

The Boston Americanist

American & New England Studies Program

Boston University

August 15, 2022

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LETTER FROM AMNESP PROGRAM DIRECTOR, Joseph Rezek

Because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, this academic year did not quite go as planned. I began my term as Director of the American & New England Studies Program in July, 2021, after all US adults, including all Boston University students, finally had access to Covid-19 vaccines. We were looking forward to a fully vaccinated campus and to the idea that university life might return to normal. Then, in December 2021, the Omicron variant began causing breakthrough infections, and many dreams of mask-free classrooms and events in Spring 2022 were crushed.

We have since endured variant after variant, with no real end to the pandemic in sight. Many of us have suffered through a Covid-19 infection with all the discomfort and disruption that involves. As Director, I have been heartened to see how as a community we have taken care of each other: to mask while in 226 Bay State Road, to meet on Zoom when necessary, and to hold many events either safely indoors or outside — where we can mingle and talk without face coverings.

Meanwhile, as I write this letter, we are enduring a record-breaking heat wave in Boston, with temperatures reaching 100° F. The theme for the 2022 American Studies Association conference in New Orleans is “The Roof is on Fire,” an apt metaphor for our current situation. The U.S. Supreme Court, newly stacked with conservatives appointed by a President who lost the popular vote by some 2.8 million, has gutted the rights of women with the repeal of Roe v. Wade, invalidated gun control laws, made it harder to fight climate change, and begun to erode the separation of church and state. Mass shootings continue to occur with shocking frequency. Conservative state legislatures are passing laws that dehumanize trans people, ban any discussion of LGBTQ individuals in schools, and criminalize the teaching of our nation’s racist history.



bu.edu/amnesp

As I told AMNESP graduating students during Commencement this year: it truly is a sobering time to hear the call of American Studies. We consider individuals — ordinary people, artists, workers, architects, writers, journalists, politicians, activists, performers — who made at least part of their lives in the U.S., who created objects of all kinds that are worthy of study. We examine, we critique, we celebrate, we explore. In following out our research questions, no doubt, we see light and hope, either in the objects we study or the methods and sense of purpose we bring. Now more than ever it is important to study this inspiring, fascinating, sometimes horrifying country — in all its local, regional, national, global, environmental, and material valences.

I am proud to lead one of the oldest American Studies programs in the nation, founded more than half a century ago. PhD and BA students in American Studies, and MA students in Preservation Studies, along with AMNESP and Preservation Studies faculty and postdoctoral fellows, have accomplished an extraordinary amount this year as teachers, scholars, and thinkers. Our students have defended dissertations, published articles in peer-reviewed journals and popular venues, delivered papers at prestigious conferences, received many prizes and fellowships, and secured employment after graduation. We have focused this year's newsletter on current students, their achievements, and program activities, rather than on faculty and alumni.

All year I have been grateful for the Graduate Student Association as well as an active and devoted Program Committee. It has also been a pleasure to work with the Program Officers, including John T. Matthews, outgoing Director of Graduate Studies; Mary Battenfeld, Director of Undergraduate Studies; and Jan Haenraets, Acting Director of Preservation Studies. The Officers especially have worked very hard this year to improve the lives of our students at every level. Aimee McCarron, our new Program Administrator, has been a wonderful addition to our team.

This academic year marked the beginning of two initiatives I started in order to build our intellectual community. We launched a new lecture series that will continue next year, "American Studies for the Future," in which BU faculty are put in dialogue with prominent outside speakers, who then present their own work to a public audience. I also received a grant from the BU Diversity & Inclusion office to fund a symposium next Spring, "Archives and Knowledge Keepers: Native American and Indigenous Studies and the Art of History." Organized in coordination with the Departments of English and History, and funded by the Emerging Scholars Program, this initiative is meant to bring to campus junior scholars who are from racial or ethnic groups that are underrepresented in the academy. I hope this program will build momentum to grow Native American and Indigenous Studies at BU more broadly.

It has been my privilege to witness everyone in our community pursue the fairly utopian goal that is the purpose of higher education: the pursuit of knowledge and truth, guided by a commitment that such a pursuit will improve the world. I am excited about the future of the American & New England Studies Program and I look forward to shaping that future with all of you.

