

NEWS



of the History Department at Boston University

March 2009



Deeana Klepper

Introduction to New Faculty

Department officially welcomes new medievalist—who can cook!

BY DEEANA KLEPPER
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AND HISTORY

Many thanks to Jim Dutton for this opportunity to introduce myself. Although I am newly appointed to the Department of History, I am not new to Boston University; I have been working with his-

tory majors and graduate students since I came to the Department of Religion at BU in the fall of 2000. My PhD is in medieval European history (Northwestern University); I was hired in the religion department at BU when they were looking for someone who worked on medieval Christianity in relationship with either Judaism or Islam. Since my research focuses on medieval European Christian-Jewish encounter, it was a good fit. A number of my courses are cross-listed in history and I also work on an individual basis with both undergraduates and graduate students. My connections with history faculty and students have been extremely important to me, as I've always felt just a bit displaced with an appointment outside my home discipline, and I am very happy to now formalize my relationship with the history department through this joint appointment.

My first book, *The Insight of Unbelievers: Nicholas of Lyra and Christian Reading of Jewish Text in the Later Middle Ages*, explores the complicated and contradictory attitudes toward Jews and Jewish tradition held by a variety of thirteenth- and fourteenth-century Christian scholars and shows how Nicholas of Lyra, a Franciscan Hebraist and Bible commentator, came to serve as a mediator of Hebrew traditions for Christian Europe during a time when Jews were being pushed farther to the margins of European society. I am currently at work on a second book project, *Banishing Hagar: Medieval Christian Conceptualizations of Jewish Expul-*

in brief

EVENTS OF NOTE!



Professor **Betty Anderson** had a chapter entitled "Making Men: Proselytizing at the Syrian Protestant College" published in *Liberty and Justice: America and the Middle East*, Patrick McGreevy, ed. (American University of Beirut).

Professor **Eugenio Menegon** was recently selected as one of two BU faculty who will travel this summer to Beijing as scholar in residence at the Institute of History of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, as part of a new BU-CASS exchange. During his stay he will continue research on his new project on imperial court life in eighteenth-century Beijing. Professor Menegon, together with colleagues in History (**Suzanne O'Brien**), Modern Languages and Comparative Literature (Cathy Yeh and Keith Vincent), Anthropology (Rob Weller and Corky White), and Religion (Frank Korom), also successfully coordinated the application for a one-year Humanities Foundation grant on the topic "Leisure and Social Change across Asia," which will begin in September (including presentations, invited lecturers, and discussion meetings, with a final conference-workshop in collaboration with scholars in the

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American political history conference to be held on campus in March

The annual conference on American political history, held in a three-year cycle at Boston University, Cambridge University, and Princeton University, takes place this year at BU, with American liberalism as its focus. The purpose of this conference is to challenge contemporary US political historiography and to offer a new, revised history of postwar American politics. It aims to rehabilitate the history of liberal “public” politics and the politicians that practiced it, to reassess their victories and defeats, their intellectual development, and the relevance of their experiences for 21st-century politics. Conference organizer Bruce Schulman states: “The conference aims to restore balance and nuance to political historiography by re-evaluating the strength of liberal and progressive postwar movements. It plans to give a voice to activists and historical actors excluded from contemporary historiography by their association with liberal causes. Since 1945 liberals have dramatically changed American society, economy, and politics. They have secured significant legislative achievements such as Medicaid, the Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts, federal aid to education, and environmental protection, as well as the maintenance and expansion of Social Security. Seismic shifts in attitudes towards reproductive rights, racial discrimination, and sexual identity have been driven by powerful new social protest movements that have carved out a permanent place in the American cultural landscape. Moreover, the continued bifurcation of the legislative and executive suggests Americans are unwilling to commit themselves to either a conservative or liberal ascendancy. The election results of 2006 imply that liberalism remains a potent force in US politics. The time is ripe for a rehabilitation of the postwar liberal movement, an exploration of its strengths and weaknesses and what they tell us about the American voter. This conference seeks not to repudiate current trends in historiography, but to re-evaluate and temper them in order to produce a more nuanced and well-rounded understanding of postwar US politics.”

