenic/Greek heritage with more than 400 chapters across the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe.



Professor Tassos Anastassiadis

We are very grateful for this gift, which will encourage our students, stimulate the already thriving study of Hellenic history and culture in the ancient and modern worlds within our Department, and reinforce its connection to its enviroing community.

*Tassos Anastassiadis is an Associate Professor of History and the Phrixos Papachristidis Chair in Modern Greek Studies. He came to McGill in 2011 and teaches modern European history, Greek history, and historical practices and methods. His most recent book, La réforme orthodoxe: Église, État et société en Grèce à l'époque de la confessionnalisation post-ottomane (1833-1940), won the FRQSC's June 2022 Prix Louise-Dandurand.*

## Telling the stories of migrant and racialized communities

By Professor Edward Dunsworth



Prof. Edward Dunsworth, in partnership with Activehistory.ca, HistoireEngagée.ca, and the Asian Canadian and Asian Migration Studies Program at the University of British Columbia, has been awarded a Canada History Fund grant of \$99,958 to create two digital exhibits.

The first, curated by Dunsworth, will document death, injury, and illness among migrant farm workers in Canada. The dangers of migrant farm labour sprang to national attention during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, when thousands of migrant workers (who are typically housed in cramped, often abject, quarters) contracted the virus and three died. Horrific though the situation was, it was far from unprecedented: farm labour has long been one of the most dangerous occupations in Canada, and mi-

grants face even greater risks. Through archival research, oral history, and digital mapping, this exhibit will tell a longer story about the human cost of Canadian-grown food.

The second exhibit, curated by former McGill professor Laura Madokoro, professor at Carleton University and editor at Activehistory.ca, will explore the lived experiences of diverse Asian communities in Canada using material objects, memories, and community member testimonies. Also inspired in part by the COVID-19 pandemic, when racist abuse against Asian-Canadians soared, the exhibit aims to shift the narrative beyond the conventional focus on exclusion/racism and resistance – which can often reinforce racialization – to instead consider the rich, complicated, multi-faceted lives of Asian Canadians.

By exploring the pasts of migrant and immigrant communities whose stories are often left out of – or flattened by – conventional narratives, this project will create a powerful resource for students, educators, and the wider public, enabling them to gain a deeper and more complex understanding of the histories of migrant and racialized communities in Canada.

*Edward Dunsworth is a historian of labour and migration, with a particular interest in public history. He came to McGill in 2020 and teaches Canadian and world history. His first book, Harvesting Labour: Tobacco and the Global Making of Canada's Agricultural Workforce, has just been published by McGill-Queen's University Press.*



# History Students Association

The History Students' Association (HSA) had a very successful 2021-2022 school year. Along with the CSA, the HSA co-hosted the annual "Haunted Histories" Halloween lecture. The HSA invited Professor Brahm Kleinman to discuss lycanthropy in Antiquity and Iwa Nawrocki to lecture on "Modern Latin America and Zombies." In November, the HSA organized a well-attended hybrid discussion with 2020 Cundill Prize winner Camilla Townsend. In the winter semester, the HSA set about publishing a new volume of its undergraduate journal, *Historical Discourses*, hiring an editor-in-chief and calling for paper submissions. In February, the HSA once again teamed up with the CSA to host "Love in the Time of", its 2022 Valentine's Day lecture. This event featured a talk from Professor Brian Lewis on the gay English novelist E. M. Forster as well as a presentation by Dr. Natalie Cornett on love as a theme in the prison diaries of Rosa Luxemburg. The HSA maintained a sense of community despite the obstacles of the pandemic by offering events such as its Research Brunches and Trivia Night online.



The 2021-2022 HSA Executive.

Back row, L-R: Julian Miller (VP Academic), Lis Riveros (VP Communication), Reagan Coles (VP Internal)

Front row, L-R: Selena Cai (VP Events), Annie Costello (VP Finance), Shannon Stemper (President)

## History and Classics Graduate Students' Association

By Briar Bennett-Flammer

For the History & Classical Studies grad students, as for most people in the McGill community, the 2021-2022 year was another spent navigating all the trials and tribulations of life in a COVID-riddled world. But while the pandemic continued to fill our routines with uncertainty, the HCGSA remained committed to adapting to the ever-changing circumstances to facilitate as much activity for our grad students as possible - physically together when possible, and connected virtually when not.