Sincerely,



Joseph Rezek
Director, American & New England Studies Program
Associate Professor of English
Boston, July 25, 2022



AMNESP ADMINISTRATION FOR 2021-2022

Program Directors

Joseph Rezek

Director, AMNESP
Associate Professor of English

John T. Matthews

Director of Graduate Studies, AMNESP
Professor of English

Mary Battenfeld

Director of Undergraduate Studies, AMNESP
Clinical Professor of American Studies

Jan Haenraets

Acting Director of Preservation Studies
Professor of the Practice, Preservation Studies

AMNESP Program Committee

Ross Barrett

Associate Professor, History of Art &
Architecture

William Hunting Howell

Associate Professor of English

Deborah L. Jaramillo

Associate Professor of Film & Television
College of Communication

William D. Moore

Associate Professor of American Material
Culture

Anita Patterson

Professor of English

Sarah Phillips

Associate Professor of History

Bruce Schulman

William E. Huntington Professor of History

Kim Sichel

Professor, History of Art & Architecture

Lecturers and Post-Doctoral Fellows

Aaron Ahlstrom

Lecturer, Preservation Studies Program

Katherine Lennard

Abbott Lowell Cummings Postdoctoral Fellow

C. Ian Stevenson

Lecturer, Preservation Studies Program

Sara Wermiel

Lecturer, Preservation Studies Program

LETTERS FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Director of Graduate Studies, AMNESP John T. Matthews



It might seem surprising that the past academic year overflowed with outstanding accomplishments by our doctoral students and marked several advances in the program as a whole, but both proved true, despite the many substantial, sometimes grievous difficulties the year presented to us all. It was my privilege as Director of Graduate Studies to witness how so many of our students, as circumstances allowed, innovated methods for pursuing their research virtually, devoted themselves to unusually demanding teaching responsibilities, and remained strong advocates for ongoing advances in graduate preparation. You'll find elsewhere in the newsletter a listing of the numerous research fellowships, grants, and internships awarded; graduate

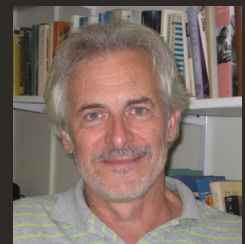
prizes won; teaching accolades received; program milestones passed; degrees conferred; post-degree positions accepted.

Such achievements shouldn't obscure the struggles students had dealing not only with the difficulties Covid continued to impose this year, but also with too-often dispiriting circumstances on other fronts. GRS responded to our request to expand the range of research expenses approved for reimbursement, so digitization and copying of materials could replace travel to archives, acquisition of books supplement library holdings, and computer subsidies offset increased research and teaching uses of personal devices. Additional summer and post-fellowship funding was distributed. Other initiatives focused on graduate professionalization: a new graduate-level course in professionalization for AMNESP doctoral candidates (designed and taught by Prof. Kim Sichel this past semester), and a BU PhD Progression Project that provides an array of workshops and credentialing. This past year we've tried to go even further in matching teaching fellows with their preferred placements, working to eliminate standing obligations to increasingly problematic assignments. GRS has also offered new resources for TFs that address academic and personal difficulties undergraduates may be facing.

Let me add personally that it's been very gratifying to serve as DGS these past two years, and I thank Will, Joe, and our remarkable AMNESP community for being so supportive.

Incoming Director of Graduate Studies, AMNESP Laurence Breiner

Dr. Breiner, Professor of English and a member of African American Studies, will be serving as interim DGS for us in Fall 2022. He has served as Visiting Professor in American Studies at Tokyo University, Rockefeller Fellow at Penn, NEH Research Fellow, and ACLS/SSRC Fellow at UWI, (Jamaica). His publications on Anglophone Caribbean poetry and drama include *An Introduction to West Indian Poetry* and *Black Yeats: Eric Roach and the Politics of Caribbean Poetry* as well as numerous articles, book chapters, and reviews. He's eager to learn about our graduate students and their work.