RETHINKING AMERICAN LIBERALISM: PROGRESSIVE POLITICS AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE

THE FOURTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN AMERICAN POLITICAL HISTORY

Boston University Castle, 225 Bay State Road
March 19-20, 2009

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

1:00 p.m.: INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome by Boston University Provost David Campbell
Introductory remarks by Tony Badger, Bruce Schulman, and Julian Zelizer

1:15-3:00 p.m.: SESSION 1

Moderator: Bruce Schulman, Boston University

“A Faded Passion?: Antimonopoly Politics in the Twentieth-Century United States”

Daniel Scroop, University of Sussex

“Expatriate Paris Reconsidered: Experiments in Leftist Internationalism”

Brooke Blower, Boston University

“Partners for Progress?: Liberals and Radicals in the Long Twentieth Century”

Doug Rossinow, Metropolitan State University

3:30-5:00 p.m.: SESSION 2

Moderator: Julian Zelizer, Princeton University

“From Popular Front to Liberalism: Redefining the Political in California, 1945-1970”

Jonathan Bell, University of Reading

“Liberals and the Environment”

Sarah Phillips, Columbia University

“Left Leanings?: From the Popular Front to the Phantom of ‘Socialist Liberals’”

Howard Brick, University of Michigan

5:15-6:30 p.m.: SESSION 3

Moderator: Cathie Martin, Boston University

“‘Labor-Liberalism’: A Long and Unhappy Postwar Marriage, But With Lots of Offspring Nonetheless”

Nelson Lichtenstein, University of California, Santa Barbara

“Liberalism in the Postwar City: Public and Private Power in Urban Renewal”

Lizabeth Cohen, Harvard University

6:30-8:00 p.m.: COCKTAIL RECEPTION

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

9:00-10:30 a.m.: SESSION 4

Moderator: Nina Silber, Boston University

“De Jure/De Facto Segregation: Racial Liberalism and the Problem of Southern Exceptionalism”

Matthew Lassiter, University of Michigan

“Forgotten Architects of the Second Reconstruction: Liberal Republicans and Civil Rights”

Timothy Thurber, Virginia Commonwealth University

“Albert Gore, Sr., Liberalism, and the South”

Anthony Badger, Cambridge University

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: SESSION 5

Moderator: Charles Capper, Boston University

“‘Going Beyond the New Deal’: Socialists and the Democratic Party in the 1970s”

Tim Stanley, University of Sussex

“‘Rights Liberalism’ and the Material Bases of Second-Wave Feminism”

Susan Hartmann, Ohio State University

“From Friends to Foes: George McGovern, Hubert Humphrey, and the Fracture in American Liberalism”

Bruce Miroff, State University of New York, Albany

2:00-3:30 p.m.: SESSION 6

Moderator: John Thompson, Cambridge University

“Mainline But No Longer Mainstream: The Decline and Fall of Liberal Protestantism”

Andrew Preston, Cambridge University

“The Tragedy of American Politics”

Andrew Bacevich, Boston University

4:00-5:30 p.m.: CONCLUSION: THE LEGACIES OF LIBERALISM

Moderator: Bruce Schulman, Boston University

Remarks

Tony Badger, Jonathan Bell, Tim Stanley, Julian Zelizer, and the Audience

REGISTRATION NOTES

Fall 2009

The registration period for fall 2009 classes begins on April 1 for graduate students and on April 5 for undergraduates. The department will have special advising appointments available beginning March 23 and continuing through April 10 (after that period students may see faculty members during their regular office hours). History concentrators and graduate students may call the office (353-2551) or stop in (226 Bay State Road, Room 308) to make an advising appointment. Note that students are expected to see their assigned advisor (the advisor name is available on the Link). After an appointment, a student should go to the department office to obtain the code for Web registration. The procedure for admission to restricted classes will be as follows: For HI 200 (limited to history concentrators, social studies majors in the School of Education, and students in the College of General Studies who intend to become history majors) students must contact the department office in person or by phone. For colloquia (400- and 500-level courses) students first see the instructor and then visit the department office, where the registration is handled by computer. Permission slips for admission to colloquia will be accepted beginning March 2. The department will maintain a waiting list for any of the restricted courses that reach their enrollment limit; students may sign up for waiting lists by calling the office or going to the "Courses" section of the History website.