This year we were lucky enough to be able to come together in person three times for our Topics on Tap series, where Hannah Sparwasser Soroka ("New Englanders and Ancient Israelites: Thomas Thorowgood on the Cannibal Lost Tribes"), Jeffrey Kastner ("Getting Lit Up for the Holidays: The Persistence of the Temperance Movements in NDG"), and Anthony Pannunzio ("Mafia Montreal: Recounting the Tales of Organized Crime and the Cosa Nostra") each presented on a striking piece of history to set the stage for a vibrant night of discussion and graduate student camaraderie.



Event poster for Hannah Sparwasser Soroka's Topics on Tap talk

When it was not possible to congregate face to face, however, we were able to use our ever-increasing skills with the zoom meeting platform to facilitate online events. Sonya Pihura hosted the annual Cundill Fringe, which this year took its form as a spirited virtual debate in which Ciel Haviland, Nathan Ince, and Esther Guillen each read and defended one of the history books nominated for the Cundill Prize: Rebecca Clifford's *Survivors: Children's Lives after the Holocaust*, Marjoleine Kars' *Blood on the River: A Chronicle of Mutiny and Freedom on the Wild Coast*, and Marie Favereau's *The Horde: How the Mongols Changed the World*. The discourse proved to be a thoughtful platform for students to explore very relevant questions to our own works as young scholars - what makes a history insightful, accessible, creative, or poignant?

Despite the success of such virtual events, many of us, both student and professor, have been struggling with "zoom fatigue" and the difficulties of living through our screens - but there were some silver linings to these web formats. This year's McGill-Queen's Graduate Conference in History, "Transmission: From Synapse to Society", was held virtually and saw record attendance. The accessibility granted by the online format allowed not only graduate students from seven Canadian universities to come together to share their research, but also their colleagues, friends, and family to join in the conversations. Through six thematic panels ranging from religion, materiality, and identity we explored the connections that make or break the movements of peoples, materials, and ideas. This was all topped off with two excellent keynote talks; Dr. Kyle Harper of Oklahoma University gave a pertinent presentation on disease networks, while McGill's own Dr. Edward Dunsworth spoke on the history of migrant farm labour in Canada. A special thanks to our conference chairs, Dr. Anastasiadis, Dr. Cowan, Dr. Elbourne, Dr. Heaman, Dr. Lewis, and Dr. Nerbas for facilitating the panels and their discussions!

A further heartfelt thanks to all the HCGSA members who worked so hard this year to foster a sense of community under often difficult circumstances: Riley Wallace (Communications Director), Jeffrey Kastner (Finance Director), Kevin Galarneau (External Director & McGill-Queen's Chair), Julia Zucchetti (McGill-Queen's Chair & Administrator), Jean-Philip Mathieu & Komol Mohite (AGSEM Representatives), Josie Hirsch & Raphaela van Oers (Events Directors), and Hannah Sparwasser Soroka (Events Liaison).



# Classics Student Association Report

By Taryn Power

My time as CSA president for the past two years has taught me to expect the unexpected, and this year was certainly no exception. It was a rollercoaster of changing rules and uncertainty, but all-in-all, saw a slow return to normal in the close-knit McGill Classics community and to many of the traditions that make it special. None of this could have been accomplished without my dedicated team of executives and members-at-large, whom I can't thank enough for their help.