Acting Director of Preservation Studies, Jan Haenraets

Human interaction and dialogue are fundamental within the field of historic preservation, in looking after places, hosting audiences, and similarly in our academic programs, research, teachings and field work. In that sense the pandemic created unprecedented challenges and fortunately we gradually see the conditions for such interactions improve. Under these circumstances the efforts of our students have been extraordinary as they adapted to new channels of communication and study, while interpreting the impacts of evolving economic, social and political conditions. In preservation, we use value assessments and strive in the decision-making processes to reflect on all angles from conservative to radical, while aiming for well-balanced recommendations and visions. However, preservation and heritage can be highly political and are always impacted by economic calamities, and in this ever-involving environment with often stark contrasting views towards ways forward, this poses demanding inquiries and dilemmas to our students and graduates. Their knowledge, views and experiences are now all the more needed to manage change at places and in the heritage discipline itself.

In that context, our students' Capstone graduation projects illustrate explorations of such topics and examine various angles of preservation, from technical aspects to interpretative questions and increasing

attention on diversity, equity and inclusion. For instance, Rebecca Green studied in the context of the Gibson House Museum in Boston the question of contentious history and preserving diversity as a case study on approaches by house museums in the United States of America. Emily Pate's investigation looked into the use of photography since the establishment of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum for preservation of its collections and displays. Carmela Farago probed untold stories of Minute Man National Historical Park with a closer look at the forgotten Neoclassical period history in Concord, MA. We are most grateful for the opportunities offered by our partners in such research projects, preservation internships, site visits and guest lecturers.

Reflecting on the range of courses of the past academic year, the above-mentioned conversations were explored in numerous courses, including the Boston Architectural and Community History Workshop on the historic waterfront neighborhood of Charlestown, Boston, MA; preservation planning; museum practice and curatorship; adaptive reuse and revitalization; American cultural landscapes; international heritage management; and the new landscape design and preservation studio on reimagining the landscape experience at the Battle Road Visitor Center at Minute Man National Historical Park in Lexington, MA. With



heritage sites returning to pre-pandemic schedules and accessibility, the critical on-site interactions in courses again picked up pace. In addition, our program's designated preservation field trips travelled to Strawberry Banke Museum and Historic Portsmouth, NH, with a behind the scenes look at the Museum's Heritage House Program and a heritage walk in Portsmouth. In Historic Providence, RI, we were hosted by the Providence Preservation Society and stepped into the Old Brick Schoolhouse, saw the College Hill neighborhood as a model of 1960s urban renewal, and viewed Providence's riverfront renewal and the Historic Jewelry District.

Last but not least, after serving seven years as the Director of the Program we all extend our gratitude to Professor Daniel Bluestone and wish him all the best in his retirement. He established in the Preservation Program a vision for students to pursue key concentrations that echo today's preservation needs, practice and ethics. We celebrate his thought-provoking courses such as "Places of Memory: the Community History Workshop" and "What's Boston?" which set new benchmarks for multi-disciplinary preservation teachings at Boston University and time after time challenged us in how we understand and value the past.



Director of Undergraduate Studies, AMNESP Mary Battenfeld

Despite the many challenges of teaching and learning in a pandemic, it's been a successful year for the undergraduate program. In May, we honored B.A. graduates Starrchild Jackson, Elizabeth Jones (AMNESP College Prize recipient), Katerina Kovalik, Josephine Olson, and Katelyn Willim in a lovely convocation ceremony. It was wonderful to gather in-person with graduates, their proud families and friends and toast the class of 2022! I look forward to the 2022-2023 academic

year, and working with students in our small but growing and mighty major. We are in the process of making minor revisions to the undergraduate curriculum to make it clearer and more streamlined, and we continue to develop new courses. The pandemic has made me appreciate more than ever the AMNESP community, and our curious, creative, and committed students.

AMNESP AFFILIATE FACULTY

As an interdisciplinary program, AMNESP is dependent upon our affiliate faculty in relevant disciplines across the university.

