

NEWS



of the History Department at Boston University

November 2008

in brief

EVENTS OF NOTE!

On October 20 Professor **William Keylor** delivered an invited lecture to the Evergreen Program in the Conference Auditorium of the George Sherman Union. The title was "Foreign Policy Challenges and the American Presidential Election."

Graduate student **Jolanta Komornicka** attended the conference "The Devil in Society in the Pre-Modern World," hosted by the Center for Reformation and Renaissance Studies at the University of Toronto; she presented a paper entitled "The Devil on Trial: The Changing Role of the Devil in the Trial by Ordeal."

The October 2008 issue of the *American Historical Review* contains Professor **Nina Silber**'s featured review of Drew Faust's *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*....Professor Silber, along with Professor John Matthews of the English Department, organized a panel on the "Global South" for the October 3 conference on "American Studies in Global Perspective" sponsored by the Boston University American Studies Program. She also presented a paper for that panel on historical scholarship and the global south.

Professor **Eugenio Menegon**'s essay "Jesuit Emblematica in China: The Use of European Allegorical Images in Flemish Engravings Described in the Kouduo Richao (ca. 1640)" was published in the latest issue of the Chinese studies journal *Monumenta Serica*....Professor Menegon also presented a paper entitled "The Manila Experiment: Jesuit and Dominican Evangelization Strategies for China, 1580-1630" at the "XII Jornadas Jesuicas," a large conference on the Jesuits in the Iberian empires held in Buenos Aires September 24-26.

Professor **Marilyn Halter** gave an invited lecture entitled "African and American: West African Newcomers to Southern New England and Beyond" at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, as part of a colloquium series on "Immigration and Transnationalism" sponsored by the Department of Sociology/Anthropology.

Graduate student **Jonathan Koefoed** presented a paper entitled "Bildung and the Republic: Intellectuals and Education in the Life and Thought of James Marsh" at the annual meeting of the New England Historical Association, held October 25

International symposium on the First Republic of Armenia held at BU

Professor Simon Payaslian, holder of the Charles and Elisabeth Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature, organized a symposium on the "Legacy of the First Republic of Armenia, 1918-1921" held on September 27. The conference probed the long-term impact of the republic on the Armenian people both in Armenia and in the diaspora. The conference was co-sponsored by BU's International History Institute, the Department of History, and the Department of International Relations, and by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) in Belmont, Mass.

Professor Payaslian commented that this conference was a celebration of the ninetieth anniversary of the re-emergence of Armenian statehood in 1918 as well as the republic's independence after the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991. The conference brought together some of the best scholars in the field to share their analyses with the community. Since the final collapse of the first republic in February 1921, the issues surrounding its rise and fall had been highly politicized both in Soviet Armenia and in the diasporan communities; as a result, no more than a handful of serious studies exists on the first republic, and certainly there are no

scholarly works on its legacy. This conference sought to fill that void in our understanding of the long-term political and cultural significance of the first republic. In his opening remarks, Payaslian thanked the co-sponsors of the conference and especially Professor William Keylor, Director of the International History Institute, and Professor Cathal Nolan, Executive Director of the institute, for their cooperation and advice in organizing the event. Payaslian invited Ms. Nancy Kolligian, President of NAASR, to say a few words on behalf of the organization.

In the morning session Professor **Erik Goldstein**, Chair of the Department of International Relations at BU, presented a paper titled "Great Britain and the Re-emergence of Armenian Statehood," which discussed the British fascination with and involvement in the Eastern Christians and how British engagement in the region became a popular cause. The paper then focused on the extent to which the pro-Armenian groups in the British government influenced foreign policy in World War I and finally on the reasons why British support for the republic collapsed. Dr. **Ara Sanjian**, Director of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, then presented a paper titled "Continuing the All-Russian Revolution of February 1917: The Challenge of Land Reform." His talk examined the attempts to introduce land reform in Eastern or Russian Armenia beginning in 1917 and subsequently during the republic. The paper analyzed the social and economic programs of the ruling Armenian Revolutionary Federation party in the republic and the various approaches proposed by the other political parties. Dr. **Victoria Rowe**, University of Greenwich, UK, presented a paper titled "Women as Political Actors in the First Republic of Armenia and in the Creation of International Networks of Refugee Relief, 1918-1925." Her paper considered the political status of Armenian women in the first republic and their activism on behalf of the republic at the League of Nations. She then discussed the resulting legacy of political participation of women in the Armenian diaspora.