Below are notes on new or changed courses for fall 2009:

- ☛ **CAS HI 223. Jews in the Modern World.** The Jewish nation in the Ottoman Empire; social and economic effects of European emancipation; rise of modern antisemitism; intra-European and cross-Atlantic immigration patterns; the Holocaust; the state of Israel and modern Jewish identity. This class will be taught by the department's new Jewish historian, Simon Rabinovitch.
- ☛ **CAS HI 276. Armenia from Antiquity to the Middle Ages.** Introduction to Armenian history from antiquity to the medieval period. Themes covered include geopolitical competition for regional hegemony, the conversion to Christianity, adoption of the Armenian alphabet, quality of political leadership under the five kingdoms, and national struggle for survival. This new course will be taught by Professor Simon Payaslian.
- ☛ **CAS HI 200. The Historian's Craft.** The required course for history concentrators will have four sections available in the fall, taught by Professors David Mayers, Allison Blakely, Anna Geifman, and Eugenio Menegon.
- ☛ **CAS HI 363. Twentieth-Century United States, 1900-1945.** Industrialization; progressivism; science; religion; expansion and World War I, immigration; the women's movement; Jim Crow; the Great Depression and New Deal; World War II, politics, culture, and diplomacy. New American historian Sarah Phillips will teach this course.
- ☛ **CAS HI 435. Histories of Human Rights.** Traces Westerners' development of a humanitarian sensibility in the eighteenth century and considers how this sensibility was deployed in struggles over the rights of various groups during the

modern period. Anglo-American contributions will be emphasized. Professor Arianne Chernock is the instructor for this new course.

- ☛ **CAS HI 479. Impact of Darwin.** Influence of Darwinian evolution on various human activities. Genesis of Darwin's theory; intellectual and social climate for reception of Darwinism in different societies; its impact on natural and social sciences; conflict between evolution and religion. Although not a new course, this class has been scheduled because of its relevance to the Darwin bicentennial; the instructor is Professor Thomas Glick.
- ☛ **CAS HI 552. Topics in Jewish History.** Examines various aspects of Jewish culture, politics, and society. Topic to be announced. New faculty member Simon Rabinovitch will offer this colloquium, open to both undergraduates and graduate students.
- ☛ **CAS HI 568. The Modern Metropolis: Approaches to Urban History.** Examines the development of the modern American metropolis during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Considers transformations in commercial life, popular entertainments, and the use of public spaces as well as social encounters across lines of race, class, gender, and sexuality. Professor Brooke Blower will teach this new course.
- ☛ **GRS HI 743. Problems in Twentieth-Century History.** An international and comparative approach to major problems of the twentieth century, in particular, the period from 1900 to 1945. Readings on such topics as modernization, urbanization, revolution, and war. Professor Louis Ferleger is the instructor for this graduate seminar.

As usual, check the department's website (in the "Courses" section) for updates on the fall schedule.

Asia Cluster at the University of Heidelberg, Germany). The BU Center for the Study of Asia is funding a few meetings this spring to prepare the launch of the project in the fall.

An exhibit at Mugar Library uses stamps from the collection of Professor **Thomas Glick** to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth. The case holding them is located on the first floor of the library, next to an existing display of Darwin books. The exhibit will remain until September, when it will be replaced by 2009 Darwin bicentennial issues.

Graduate student **Anne Blaschke** had a chapter, "The History of Chocolate Manufacturing and Consumption in New England, 1700-1920," published in the food history work *Chocolate: History, Culture, and Heritage*, Louis Grivetti and Howard-Yana Shapiro, eds. (John Wiley & Sons).

The Long War: A New History of U.S. National Security Policy Since World War II, a volume which Professor **Andrew Bacevich** edited, has just appeared in paperback from Columbia University Press.

Professor **William Keylor** published "La Tentation de l'Apaisement: La Réponse de l'Administration Roosevelt aux Violations du Traité de Versailles par l'Allemagne, 1935-1938," in *Hélène Harter et al., eds., Terres Prom-*

ises: Mélanges offerts à André Kaspi (Publications de la Sorbonne). This is a chapter in a volume presented to Keylor's old friend Professor André Kaspi, who recently retired from the chair in American history at the University of Paris (Sorbonne).

Professor **Simon Payaslian** gave a talk, titled "The Armenian Genocide, the Kurdish Question, and Conflict Resolution," at the Primary Sources program for teachers in Watertown, Mass., February 12. The first half of his lecture covered the causes of the Armenian Genocide, the forced deportations of Armenians from their homeland, and the treaties of Sèvres (1920) and Lausanne (1923). The second part presented a brief history of Kurdish nationalism since the 1930s, the short-lived Republic of Mahabad (1945-46), the challenges confronted by the Kurdish communities in Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria in their efforts to unite as a single nation, and the crises and bloodshed in Iraq in the 1980s and 1990s and in Turkey since the middle of the 1980s. Professor Payaslian concluded his talk by examining Armenian expectations with respect to Turkish recognition of the genocide and possible approaches to Armenian-Turkish reconciliation and to the resolution of the Kurdish question.