Marié Abe

Associate Professor of Music, Musicology and Ethnomusicology
College of Fine Arts

Daniel Abramson

Professor, History of Art & Architecture

Paula Austin

Assistant Professor of History and African American Studies

Ross Barrett

Associate Professor, History of Art & Architecture

Mary Battenfeld

Clinical Professor of American Studies

Michael Birenbaum Quintero

Associate Professor of Music, Musicology, and Ethnomusicology
College of Fine Arts

Brooke Blower

Associate Professor of History

Cheryl Boots

Senior Lecturer of Humanities
College of General Studies

Laurence Breiner

Professor of English

Japonica Brown-Saracino

Professor of Sociology

Wade Campbell

Assistant Professor of Archaeology and Anthropology

Deborah Carr

Professor of Sociology

Robert Chodat

Professor of English

Louis Chude-Sokei

Professor of English;
George And Joyce Wein Chair In African American Studies

Victor Coelho

Professor of Music Musicology, and Ethnomusicology
College of Fine Arts

Adriana Craciun

Professor of English;
Emma MacLachlan Metcalf Chair in the Humanities

André de Quadros

Professor of Music and Music Education
College of Fine Arts

Ricardo Elia

Associate Professor of Archaeology

Louis Ferleger

Professor of History

Jonathan Foltz

Associate Professor of English

Margarita Guillory

Associate Professor of Religion

Jan Haenraets

Professor of the Practice, Preservation Studies

Melanie Hall

Associate Professor, History of Art & Architecture

Ianna Hawkins Owen

Assistant Professor of English and African American Studies

Linda M. Heywood

Professor of African American Studies and History

Charlotte E. Howell

Assistant Professor, Film and Television
College of Communication

William Huntting Howell

Associate Professor of English

Paul Hutchinson

Senior Lecturer of Organizational Behavior
Questrom School of Business

Deborah L. Jaramillo

Associate Professor, Film and Television
College of Communication

Nazli Kibria

Professor of Sociology

Maurice Lee

Professor of English

John T. Matthews

Professor of English

David Mayers

Professor of Political Science and History

Brendan McConville

Professor of History

Ashley Mears

Associate Professor of Sociology

Susan L. Mizruchi

Professor of English;
William Arrowsmith Professor in the Humanities

William D. Moore

Associate Professor of American Material Culture

Thomas Otten

Lecturer of English

Anita Patterson

Professor of English

Anthony Petro

Associate Professor of Religion and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Sarah Phillips

Associate Professor of History

Carrie Preston

Professor of English and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Stephen Prothero

C. Allyn and Elizabeth V. Russell Professor of Religion

Ana-Maria Reyes

Associate Professor of Latin American Art

Joseph Rezek

Associate Professor of English

Takeo Rivera

Assistant Professor of English

Jon H. Roberts

Tomorrow Foundation Professor of History

Andrew Robichaud

Assistant Professor of History

Jeffrey W. Rubin

Associate Professor of History

Charles Rzepka

Professor of English

Heather Schoenfeld

Associate Professor of Sociology

Bruce Schulman

William E. Huntington Professor of History

Kim Sichel

Professor, History of Art & Architecture

Nina Silber

Jon Westling Professor of History

John Stone

Professor of Sociology

Adam Sweeting

Associate Professor of Humanities

John Thornton

Professor of African American Studies and History

Robert Weller

Professor of Anthropology

Thomas Whalen

Associate Professor of Social Sciences

Merry White

Professor of Anthropology

Gregory Williams

Associate Professor, History of Art & Architecture

Graham Wilson

Professor of Political Science

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The American & New England Studies Graduate Student Association was founded in the spring of 2012 to meet a growing desire for greater community networking and support. It fosters collegiality and creative thinking and represents student interests in an official manner to the university as well as to the larger community of American Studies graduate programs and scholars.