In the afternoon session Dr. **Benjamin F. Alexander**, Towson University, Maryland, presented a paper titled "The Thousand-day Republic and the Assassination of Archbishop Tourian," in which he examined the connection between contested memories of the first republic and the polarized perceptions of the Tourian affair, 1933-34. The paper presented a comparative analysis of the different interpretations of the tragic event as presented in the Armenian community newspapers and the extent to which the coverage reflected the ideological predilections of the dominant diasporan parties in the United States. Dr. **Razmik Panossian's** paper, "The Impact of the First Republic on Armenian Identity in the 20th Century," explored how the first republic shaped subsequent Armenian political thought both in Soviet Armenia and in the Armenian diasporan communities. The paper looked at Armenian national identity and nationalism and at diasporan politics. Dr. **Robert Krikorian**, George Washington University, presented a paper titled "The Legacy of the First Independent Republic of Armenia and the Collapse of Soviet Power." His study examined the historical paradigm shift which occurred in Soviet Armenia during the democratic movement in the late 1980s and analyzed the competing historical narratives and their political implications in Armenia as the Soviet era approached its end. Krikorian focused on the memories of the first Republic of Armenia and how these memories acted as a competing narrative and undermined Soviet legitimacy. ♦

GRADUATE STUDENT MILESTONES

Ellen Horrow passed the language examination in Hebrew.

Mary Mason Williams's research paper, "Contested Memory in the Cradle of Liberty: The Bicentennial of the American Revolution and the Busing Crisis in Boston, 1974-1976," was accepted for credit toward the master's degree.

Betty Anderson granted tenure and promotion

In October Professor Betty Anderson learned that she had been awarded



tenure and promoted to the rank of associate professor at Boston University.

Professor Anderson's research focuses on social, educational, and political developments in the modern Arab world. She is the author of *Nationalist Voices in Jordan: The Street and the State* (University of Texas Press, 2005) and co-author of *History Handbook* (Houghton Mifflin, 2003). Her current project, under contract with the University of Texas Press, is a history of the American University of Beirut.

She teaches a lecture course and several colloquia on the history of the Middle East as well as the core course for concentrators, HI 200; in spring 2009 she will introduce a new course entitled "Americans and the Middle East" (HI 393).

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

at Endicott College.

The current issue of the *Journal of Contemporary History* features a special section on the United States in the 1970s that derives from the second annual BU-Cambridge conference that convened at Clare College, Cambridge, in 2007. The issue includes four papers from that conference plus a commentary by Professor **Bruce Schulman**.

Professor **Louis Ferleger** is series editor of *Historians in Conversation* (University of South Carolina Press). Two additional volumes in the series have appeared: *Recent Themes in the History of Africa and the Atlantic World* and *Recent Themes in Early American History*.... Professor Ferleger presented a paper (with John Metz), "Room for Improvement, But No Room for Progress': The Material Basis of the Economic and Social Transformation of Middle Georgia, 1880-1910," at the Business and Labour History Group (University of Sydney) Symposium on "Mirrored Histories: Consumption and Work in the Asia Pacific" on June 20.... Ferleger will present a paper entitled "Europe, the State, and Agricultural Development in the Late Nineteenth Century" at the FRESH (Future Research in Economic and Social History) conference that will be held at the Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France, on November 15.