We started the year off with the return of our beloved BYOBachae event. Meeting at the top of Mont Royal, we read together a Greek play of our choosing. This year, it was Sophocles' Oedipus Rex, and the tragedy brought out many great performances from our Classics Students. Next came another traditional event: in tandem with the HSA, we put on our "Haunted Histories" Halloween lecture series via Zoom on October 28. This year, to explore the horror-esque aspects of Classics, Professor Lynn Kozak spoke on "Ancient Greek Gorehounds," while MA student Tom Giles gave a talk entitled "Carpe noctis: Lieux de memoire in W.G. Sebald's Campo Santo and Lucan's Civil War." First semester ended and second semester began a lot slower, with the uncertain COVID situation at this time causing many events to be rescheduled to keep everyone safe, but we returned in February with an online Trivia Night, an opportunity for us to flex our Classics knowledge in lively but friendly competition. On February 10, we put on another online edition of the "Love in the Time Of..." Valentine's Day Lecture Series, in collaboration with the HSA. For this event, the CSA was delighted to have Dr. Darian Totten, who spoke on "The Lovers of Modena," and grad student Sam Gleave Riemann, who reflected on Sappho and different aspects of love.

Next up, from March 16 - 18 was the 14th edition of our Inter-University Colloquium, which this year had a couple of very exciting developments. First, we were happy to have the University of Laval join McGill, Concordia, and the Université de Montréal in this event for the first time this year. Second, this year saw a return to a mostly in-person colloquium, with a hybrid keynote and live student talks. The keynote was given by McGill's own Pierre-Luc Brisson, who spoke on "Rome and the Seleucid Empire on the Eve of the Syrian War (192 - 188 BCE): A Study in Cold War." Student

talks ranged in topic from discussions of ancient medicine and love magic to a reflection on methods of queer Classical reception. We closed out the three-day event with a panel discussion on the role of Ancient language learning in the study of Classics.

At the end of March, I was lucky enough to help another McGill Classics tradition make a come-back as one of the two directors of this year's McGill Classics play. My co-director, McGill alum Keisuke Nakajima, and I translated and adapted Ovid's *Metamorphoses* for the stage, with original music by McGill Music student, Troy Lebane. The play finds Ovid, exiled to Pontus for writing about illicit love, visited by the god Amor, who is intent on making the poet remember his love of poetry by putting on a greatest-hits selection of the love stories from the *Metamorphoses*. The show ran for four nearly-sold-out shows at Theatre Sainte Catherine, thanks in

huge part to a wonderful and enthusiastic cast. We also were lucky enough to have Professor Jennifer Ingleheart (Durham University) give a talk on Ovid, the nature of love, and queer receptions as a companion to the play.

Finally, I would also like to congratulate the teams responsible for our two undergraduate journals, *Volare* and *Hirundo*, both of which had another successful year. Our creative journal, *Volare*, in collaboration with the Classics Play, put out a double issue on the theme of *Metamorphoses*. Under the direction of editor-in-chief, Rebecca Toropov, this volume was a beautiful collection of art, poetry, prose, and – of course – the requisite collection of Classics memes. *Hirundo* editor-in-chief, Cindy Zeng, and her team put together an impressive collection of undergraduate research



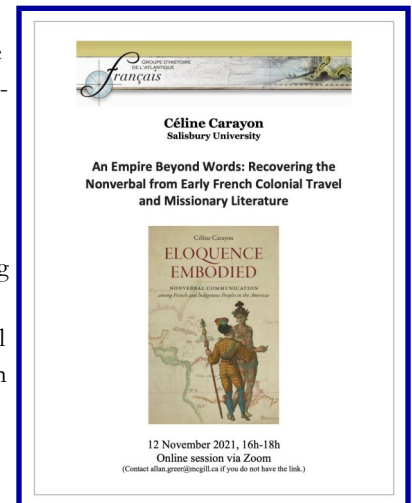
A still image from this year's Classics play, "Ovid's Metamorphoses".

which shows off the abilities of our Classics students. Both journals launched at our semester-closing event – a "Wine" and Cheese reception held on April 10th. For his immense support in planning this event, as well as his work and generosity throughout this entire year, the CSA would like to especially thank our director, Professor Tassos Anastassiadis.

As this year closes, so too does my time as CSA president, but I am beyond excited to see what the incoming CSA executive team does in the year to come. I'm certain that they, under the direction of the incoming president, Audrey Michel, will ensure the year to come is filled with more exciting Classics events and community building.