2021 – 2022 Officers

President: Astrid
Tvetenstrand

Vice President: Kayli
Rideout

Secretary: Genna Kane

Social Chair: Max Clee

Treasurer: Anne Boyd

Faculty Liaison: Jason
Henson

Undergrad Liaison: Betsy
Walters

Americanist Forum

Coordinator: Graham
Peterson

Preservation Liaison:
Gabi Amore

GSO Representative:
Meghan Townes and
Makenzie Coker

GSA President, Astrid Tvetenstrand

As I leave my post as GSA President, I am pleased to report on our vibrant, smart, and committed community of students. This year, we held one Learning the Ropes event focused upon Comprehensive Exams. Students learned from current PhD candidates, Grace McGowan and Kayli Rideout, and gained advisement about how to create a committee, develop a list, and schedule practice exams. We focused our year-round efforts on increased awareness of professional opportunities and equity in teaching fellowship responsibilities. I am excited for next year's administration to take up the reigns and continue fostering positive and productive connections amongst our talented students!

Incoming GSA President, Anne Boyd

I'm looking forward to leading the GSA during the 2022/2023 school year. I am hoping to coordinate more in-person, COVID-safe events to foster a vibrant AMNESP community. I am especially looking forward to getting to know our incoming PhD cohort. It'll be an interesting, but fun and exciting experience to have a GSA E-Board comprised almost entirely of the 3rd-year PhD cohort. Can't wait to see everyone in the fall!

Incoming Preservation Liaison, Kristen Dahlmann

Fellow Preservation Studies student David Lewis and I have spent the summer collecting news from existing Preservation Studies students' achievements & internships as well as placing a spotlight on the successful careers of our alumni. In sharing this content, we hope to bridge a gap between the Preservation Studies MAs and the American Studies PhDs. The second half of this summer project dovetails with my position as the GSA Preservation Liaison. I hope to do more than just carry meeting notes back to my fellow students but encourage community, relationships and collaboration between Preservation and American Studies.

INCOMING STUDENTS

PhD in American and New England Studies

Jenna Bennett graduated from Binghamton University with an MA in art history. Her BA, from Marist College, is also in art history. Her research focuses on early American material culture related to culinary history. She takes special interest in the history of confections. She is currently researching Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia's criminalization of candy gambling games in New York City.

Brien Bradley joins us with a BA in history from Wesleyan University. His research areas include history of the modern West and the Americas; New England history; and Black studies critique of race, science, and "New World" identities.

Anne Callahan comes to AMNESP after working in the cultural heritage field for 10 years. Anne earned her BA in art history from Middlebury College, an MA in material culture studies from Bard Graduate Center, and an MS in studio art from MIT. Her MA thesis examined the production and reception of literary paperbacks in the 1960s-present. At BU, Anne will study representations of working-class labor and leisure in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Ryan Deneen graduated from Connecticut College, having majored in American studies and history; he completed his MA in American studies at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. His area of research is twentieth century American history with a focus on the relationship between protest movements and popular music, especially the Civil Rights-Black Power movement of the 1960s-70s.

Olivia Jacobs graduated with degrees in performing arts and anthropology from Western Kentucky University completed their MA in theatre and performance studies at Washington University in St. Louis. Liv is a performance ethnographer of American traditional social music and dance communities. Thematically, their scholarship tends to engage the grotesque, monstrosity, and spectacles of the body.

MaryKate Smolenski earned her BA in anthropology and history from the George Washington University and her MA in history and museum studies from Tufts University. She has worked with several museums and historical societies, and is currently finishing up a two-year research fellowship at the Preservation Society of Newport County, where she is re-interpreting an eighteenth-century historic house. MaryKate studies early American history with a particular interest in female loyalists and material culture.

Katie Tinch received her BA from Southern Methodist University and MA from Brandeis University. Both degrees are in anthropology. Her research areas include peer trauma support, queer and gendered experience, independent media, and alternative subcultures.

MA in Preservation Studies

Janessa Dennis earned her BA in religion, with a minor in history, from Clark Atlanta University. She served as research assistant to Ruth J Abram on her project to uncover the history of the “Promised Land” in Gwinnett County, GA, and has interned with the Gaines Hall Preservation Project on the Morris Brown College campus. Janessa is also the founder of Markherstorian, an organization that works to place historic properties and places on the National Registry.