On October 3 graduate student **David Atkinson** gave a paper entitled "Anglo-American Relations and the Burdens of Whiteness" at the Boston University Symposium on American Studies in Global Perspective.... On October 5 he delivered a paper entitled "The 'White Australia Policy,' Britain, and Japan in the Great War" at the Annual Meeting of the North American Conference on British Studies in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Professor **John Thornton**'s article "Les Etats de l'Angola et la formation de Palmares (Brésil)" has appeared in the journal *Annales: Histoire, Sciences Sociales* (July-August 2008). He and Professor **Linda Heywood** presented a paper at New York University in the conference "Slave Routes, Resistance, Abolition and Creative Progress" (October 9-11); the paper was entitled "Angolans and Gold Coasters in the History of New York."

Professor **Andrew Bacevich**'s recent publications include: "He Told Us to Go Shopping. Now the Bill Is Due," *The Washington Post* (October 4); "Sarah Palin and John Winthrop," *Huffington Post* (October 3); and "Bush's Third War," *Los Angeles Times* (September 27).

Graduate student **Stephen Arguetta** is currently serving on the CAS/GRS Social Sciences Curriculum Committee, helping to evaluate new courses proposed by the faculty and other curricular matters.

Professor **James McCann** has been appointed Senior Fellow at the Pardee Institute for the Study of the Longer-Term Future. He participated in a seminar at the institute on the topic "Future Challenges in Food Security"; the other member of the panel was Hans Hoogeveen, the Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Netherlands.... For 2008-09 Professor McCann is serving as Director *ad interim* of the African Studies Center and is chair of the Dean's Search Committee for a director of that center.... In February 2009 McCann will lecture at the MIT seminar on Environment and Agricultural History entitled "She Sings: My Life as a Mosquito." The lecture will outline his next book project on a landscape and human history of malaria in a small village in Ethiopia.

On October 9 Professor **Jon Roberts** gave a presentation sponsored by the Mary Baker Eddy Library in Boston on "Varieties of Scientific Experience: Mary Baker Eddy, William James and Other Honest Investigators of the Nineteenth Century."

Alumnus **Jussi Hanhimäki** (PhD 1993) sends greetings from Geneva. "As a result of being corrupted by the proximity of the European headquarters of the UN," he writes, "I have managed to produce another small book entitled *United Nations: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2008). It might be of some interest for readers of the department newsletter." ♦

Mugar Library News

BY DONALD ALTSCHILLER
HISTORY BIBLIOGRAPHER

The BU libraries recently subscribed to RefWorks, an excellent web-based bibliography management tool which allows you to collect, arrange, and edit citations, footnotes, endnotes, and other items for your bibliographies from any computer with Internet access. This software helps produce properly formatted in-text references, citations, and bibliographies in many different styles including MLA, APA, Chicago, and Turabian. RefWorks can be accessed from the main BU library webpage (www.bu.edu/library); the online tutorials are very helpful.

Students often look for authoritative primary sources which are available online. While many sites offer free access, the library currently subscribes to several outstanding digital primary sources which are not in the public domain. The following databases (also including full-text secondary source databases) can be accessed from the main BU library site: www.bu.edu/library/eresources/index.html.

British History Online

British History Online contains some of the core printed primary and secondary sources for the medieval and modern history of the British Isles. The website was created by the Institute of Historical Research (London) and the History of Parliament Trust.

Early English Books Online

From the first book published in English through the age of Spenser and Shakespeare, this collection contains about 100,000 of over 125,000 titles listed in Pollard & Redgrave's *Short-Title Catalogue (1475-1640)* and Wing's *Short-Title Catalogue (1641-1700)* and their re-

See MUGAR NEWS, page 7

With a substantial number of faculty members on leave during the current academic year, the department requested funding to hire full-time replacement instructors and was fortunate to be able to appoint three scholars. We have asked them to introduce themselves to the readers of the newsletter.