## Department Events 2021-2022: A challenging but exciting year

Despite the continuing challenges of covid, the 2021-22 academic year a return in force of conferences and speaker series around the department, whether in person, on-line or hybrid. In March, the History and Classical Studies Graduate Student Association hosted a renewed iteration of the McGill-Queens Graduate Conference. The Indian Ocean World Centre, a major research centre associated with the Department, held a conference from 25-27 May 2022 on “Adaption and Resilience to climatic and environmental changes in the Indian Ocean World, past to present”, as well as running a summer school workshop on “Appraising risk”, returning to an in-person seminar series, and continuing to develop its podcast series, which is hosted by IOWC postdoctoral researchers Philip Gooding and Julie Babin. The Yan P. Lin Centre for the Study of Freedom and Global Orders in the Ancient and Modern Worlds includes two vibrant research groups in the Department of History and Classical Studies on “Global Antiquities” and on “Transitions and Global Modernities”, chaired respectively in 2021-22 by Griet Vankeerberghen and by Lorenz Lüthi and Tassos Anastassiadis. Both hosted a number of talks over the year, including an innovative collaboration between classicists and the Global Antiquities group to consider the history of slavery in the ancient world in comparative context through a series of targeted talks. The centre’s annual lecture was given by Professor Rana Mitter (Oxford) on “Internationalism, identity, and ideology in the shaping of postwar China, and the legacy for today”, April 7, 2022. Also in April, Brian Lewis and Don Nerbas organized an important workshop on “McGill in the world”, exploring McGill’s past, including issues around colonialism, enslavement and relationships with Indigenous groups and individuals, in the context of McGill bicentennial. The Montreal British History Seminar, co-chaired by Brian Lewis and Elizabeth Elbourne, opted to remain on-line, taking advantage of the new format to develop public lectures held in collaboration with the North East Conference of British Studies. Postdoctoral fellow in Classical Studies Pierre-Luc Brisson organized a series of on-line lectures in the Fall term inspired by the work of Arthur M. Eckstein, *Mediterranean anarchy: Interstate war and the rise of Rome*. A highly informative workshop was held on September 30 on “Curricular Sovereignty: Atikamekw and Mohawk Experiences”. Le groupe de recherche en histoire de sociabilités hosted a conference on “Emotions and the City: Urban Sociability in Britain and France” at McGill, June 16-17, co-organized by the department’s Brian Cowan. The Groupe d’histoire de Montréal/ Montreal History Group held its annual colloquium May 5-7 in honour of our deeply missed colleague Jarrett Rudy, including a memorial round-table.



Poster advertising a Groupe d’histoire de l’atlantique française event.

## Department Events 2022-2023: A taste of things to come!

**Indian Ocean World Centre**  
Indian Ocean World Podcast

**Fall Speaker Series**

Dr. Anna Winterbottom + Prof. Victoria Dickerson - McGill University  
Sept 21 - Podcast

Dr. Manikamika Dutta - Oxford University  
Sept 28 - Podcast

Dr. Harriet Mercer - Cambridge University  
Oct 5 - Podcast

Prof. Andrew Ivasaka - Concordia University  
Title TBD  
Oct 12 - Rm 116, Peterson Hall, 5:00-6:30

Prof. Franziska Fay - Institut für Ethnologie und Afrikastudien  
Oct 19 - Podcast

Prof. Sugata Ray - University of California, Berkeley  
Oct 26 - Podcast

Dr. Julia Jong Haines - Cornell University  
Nov 2 - Podcast

Prof. Leslie Orr - Concordia University  
“Slavery and Dependency in Southern India”  
Nov 9 - Rm 116, Peterson Hall, 5:00-6:30

Prof. Alice Covatta - Université de Montréal  
“Tokyo Perspectives: A Neighbourhood in a Building”  
Nov 23 - Rm 116, Peterson Hall, 5:00-6:30

Subscribe to the  
Indian Ocean World Podcast  
on Apple Podcasts or Spotify

General Inquiries  
www.indianoceanworldcentre.com  
iowc@mcgill.ca

**IOWC** **McGill**

The Indian Ocean World Centre is pleased to announce its Fall 2022 Speaker Series schedule. In person talks, followed by a reception, will be held on Wednesdays in Peterson 116 from 5:00-6:30 pm.