Professors **Linda Heywood** and **John Thornton** accompanied nine BU undergraduates to Washington to witness the inauguration of President Obama. Prof. Heywood raised funds from the Dean's office to cover the air travel of the four minors in African American Studies who made the trip, and the Honors Program supplied funding for five students in the Honors Program. In Washington the students had a short lecture from former BU history major Nora Rasman (2006), who told them about her work with the NGO TransAfrica, as well as life in Washington as a junior employee at the organization. While Professor Thornton and the students were able to see the inauguration from their place on the Mall, Professor Heywood was unable to witness the event but was one of the ticket holders stranded in the tunnel. ◆

Graduate Student Milestones



These students had research papers approved for the degree:

Beth Forrest, "Brillat-Savarin as Stock: The Influence of the French Gastronomes on English Food Writers"

Gareth McFeely, "West Africa at the Movies: Watching Films in the 1950s"

The following students passed language examinations in January:

Ilona Baughman: French

Amanda Mathews: Spanish

Gareth McFeely: French

Jeffrey Stout: French

KLEPPER (cont. from page 1)

sion and Exile. This work seeks to illuminate the relationship between Christian theology and secular policy with respect to Jews in medieval Europe, bridging the gap between existing studies of medieval European anti-Jewish policy and studies of Christian thought on Jews and Judaism. I use sermons, Bible commentaries, treatises, and scholastic questions as well as expulsion decrees and chronicles to explore the ways that medieval theologians understood, criticized, and justified policies of Jewish expulsion in light of certain theological imperatives. I am looking to distinguish between latent intolerance and the formation of overtly hostile policies of intolerance as a way of expanding our understanding of the interrelated forces that led to an increasingly inhospitable environment for Jews in Christian Europe. An NEH summer stipend two summers ago and an American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant last summer have allowed me to conduct research in unpublished manuscript and archival sources in Oxford, London, Paris, Munich, and Rome for this project. Yes, be-

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Items of interest for publication and changes of address should be sent to the editor.

ing a historian involves great sacrifice.

Although I did construct a castle out of sugar cubes for a sixth-grade medieval history lesson, nothing in my youth suggested a future as a medieval European historian. My interest in history generally was piqued by frequent trips to the ancient Egypt exhibit at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, by the accidental discovery during a hike of an abandoned, overgrown nineteenth-century cemetery in a wooded area northwest of the city, and by a steady diet of Louisa May Alcott and historical fiction (*Johnny Tremain* was a favorite, and Boston history seemed both ancient and exotic to me as a Chicagoan). I attended a small liberal arts college in northern Wisconsin as an undergraduate, where I pursued a BA in high school social studies teaching with an emphasis on Native American Studies. During and after college I worked with Ojibwe teenagers from northern Wisconsin reservations through the Upward Bound program. The Upward Bound program (in its northern Wisconsin variation) was designed to encourage kids from the reservation to set their aspirations toward college and did so by intentionally

pointing out cultural tensions between majority/middle class American society and the Native American/reservation experience. The program provided academic support, but more important, it worked to help kids expect that they could pursue higher education and what it could do for them and their communities without sacrificing Native American identity. I learned a great deal about cultural interaction and cultural tension through my college studies and my work experience, and that came back to me when I later found myself living in Europe and thinking about majority-minority relations in the context of Christian-Jewish encounter in the European past and present. For any seniors who might be reading this, you should know that my post-undergraduate academic trajectory was entirely accidental. I managed to scrounge an opportunity to get over to Europe on an open-ended plane ticket, and then I managed to find enough work (barely) to keep me afloat. The plan to go to graduate school was hatched in response to my experiences in Europe. Seizing unexpected opportunities when they arise can be a perfectly acceptable substitute for the five-

year plan!

Jim tells me that what he really wants to know about new faculty members is whether they can cook. What a question! I love to cook and have a pretty wide range of experiences in both home and restaurant kitchens. I learned to cook in Chicago at my grandmother's knee and developed an early specialization in Jewish cooking of the heavy East European variety. From about age 11 I took on the role of chief cook in our five-person single-parent household, and I mastered the art of something out of nothing. I can still cook at least twenty variations on rice and beans. Although I read cookbooks occasionally for inspiration, I generally cook by feel rather than following a recipe. I still find a special thrill in accommodating an extra six or seven people at a table set originally for eight or ten, something that seems to happen not infrequently at our house. I enjoy experimenting with a range of global cuisines, but I find I am especially partial to Mediterranean dishes, which lend themselves particularly well to our mostly vegetarian household. I live with my husband and two teenaged daughters in West Roxbury. ♦

On March 21 and 22, the History Department will host its first graduate student political history conference, "Rethinking American Political History." The conference will join graduate students from across the country and the United Kingdom with top political historians to explore new approaches, methods, and topics in the field. The weekend aims to add to the recent reinvigoration of political history, in which Boston University has played a central role, by incorporating graduate student research into the international academic conversation.