Samuel Deese

Richard Samuel Deese

I grew up in Claremont, California. My father is a ceramic sculptor and my mother is an English professor whose primary research interest is the poetry of Robert Lowell. After earning my bachelor's degree in history at UC Berkeley, I traveled to East Asia, where I taught English composition at Nanjing University in China. I first came to Boston University to study poetry, and it was here that I met my wife, Isadora Deese, when we were both students in GRS. She currently works in an administrative position at MIT, and we have two boys: Nick, eight, and Charlie, who just turned

four. We are expecting a third boy just after Christmas, which Isadora and I take as proof that not only do "some people never learn" but that we are some people.

I returned to Boston University in 2003 and completed my PhD in the History Department in 2007. My dissertation concerned the environmental thought and activism of Julian and Aldous Huxley in the Cold War era, and my broader research explores the history of American environmentalism within a transnational context. I am currently developing an article for publication on the relationship between such Cold War technologies as the Bomb, space travel, and the Internet and the emergence of a global environmental movement in the sixties and seventies. My work has been published in *Agni*, *Endeavour*, and the *Berkeley Poetry Review*, and my most recent article, "The New Ecology of Power: Julian and Aldous Huxley in the Cold War Era," will be published next year by Cambridge University Press as part of a collection of essays on the Cold War and the environment.

In the first semester of the current academic year, I am teaching a section of "The Historian's Craft" (HI 200), the lecture course on the American Presidency (HI 372), and a graduate seminar on American Political History (HI 752). In the spring semester I will offer the second half of the US history survey (HI 152) and the course usually taught by Professor Capper, "Intellectual History of the US, 1900-Present" (HI 374/874).

Paul Schmitz

While I am currently serving as a one-year replacement for Bruce Schulman, I am a veteran of



Paul Schmitz

Boston University and a loyal alumnus of the American and New England Studies Program. In 2006, I received my PhD from AMNESP with a focus on modern US history. Why did I pursue American Studies rather than a traditional history degree? As an undergraduate, I had majored in history and English and BU's program allowed me to continue to develop an interdisciplinary perspective (in other words, it allowed me to supplement my steady diet of history with heavy doses of literature, architecture, and popular music and culture). My particular scholarly interests include urban studies, immigration and ethnicity, American culture, and business history. In pursuing my doctorate, I studied under Marilyn Halter, Bruce Schulman, and Nina Silber, and served as a teaching fellow for Bill Keylor—so my first faculty meeting this fall was a bit surreal. (As with Thanksgiving dinner, I chose to sit at the kids' table.)

Marilyn Halter served as the able director of my doctoral dissertation, "D'Agostino Supermarkets, From Pushcart to Product: Family and Eth-

nicity as Cultural Currency.” This project explored the evolution of ethnic identity and food retailing through the history of one of New York City’s foremost grocery companies. It used the story of the D’Agostino family to illustrate how, over the course of the twentieth century, the proverbial Ellis Island immigrant has come to represent the American values of self-reliance, diligence, and independence. I also considered how pushcarts and grocery stores have served as a means of upward mobility and adaptation for many immigrants—a way for them to “become American” by incorporating the ethos of the free enterprise system. In the process of making this argument, I provided a micro-history of the supermarket and an analysis of the cultural import of ethnic and family-owned businesses. The project itself was a labor of love, as my mother is a D’Agostino (and she had plenty to say about my scholarship). The dissertation manuscript is currently under consideration at one academic press, but if any of my colleagues has special connections to the publishing world, please let me know. My next project will be an exploration of comparative experiences of Italian, Jewish, and Korean entrepreneurs in New York City.