Victoria Hatchell graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a BA in history and philosophy, with an interest in early modern history and philosophy of science. She interned at the Maine State Museum, working with their Collections and Conservation staff, as well as at her hometown Historical Society. She is looking forward to furthering her education and learning more about preservation, collections, and history.



Hailey Stebner double-majored in history and English at the University of Mount Union. While in the Preservation Studies program, she looks forward to pursuing an internship that has a focus on developing and applying professional knowledge of theories, principles, practices, and techniques of landscape architecture, architecture, art, and historic preservation.

STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to our students in both the MA in Preservation Studies program and PhD in American and New England Studies Program for their many accomplishments this past year!

Awards, Fellowships, Internships, and Employment

Julia Carroll was awarded fellowships at the American Antiquarian Society and the Huntington Library. She also received a Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship from BU to visit archives at Westminster College, University of Cambridge, and the National Archives in London.

Sean Case was awarded a Summer Internship in the Social Sciences at Partners in Health from the Center for Innovation in Social Science and GRS.

Arthur Kamya received an award from the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium.

Genna Kane was awarded an internship at the National Park Service Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. She also received the AMNES Outstanding Teaching Fellow award from GRS for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Rachel Kirby was appointed as Lecturer in History & Literature at Harvard University.

Alyssa Kreikemeier was a Mellon Fellow at the Center for the American West and Kluge Scholar in residence at the Library of Congress. She also was awarded the American Historical Association/ NASA 2021-22 Fellowship in Aerospace History.

David Lewis held an internship with the Massachusetts Historical Commission and was a curatorial intern at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, as part of the Steele Internship Program.

Megan Lu was awarded a William S. O'Farrell Fellowship through Northeast Historic Film.

Grace McGowan received a Graduate Student Award from the BU Center for the Humanities.

Perri Meldon received a fellowship with National Park Service funded by American Conservation Experience, a nonprofit Conservation Corps.

Ena Ozaki held a Fulbright Foundation Scholarship as a YKK Fellow by the Japan-United States Educational Exchange Promotion Foundation.

Emily Palombella was awarded a fellowship from the Huntington Library.

Samantha Pickette was appointed as Assistant Professor in Jewish Studies and Assistant Director of the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies at University of Texas, Austin.

Kayli Rideout received a Rakow Grant for Glass Research from the Corning Museum of Glass.

Madeline Webster received a Graduate Student award from the BU Center for Humanities. She was also appointed as Program Director in the Boston Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics.



Preservation Studies student, David Lewis, at the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Conferences, Presentations, and Publications

Daniel DeFraia, “Why Did the DoD Abandon a Report Tracking 139 Military Mental Health Programs,” *Truthout*.

Rachel Kirby, “The Materiality of Mr. Peanut: Agriculture, Aristocracy, and Minstrelsy in Planters’ Anthropomorphic Nut,” paper at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting.

Megan Lu, “The ‘Away-from-Home’ Movie: Helen Miller Bailey and Amateur Travel Films,” paper at the Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference.

Grace McGowan, “‘Venus Worked in Bronze’: Beauty Myths in African-American Women’s Writing,” paper at the Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention. “Ovid Rewritten: Objectification, Fragmentation, and Transformation in the Writing of Toni Morrison and Robin Coste Lewis,” essay in *Arcade* for a forum on “Thing Theory in Literary Studies.” “In ‘Rumors’, Lizzo And Cardi B Pull From the Ancient Greeks Putting A New Twist On An Old Tradition,” *The Conversation*; reprinted in *The Boston Globe*.

Perri Meldon, “Muskrat as your Guide: Public History in Chesapeake Wetlands,” a paper at American Historical Association Conference.

Reut Odinak, “Womb for Rent: Procedural Politics and Surrogacy Storylines on Genre Television,” a paper at the Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference.

Emily Palombella, “Stratifying the Former World: New York’s ‘Subway Garnet’ and Urban Geological Traditions of the Nineteenth Century,” a paper at the Organization of American Historians Annual Conference.

Astrid Tvetenstrand attended the 2022 Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth College.