In addition, new episodes of the Indian Ocean World Podcast will be released on Wednesdays when the Speaker Series is not taking place.

Find the podcast at <https://www.appraisingrisk.com/podcast/> or wherever you get your podcasts.

**The Concept of ‘Race’ and Medieval Africa**

THE GLOBAL ANTIQUITIES 2022 OUTREACH LECTURE  
by  
**Prof. Michael A. Gomez (NYU)**

October 17, 5 p.m.  
Faculty Club, Ballroom  
3450 McTavish Street,  
Montreal  
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

For more information go to:  
<https://www.mcgill.ca/lin-centre/>

**McGill** **Yan P. Lin Centre for the Study of Freedom and Global Orders in the Ancient and Modern Worlds**

The Yan P. Lin Centre for the Study of Freedom and Global Orders in the Ancient and Modern Worlds’ 2022 Global Antiquities Outreach Lecture will be given by Michael A. Gomez (NYU). The talk is entitled “The Concept of ‘Race’ and Medieval West Africa.” Please join the Yan P. Lin Centre on **Monday, October 17 at 5pm at the Faculty Club Ballroom (3450 McTavish)**. The lecture will be followed by a reception.

For more information, please see this link: [www.mcgill.ca/lin-centre/](https://www.mcgill.ca/lin-centre/)



# Congratulations to our new Ph.D.s!

**Ian Beattie:** “Taming modernity: The rise of the modern state in early industrial Manchester”

Supervisor: Brian D. A. Lewis

**Nathan Ince:** “An empire within an empire: the upper Canadian Indian department, 1796-1845”

Supervisor: Allan Greer

**Rebekah McCallum:** “The Business of Tea: British tea companies and plantation labor law in India, 1901-1951 (with special emphasis on James Finlay & Co.)”

Supervisor: Gwyn Campbell

**Shawn McCutcheon:** “Honnêtes hommes et gentilshommes : L'éducation classique des garçons et la formation du soi masculin au Bas-Canada à l'âge des révolutions (1791-1840)”

Supervisor: Elsbeth Anne Heaman

**Carleigh Nicholls:** “The Scottish inquisition?: Perceptions of authority and the law in late restoration Scotland”

Supervisor: Brian Cowan



L to R: Dr. McCutcheon, Dr. Nicholls, Dr. McCallum, Dr. Beattie, and Dr. Ince

## Celebrating Graduations and Retirements

This May, the Department of History and Classical Studies hosted a dinner to honour the accomplishments of recently-retired colleagues and newly-graduated PhD candidates.



Mitali Das, Graduate Studies Coordinator (retired, 2020)



Dr. Ian Beattie (Ph.D. 2022) and Dr. Kristen Howard (our new Liaison Librarian)



Professor Faith Wallis (retired, 2022)



Undergraduate students celebrating their graduation

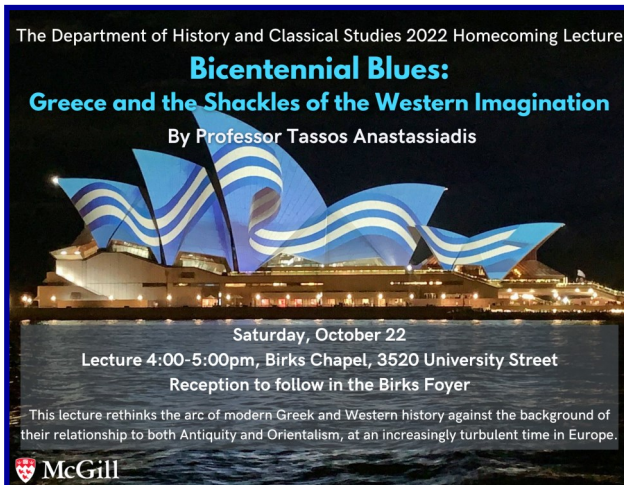
The Department also hosted a reception celebrating all its new graduates after this year's convocation ceremony.