While a doctoral student, I taught multiple courses on the modern American city and the culture of immigration/migration for the American Studies program. Then in 2007 and 2008, I taught humanities, urban studies, and business history at Babson College in Wellesley. In addition, I worked with Bruce Schulman in the Teaching American History program—designing and co-teaching graduate courses on American politics and urban history for teachers in the Boston Public Schools system. This semester, I am teaching HI 364 (“Postwar America, 1945 to 1968”) and the HI 468 colloquium (“American Society since 1970”). Thus far, I have enjoyed working with many thoughtful, intelligent students who genuinely care about the study of history. Trying to match Professor Schulman’s great legacy as a teacher has been challenging, how-

ever. (He has promised to revive the “Schulman Brand” when he returns from his sabbatical.) I am grateful for the generous support and encouragement I have received from Bruce, Marilyn Halter, Jim Dutton, Sam Deese, and Charles Dellheim.

In terms of the assorted biographical and personal details of my life, I originally hail from Sacramento, California, where my father—a poet and writer—taught at the local state college. I was childhood friends with last year’s Bacon Lecturer, Stephen Pitti of Yale University; Stephen and I were fellow inmates at the local Catholic school for boys. (For an academic, he has a mean jump shot.) I grew up in a large family with parents from Queens, New York, and Dubuque, Iowa—so organizational chaos and conflicting agendas are fairly normal to me. After graduating from the University of California at Davis, I spent two years as a teacher and social worker on the mean streets of South Boston and Chicago as a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. Then in 1996, I entered the American and New England Studies Program at Boston University. In 2000, I worked for a year at the Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem, before I realized that I should not have an occupation that required the handling of priceless, fragile objects. When I am not teaching, reading, or bothering Mr. Dutton with silly questions, I enjoy basketball, running, eating large quantities of Italian food, the music of New Orleans, film (favorite categories include the Marx Brothers, film noir, Italian Neo-Realism, and anything with Bill Murray), the television dramas “The Wire” and “Mad Men,” and taking train and car trips across the United States. One of my principal goals is to visit all fifty states before I turn 40. After a hiking excursion in Montana this last July, I only need to set foot in Oklahoma, Kansas, North Dakota, Idaho, Hawaii, and Alaska to complete this process. I currently live in Newtonville with my lovely wife, Rebecca—a former social worker who is now an administrator in the Academic Advising Center at Boston College.



Heléna Tóth

Heléna Tóth

I was born and raised in Hungary, where I grew up with a deep appreciation for foreign languages. The main aspect of the Cold War I noticed as a child was that I had to study Russian for a year and, as a grammar school student, I thought that was not at all a bad idea. The Russian alphabet looked beautiful and exotic, and I liked the sound of the language. As the Russian troops were leaving Hungary after the fall of the Berlin wall, so disappeared Russian language education from grammar schools; I first lavished attention on German, then on Spanish and found them just as entertaining as Russian. Spending my high school years studying these languages, I could not help but appreciate the irony of life when I won a scholarship to finish my high school at Atlantic College in Wales. Armed with an English grammar book and a dictionary, I crossed the English Channel to spend two years at a medieval Welsh castle, sharing the challenges and joys of studying at a boarding school with students from all over the world. At Atlantic College I divided my time between my studies and public service, a practice I continued during my college years in the United States. I worked with mentally disabled children and was a tutor of mathematics and English in a prison education

program.

By the time I crossed the Atlantic to study at Harvard University, I was certain that I wanted to major in history. My initial interest in the history of international relations changed as I became increasingly fascinated with the history of migration and political exile. This interest was sparked, in part, by a serendipitous encounter with a collection of salt prints at the Harvard Fine Arts Library. The salt prints, an early form of photography, depicted the drawings of a Hungarian woman who participated in the revolution of 1848. The drawings were carefully bound in a beautiful album, bearing the book plate of a wealthy Bostonian family, the Lowells. What was the connection between the Hungarian woman and the Lowells? How did a collection of drawings of the Hungarian revolution of 1848 end up in Boston? My detective work uncovered a network of upper-class women in Boston, including Mary Lowell Putnam, who supported Hungarian refugees of 1848, because they believed that their charity had a broader political significance. What started as a small investigation driven by curiosity developed into a major research project and eventually a senior thesis.