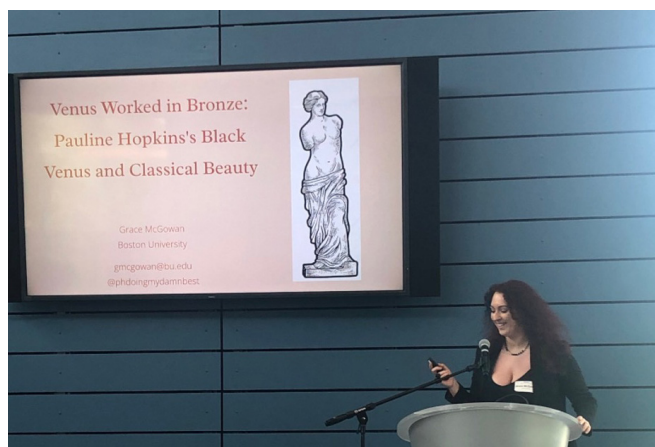
Meghan Townes, “Captain English’s Pike: Remembering John Brown and Shaping Official History in Postbellum Virginia,” a paper at the Yale University American Art Graduate Symposium.

Betsy Walters, “Festival Diplomacy: CINE, American Nontheatrical Cinema, and the Film Festival Network, 1957-1977,” a paper at the Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference.

Madeline Webster, “Race, Reuse, and Reform: Preserving the Garrison House, Contesting Garrisonianism in Turn-of-the-Century Boston,” *The New England Quarterly*. “Preservation in Practice: Black Bostonians Steward the Victorian Residential Landscape in the Post-WWII Era,” a paper at the Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference.

Marina Wells, “Selling Maritime Men: The First American Whaling Images and the Masculinity they Produced,” a paper at The Mary L. Cornille Annual Boston University Graduate Symposium in the History of Art & Architecture.

AMNESP graduate students continue to edit and publish *Ampersand: An American Studies Journal*.



Grace McGowan presenting at the Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention.

COMMENCEMENT 2022

AMNES was thrilled to hold its first in-person Convocation ceremony since 2018 on May 21, 2022.

Bachelor of Arts in American Studies

Starrchild Jackson

Elizabeth Jones

Katerina Kovalik

Josephine Olson

Katelyn Willim

Master of Arts in Preservation Studies

Rachel Carmela Farago

Concentration in Archaeology

Emily Finney

Concentration in Museum Practice

Beck Green

Concentration in Museum Practice

PhD in American & New England Studies

William Edmonstone

American Others: The US South and the Caribbean in the Literary Culture of Empire

Christopher Stokum

Civilization of Work: Intellectuals and Manual Labor in Nineteenth Century America, 1820-1890

Christine D'Auria

Off Script: The Fiction, Film, and Cultural Politics of Hollywood Screenwriters in the Blacklist Era

Rachel Kirby

Consuming the South: Representations of Taste, Place, and Agriculture in Four Southern States.

Samantha Pickette

Bridging the JAP: The Female-Driven Reconcepton of the Young Jewish Woman in American Popular Culture during the 1970s.

Frankie Vanaria

The Global Screen: Intercultural Dialogue and Community in the Filmmaking of Alfonso Cuaró, Guillermo del Toro, and Alejandro G. Iñárritu.





AMERICAN STUDIES FOR THE FUTURE

One of the first initiatives of AMNESP Director, Joseph Rezek, was the planning of a new seminar and lecture series, launched in Spring 2022, “American Studies for the Future.” This series, which will continue in the 2022/2023 academic year, focuses on urgent issues in American Studies and features both BU faculty and prominent outside speakers. The goal of the series is to foster exchange across disciplines in a variety of formats. Two BU professors were invited to select outside scholars to come to campus and respond to their work in a seminar setting and also to deliver public lectures. The program ended in April with a Keynote Address by Professor André de Quadros (BU, CFA, Music and Music Education). All of the events were well attended by AMNESP graduate students and affiliated students and faculty from around the College of Arts & Sciences.