Undergraduate Program Director Professor Heidi Wendt

## Homecoming Lecture, 2022

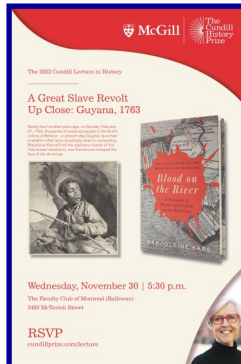
2021 marked the bicentennial of the Greek revolution, aka the Greek war of Independence from the Ottoman empire. What started as one more doomed-to-fail liberal-national revolt during the wave of revolutions that swept early nineteenth-century Europe, evolved progressively into a watershed event that would both redefine the international status quo and engender a new country situated at the cultural crossroads of the Eastern Mediterranean. Such a turn of events would have been implausible, had it not been for the position ancient Greece was increasingly occupied in the historical imaginary of the West as both its civilizational origin and borderland, which helped ensure support for the Greek cause. Both Greece and the West were tied by the shackles of Antiquity. Over the next two hundred years, they would often have to interrogate this relationship, sometimes with tragic results as in the aftermath of World War One. Was Greece in the West, the East, or was it a place in-between? A cultural mediator, a geographical borderland or a convenient, but sometimes unruly, placeholder? This lecture rethinks the arc of modern Greek and Western history against the background of their relationship to both Antiquity and Orientalism, at a time of resurging agitation in Europe's East End.



Join the Department of History and Classical Studies for Professor Tassos Anastassiadis's Homecoming lecture "Bicentennial Blues: Greece and the Shackles of the Western Imagination" on Saturday, October 2022 at 4pm in the Birks Chapel (3520 University). Reception to follow in the Birks Foyer.

RSVP here: <http://www.alumni.mcgill.ca/events/HCSHomecoming2022>

## Cundill Lecture



The 2022 Cundill Lecture will be given by Professor Marjoleine Kars (History, MIT) on Wednesday, November 30 at 5:30pm at the Faculty Club (3450 McTavish), with a cocktail reception to follow.

**Marjoleine Kars**, winner of the 2021 Cundill History Prize, will deliver a lecture titled "A Great Slave Revolt Up Close: Guyana, 1763." Nearly two hundred years ago, on Sunday, February 27, 1763, thousands of enslaved people in the Dutch colony of Berbice - in present-day Guyana- launched a rebellion that came amazingly close to succeeding. Marjoleine Kars will tell the explosive history of this little-known revolution, one that almost changed the face of the Americas.

RSVP here: <https://www.cundillprize.com/the-cundill-lecture/2022>

The winner of the 2022 Cundill History Prize will be announced at the annual Cundill Gala on Thursday, December 1, 2022.

## Graduate Excellence Fund

The **Graduate Excellence Fund of the Department of History and Classical Studies** was created through a generous gift from Dr. Faith Wallis, recently retired as professor of medieval history in the Department of History and Classical Studies, and her husband Kendall Wallis, a much-esteemed reference librarian at the McLennan Library before his own retirement. This fund will be the beneficiary of Faith and Kendall's life insurance policy, ultimately leaving a remarkable legacy for our students. The Department is currently seeking to raise \$25,000 over the next five years, adding to funds being given annually by Faith and Kendall. This will enable the fund to be endowed, producing annual grants to our MA and PhD students. The fund will provide early career scholars with financial support for research travel, training, and professional development, including language training, internships and conference attendance. The fund also gives support to students in the final stretch of their theses, when other funds are low. This is a crucial investment in generating new knowledge and training the next generation of historians. If you would like to contribute, we would be deeply grateful. We also welcome gifts to the **Carman Miller Fund**, which supports public lectures, seminars and other departmental events or the **Thomas Brydon and Laura Nagy Fund** which supports travel opportunities for students at all levels, including undergraduates. Please donate via the button (for digital readers) or contact development officer Alysha Anderson at [alysha.anderson@mcgill.ca](mailto:alysha.anderson@mcgill.ca).