Still under the spell of the global impact of the aftermath of the revolutions of 1848, I entered graduate school at my alma mater. I broadened my subject of research to include not only Hungarian but also German refugees, and I studied four host societies: the United States, England, Switzerland, and the Ottoman Empire. My dissertation focused on the experience of exile. While exile is often considered an individual challenge, my dissertation studied its collective aspects. I located the experience of exile in three realms: the family, employment, and social networks. As I explored the interconnectedness of these three areas, I learned about the ways in which new realities confronted old patterns of social and political interaction in mid-nineteenth-century Europe.

In the course of my graduate studies, I left Harvard for a year and a half

to conduct archival research in Europe (Stuttgart, Tübingen, Berlin, and Budapest). In the dusty reading rooms of archives I developed a deep appreciation for legible handwriting in primary sources, mastered the ability to decipher nearly illegible scrawling, and decided that the magnifying glass was a great invention. I enjoyed immensely the architecture of small medieval towns in southwest Germany, the remarkable collections of modern art in Stuttgart, and the concert season in Budapest. I was thrilled to be in Germany during the 2006 soccer World Cup and to be able to watch "The Lives of Others" the day when it was first released.

Returning to Harvard with my archival treasures, I devoted myself to teaching and writing in equal measures and learned immensely from both. I served as a history advisor in one of the student houses and found this work very fulfilling. The best advice I ever received on how to overcome writers' block was to read poetry. I found the playfulness of poetry inspiring as I crafted my dissertation chapters and fell in love with the works of Robert Frost. I completed my dissertation in the summer of 2008 and am looking forward to turning it into a book in the near future. I am the author of book chapters on various aspects of political exile and an article on American women's reading and book collecting habits in the nineteenth century.

As the ink dried on my dissertation, I crossed the Charles to join the history department at Boston University for the academic year. I now teach survey courses and seminars on modern European history and keep learning from my students' perceptive and thought-provoking questions.

If I am not sitting in a reading room thinking about my new project on the cultural history of funerals in the Communist bloc or in a coffee shop, where my best ideas are born, I can be found at the Harvard Film Archives, attending an event organized by the Boston Tango Society, or taking a daytrip somewhere along the East Coast. ◆



Sarah Phillips

Success in US political history search

Last year's search for a faculty member in American political history has now come to a successful end. Sarah Phillips, an alumna of the department (PhD 2004) and currently assistant professor in the History Department at Columbia University, will join the Boston University faculty in September 2009 to teach alongside her mentor, Professor Bruce Schulman.

In addition to 20th-century US political history, Sarah specializes in environmental and agricultural history. She is the author of *This Land, This Nation: Conservation, Rural America, and the New Deal* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) and of numerous book chapters and articles. Her current research includes a new book project, "The Price of Plenty: Cheap Food and American Global Influence," and a co-authored work under consideration for publication, "Food and Politics in Postwar America: A Brief History with Documents."

In the fall of 2009 Professor Phillips will teach HI 363 ("Twentieth-Century US History, 1900-1945") and "Postwar America, 1945-1969" (HI 467). In spring she will offer a graduate seminar in American political history and a new course on environmental issues.

The department looks forward to welcoming Sarah back to Boston University.

vised editions, as well as the *Thomason Tracts (1640-1661)* collection and the *Early English Books Tract Supplement*. This eclectic collection covers many subject areas, including: English literature, history, philosophy, linguistics, theology, music, fine arts, education, mathematics, and science.

Early American Newspapers

Contains images of hundreds of historic newspapers listed in Clarence Brigham's authoritative bibliography (*History and Bibliography of American Newspapers*, Mugar Reference xz6951.F47) and subsequent bibliographies. Includes *Early American Newspapers, Series 1 (1690-1876)*.