The conference will take place in CAS 200 (725 Commonwealth Avenue), and Saturday afternoon will feature the keynote speaker from the University of Michigan, Matt Lassiter. His address, "Political History beyond the Red-Blue Divide," will be followed by a wine and cheese reception in Room 304 in the History Department building.

Rethinking American Political History

Boston University Graduate Student Conference

Saturday, March 21

9:00-10:30 a.m.: Panel 1: Reconsidering the 1972 Election

Chair: Katie Brownell

Commentator: Bruce Schulman, Boston University

"Outflanking the Antiwar Movement: President Nixon, Polling, and the Battle for Control of Public Opinion"

Mark Nevin, University of Virginia

"Young People and the Democrats"

Ross Nicolson, Oxford University

"Reshaping the Democratic Coalition: Frank Mankiewicz and George McGovern's Presidential Campaign, 1972"

Seth Blumenthal, Boston University

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: Panel 2: Knowledge and Power: Expertise in American Foreign Policy

Chair: David Atkinson

Commentator: Andrew Preston, Cambridge University



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"Experience, Expertise, and American Political Culture: Vietnam Veterans and American Students Abroad in the 1960s and 1970s"
Anna Armentrout, University of California, Berkeley

"'History has begun a new chapter': The American Intellectual Community and the Outbreak of the Korean War"
D.J. Cash, Boston University

"Interdependence, World Order, and the Intellectual Origins of Jimmy Carter's Foreign Policy"
Simon Stevens, Columbia University

1:15-2:45 p.m.: Panel 3: Race and Political Identity in the 1970s

Chair: Lily Geismer
Commentator: David Quigley, Boston College

"Ethnic Power! The Rise and Fall of the Politics of White Ethnicity"
Joe Merton, Oxford University

"Black Republicans"
Leah M. Wright, Princeton University

"The Politics of Peace and Quiet: Senior Rights and the Battle over Age-Restricted Housing in Arizona, 1974-1989"
Drew Meyers, University of Michigan

3:00-4:00 p.m.: Keynote Address by Matthew Lassiter, University of Michigan, "Political History beyond the Red-Blue Divide"

Sunday, March 22

9:00-10:30 a.m. Panel 4: Expanding the Civil War: Race, Violence, Women, and Abolition

Chair: Jonathan Koefoed
Commentator: William Leeman, Providence College

"Force and Freedom: Black Abolitionists and the Politics of Violence, 1850-1861"
Kellie Carter Jackson, Columbia University

"Re-Imagining Race in the Nineteenth-Century Woman's Suffrage

Movement through the Eyes of a Visionary: Paulina Wright Davis and the First National Woman's Rights Convention"
Lori Satter, University of Massachusetts

"A 'Democrat' within the true meaning of the word: Edwin Garrison Walker and African American Independent Politics in Boston, Massachusetts, 1867-1901"
Millington Bergeson-Lockwood, University of Michigan

11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon: Panel 5: Colonial New England Politics

Chair: Zack Smith
Commentator: Conrad Wright, Massachusetts Historical Society

"Seventeenth-Century Town and Gown Politics: Harvard College and Cambridge, Massachusetts"
Charlotte Carrington, University of Cambridge

"Patriots and Tories, Law and Order: John Adams, Attorney, and the Boston Massacre"
Amanda Mathews, Boston University

1:00-3:00 p.m.: Panel 6: Sex and the Family

Chair: Kate Jewell
Commentator: Aaron Lecklider, Harvard University

"Sunbelt Growth, Sex Education, and the Politics of 'Straightness' in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1945-1970"
Clay Howard, University of Michigan

"'The House on the Borderland': Pulp Novelist Valerie Taylor and the Lesbian Wife in Postwar America"
Lauren J. Gutterman, New York University

"'You Can't Tell the Boys from the Girls': Gender Presentation in the 1960s Counterculture and the New Left"
Betty Luther Hillman, Yale University

"Manhood, Feminism, and Sports: American Race and Gender Politics at the 1968 Olympic Games"
Anne Blaschke, Boston University