The first day of events, held on February 10, featured an afternoon seminar to discuss a pre-circulated paper by Ross Barrett, BU Associate Professor of art history, entitled “Painting and Property on Prout’s Neck.” Associate Professor Alan Braddock of The College of William & Mary responded to this piece. Later that afternoon, Prof. Braddock delivered a public lecture entitled “Black Landscapes: Artistic Origins of Environmental Justice and Dilemmas of Decolonization.”

The second day of events, on March 3, featured an afternoon seminar to discuss a pre-circulated paper by Paula Austin, BU Assistant Professor of History and African American Studies, entitled “‘Thugs in Uniform or Why Must Such Extreme and Fatal Force Be Used’: Black DC’s Campaign to End Police Violence 1919 – 1970.” Professor Cheryl Hicks of the University of Delaware delivered a formal response to Prof. Austin’s paper and later that day delivered a public lecture entitled “‘A Woman of This Stamp’: Sexual Politics and Black Progressive-Era Activism.”

In the final event of the series, which took place on April 21, Prof. de Quadros delivered the keynote lecture, “The Exilic Condition in America: A Personal Encounter with Power, Asymmetry, and Border Crossings.” This event was immediately followed by the end of the year reception for the American & New England Studies Program.

“American Studies for the Future” was sponsored principally by a grant from the BU Center for the Humanities. It was also supported by the Dean of Arts & Sciences, the Associate Dean of Faculty/Humanities, the Associate Dean for Diversity & Inclusion, African American Studies, Women’s Gender, & Sexuality Studies, the Departments of English and History, and the American & New England Studies Program.



Prof. André de Quadros



Prof. Ross Barrett



Prof. Alan Braddock



Prof. Paula Austin



Prof. Cheryl Hicks

FIELD TRIPS

In addition to classroom studies, the MA in Preservation Studies program participated in a number of trips into the field for a more hands-on approach to learning.

October 2021 | Strawberry Banke Museum and Historic Portsmouth, NH

During the fall of 2021, the Preservation Studies students visited Strawberry Banke museum to learn about its Heritage House Program, which rehabilitates underutilized spaces to usable space such as apartments, office spaces and museum exhibition spaces. Elizabeth Farish, chief curator, John Schnitzler, restoration carpenter, and Richard Candee, former director of the BU Preservation Studies Program, joined the group. Following this introduction to the museum's work, the group undertook a heritage walk, guided by Prof. Candee, in historic Portsmouth, that included Marcy St., Prescott Park, Memorial Bridge, Warner House, Portsmouth Athenaeum, and the Portsmouth Historical Society.

April 2022 | Providence Preservation Society and Historic Providence, RI

At the end of the school year, this cohort engaged in an exploration of historic Providence, RI, and the preservation efforts within the city. Aaron Ahlstrom, training coordinator of the Providence Preservation Society (and AMNESP PhD alum) provided the group with an overview of the society's work and guided them through a heritage walk through College Hill neighborhood, a model of 1960s urban renewal that combined historic preservation and slum clearance. Following the historic tour of this area, Olin Thompson, vice president of the Jewelry District Association, provided the group with a tour of the historic Jewelry District in the Down City area of Providence.

Landscape Design and Preservation Studio 2022

In addition to these two field trips, the Landscape Design and Preservation Studio looked at ways to reimagine the Battle Road Visitor Center landscape experience at Minute Man National Historical Park. The Park was established in 1959 to preserve and interpret the historic sites and structures that set the scene for the first armed battle of the American Revolution. The Visitor Center in the Battle Road Unit was designed as part of the master plan for the Bicentennial celebration of the battle. As park management prepares for the upcoming 250th anniversary of the battle in 2025, this studio was conducted within the context of a contemporaneous revitalization of Minute Man. In thinking about the role of Minute Man today, studio participants focused through four phases of site analysis and design iteration on reinforcing the historical significance of the battle while remaining inclusive of the site's comprehensive history before and after the year 1775. Students with academic backgrounds ranging from architecture to painting to biology offered an assemblage of design proposals that seek to enhance the sense of place and interpretation of history through the visitor experience. The studio was a partnership between Minute Man National Historical Park, Boston University's College of Fine Arts and College of Arts and Sciences, Architectural Studies and the Preservation Studies Program.



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