History

The mission of the History Faculty is to promote advanced research and undergraduate teaching in a broad range of fields, including American, ancient, East and South Asian, European, Latin America, Middle Eastern, and Russian history. The faculty includes joint appointments in Urban Studies and in Science, Technology, and Society, and it participates in the joint doctoral program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS).


Professor Jacobs’s book *Pocketbook Politics: Economy Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America* was awarded the Ellis Hawley Prize by the Organization of American Historians and she received the d’Arbeloff Award for Excellence in Education. Professor McCants received a grant from the Class of ’51 Fund for Excellence in Education, the Class of ’55 Fund for Excellence in Teaching, the Class of ’72 Fund for Educational Innovation, and the Class of ’99 Fund for Excellence in Student Learning. Professor Capozzola received the Lister Brothers career development professorship. Ford International professor of history John Dower’s project *Visualizing Cultures* has been selected by the National Endowment for the Humanities as “one of the best online resources for education in the humanities.” Professor Perdue’s book *China Marches West: the Qing Conquest of Central Eurasia* was named an Outstanding New Book by *Foreign Affairs*.

Kenan Sahin dean Philip S. Khoury has been appointed as the Ford International professor of history and associate provost, effective July 1, 2006. Assistant professor Haimanti Roy began her first year of teaching. The subjects Professor Roy taught included 21H.571 The Making of Modern South Asia, 21H.573 Religion and Politics in Modern South Asia, 21H.575J Women in South Asia From 1800 to the Present, and 21H.577J Re-casting the Past: Film, Fiction and History in India, 1905-2005. Professors McCants and Wood were promoted to the rank of full professors: Professor McCants on the basis of her research on early modern Dutch history, and Professor Wood on the basis of her research in the field of Soviet history. Professor Jacobs was promoted to associate professor with tenure on the basis of her research on American economy and society in the 20th century. Professor Capozzola was promoted to associate professor without tenure on the basis of his research on the political and cultural history of the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Professor Ritvo stepped down as section head. Professor McCants will become the new section head, effective July 1.

Professors Maier, Perdue, Ritvo, and Jacobs participated in the joint doctoral program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society by teaching graduate seminars and reading courses, setting general examinations, and supervising dissertations. Professors Dower and Ritvo and Dean Khoury advised Harvard graduate students in Japanese, British, and Middle Eastern history, respectively. Dean Khoury joined the board of overseers of Koç University in Istanbul and became a trustee of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

History enrollments totaled 432 in the fall semester and 449 in the spring. Two history majors graduated in June 2006. Benjamin J. Kochan’s senior project, supervised by associate professor Jeff Ravel, was entitled “Following the Flag: Baseball and National Identity in Foreign Lands”; and Miranda Knutson’s senior project, supervised by Professor McCants, was entitled “The Refractive Properties of Warped Glass: Understanding Chivalric Principles in Shakespeare’s *Henry V*.”

Professor Maier is serving as chair of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Science dean search committee. Professors Ritvo, Perdue, McCants, Ravel, Jacobs, and Capozzola supervised Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program projects. Professor Perdue served on the Edgerton award committee. Professor Jacobs served on the Humanities, Arts, and Social Science oversight committee and the HASTS graduate curriculum committee. Professors Ciarlo, Jacobs, and Roy served as chairs of the Bruce Mazlish History Prize committee. Assistant professor William Broadhead and lecturer Steven Ostrow ran a new IAP travel program, IAP in Ancient Italy. Professor McCants served as president of MIT’s Phi Beta Kappa chapter and was director of graduate studies in the HASTS program. Professor Wood served as chair of the Women’s Studies program. Professor Capozzola ran the freshman pre-orientation program, *Discover History in Boston*.

The Sahin Lecture Series for 2005–2006 included the following presentations: Amanda Vickery on “His and Hers: Gender, Consumption, and Household Accounting in 18th-Century England”; Kathleen Canning on “The Gender of Citizenship: Bodies, Subjects, and Publics in Weimar Germany”; Ellen Fitzpatrick on “The Widening Historical Crevasse: Contemporary America and Conceptions of the Past”; Carol Anderson on “Bourgeois Radicals: the NAACP and the Colonial Liberation Struggles during the Early Cold War”; and Bryna Goodman on “Appealing to the Public: Newspaper Presentation and Adjudication of Emotion in 1920s Shanghai.” Dean Khoury directed the Bustani Middle East Seminar. Professor Ritvo was co-organizer of “Modern Times, Rural Places,” a seminar series on environmental and agricultural history.

Harriet Ritvo  
Section Head  
Arthur J. Conner Professor of History

More information about the History Faculty can be found online at [http://web.mit.edu/history/www/](http://web.mit.edu/history/www/).