Eighteenth-Century Collections Online

Includes 138,000 English-language titles and editions published between 1701 and 1800. When complete, the archive will cover the most significant

English-language and foreign-language titles printed in the United Kingdom, along with thousands of important works from the Americas. Contains significant works by women writers of the eighteenth century, collections on the French Revolution, ancient and contemporary history, accounts of voyages and discoveries, historical biographies and memoirs, genealogical collections, gazetteers, works on church antiquities and tourist guides of Britain, military history, maps, local history, and topography. This unique collection presents the British perspective on the American Revolution.

Harper's Weekly Online

Contains the full-text images from this major US newspaper, which once reached a national circulation of about 300,000. Excellent illustrations, cartoons, maps, and portraits.

Historical Newspapers of the New York Times

A full-text image archive of the en-

tire collection from the years 1851 to 2004. This remarkable collection includes every word appearing in the paper, including display and classified ads, death notices, which are all accessible from multiple search points.

JSTOR

A full-text collection of back issues (from volume 1 to approximately five years ago) of core scholarly journals. Includes journals in African American studies, anthropology, Asian studies, classics, ecology, economics, education, finance, history, literature, mathematics, philosophy, political science, population studies, sociology, and statistics.

Project Muse

Similar to JSTOR, Project Muse provides full-text access to current and retrospective content in the humanities and social sciences published in over 400 titles from about 100 non-profit publishers. ◆



American Political History Seminars

The following events have been scheduled for the remainder of the fall semester:

■ October 29

James T. Campbell, Stanford University
"Broadcasting the New South Africa and Other Adventures in the Americanization of South Africa"

■ November 12

Gretchen Heefner, Yale University
"The Radical Plains: Antinuclear Protest, the Reagan Revolution, and the Double Life of Prairie Populism"

■ December 3

Sam James, Cambridge University
"The Influence of Pragmatism on American Historiography Since 1945"

The seminars are held in Room 504 at 226 Bay State Road at noon and are open to all. Papers will be available two weeks before the seminar (contact Professor Schulman at bjschulm@bu.edu for more information).

The seminars are partially supported by the Boston University Humanities Foundation.

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Conference on American history to meet at BU

The fourth in the rotating series of international conferences in American history (held under the auspices of the BU Institute for American Political History) will take place at the Boston University Castle, March 19-20, 2009. The event is co-sponsored by Boston University, Clare College (Cambridge University), and Princeton University.

The theme of this year's event is "Rethinking American Liberalism: Progressive Politics and the Public Sphere." Participants will include:

- > Andrew Bacevich, Boston University
- > Anthony Badger, Cambridge University
- > Jonathan Bell, University of Reading
- > Brooke Blower, Boston University
- > Howard Brick, University of Michigan
- > Lizabeth Cohen, Harvard University
- > Susan Hartmann, Ohio State University
- > Matthew Lassiter, University of Michigan
- > Nelson Lichtenstein, University of California, Santa Barbara
- > Bruce Miroff, SUNY Albany
- > Sarah Phillips, Columbia University
- > Andrew Preston, Cambridge University
- > Doug Rossinow, Metropolitan State University
- > Bruce Schulman, Boston University
- > Daniel Scroop, University of Sheffield
- > Timothy Stanley, University of Sussex
- > Timothy Thurber, Virginia Commonwealth University

Details will follow in subsequent newsletters.

Update on spring 2009 courses

HI 750, the course on American historiography required of all graduate students, will be taught by Professor Brendan McConville Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This class examines the methodological and professional development of American historians since the 1880s, changes in the field since the founding period, and new directions in US history.

HI 754, a graduate seminar on American economic history, has been added to the spring schedule. It will be taught by Professor Louis Ferleger Tuesdays 12:30-3:30 p.m.

News of Jewish history search

As of late October, the department had received 39 applications for the junior search in modern Jewish history. The search committee has been reading materials and will propose a short list early in the new year and then organize campus visits.