

History Section

The [History Section](#) currently includes joint appointments with the Department of Urban Studies and Planning and the Program in Science, Technology, and Society. The History faculty support a number of Institute programs, including Women's and Gender Studies; American Studies; African and African Diaspora Studies; Latin American and Latino Studies; Middle Eastern Studies; Religious Studies; Russian and Eurasian Studies; Ancient and Medieval Studies; and the graduate program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS). The faculty contribute to the language and literature programs, and support undergraduate and graduate-level work in other sections of Course 21.

Faculty Activities

William Broadhead, associate professor of history and Class of '54 career development chair, received the Levitan Award for Excellence in Teaching. Professor Broadhead brought 11 students on the Independent Activities Period (IAP) in Ancient and Medieval Italy, along with professors Eric Goldberg and lecturer Steven Ostrow. He is currently completing *The Ancient City Online*, an interactive digital resource for the study of the archaeology of Athens, Rome, Olynthos, Pompeii, and Herculaneum, supported by a grant from the Alumni Teaching Fund, and is finishing his book *Migration and Power in Roman Italy*.

Christopher Capozzola served as interim associate dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS). Despite the significant demands of that office, he remained active in the History Section and in the profession. Professor Capozzola organized the conference *New Immigration*, at the Massachusetts Historical Society, and delivered papers at the Association for Asian American Studies and the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. He gave invited lectures at the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, Columbia University; the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore; the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Oregon; the Political History Workshop, University of Chicago; and the graduate seminar *American History as an Occupying Power*, Harvard University. Professor Capozzola continues to design and direct public history projects. He has a forthcoming exhibit titled *Guastavino Vaulting: Palaces for the People*, which is a joint venture of the Boston Public Library, the Museum of the City of New York, and the National Building Museum. Professor Capozzola also has a new article, "Transnationalizing Asian American Studies," which will appear in the *Journal of Transnational American Studies*, and he is making a major contribution to John Dower's Visualizing Cultures project.

Lerna Ekmekçioğlu arrived in fall 2011 as an assistant professor, occupying the McMillan-Stewart career development chair in women in the Middle East and North Africa. She has offered several papers on Turkish and Armenian studies at the University of Athens, École Française d'Athènes, the International Institute of Social History, in Amsterdam, and the Program in Ottoman Studies at New York University. Professor Ekmekçioğlu is completing work on her book manuscript *Surviving the New*

Turkey: Armenians in Post-Ottoman Istanbul, 1918–1935. She is revising an article on the politics of inclusion in the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide for *Comparative Studies in Society and History*.

Eric Goldberg, associate professor of history, has received support to conduct research in Munich on Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung. He gave the talk “Rudolf of Fulda and the ‘Lost Historia Saxonum’” at the Free University of Berlin and the International Medieval Congress, in Leeds, UK. His essay “Louis the Pious and the Hunt” is under review at *Speculum*, and introduces the arguments in his larger project on hunting in European history. Professor Goldberg’s current book, *Hunting in the Early Middle Ages*, is slated to be fully drafted by summer 2013.

Meg Jacobs, associate professor of history, was on leave for the fall term. However, she was active in the HASTS program, advising students and offering directed readings courses. She has completed two new essays: “US Liberalism and the World: The American Century Reconsidered,” which is under review at *American Historical Review*, and “The Politics of Environmental Regulation: Business–Government Relations in the 1970s and Beyond,” in Kimberly Phillips-Fein and Julian E. Zelizer, eds., *What’s Good for American Business* (New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming). Professor Jacobs is finishing a book on the energy crisis.

Christopher Leighton, assistant professor of history, is developing a body of scholarship on the history and nature of Chinese investment and economic planning. He delivered “Mah-jongg to Marx: Private Leisure and Public Life of Bourgeois Wives in 1950s China” at the New England Association of Asian Studies, Wellesley College, and “Paying for Patriotism: Chinese Capitalists in the Korean War” at the New York Association of Asian Studies, State University of New York, Buffalo. He is revising “Truth from Fictions” for *China Quarterly*. Professor Leighton will be on leave fall 2012, when he will be working on his book manuscript.

Pauline Maier, William R. Kenan, Jr. professor of American history, has just completed a year as president of the Society of American Historians. Professor Maier’s book *Ratification* has continued to receive awards and honors, including the Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award, the George Washington Book Prize, the Ruth Ratner Miller Award for Excellence in American History, the Paolucci/Bagehot Book Award, and the Littleton-Griswold Prize of the American Historical Association. She has offered lectures and papers on *Ratification* at several venues, including the Museum of American Independence, Exeter, NH; the Massachusetts Historical Society; the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic; the Carls-Schwerdfeger Lecture Series, Union University, Jackson, TN; and as keynote speaker at the US Intellectual History Conference, The Graduate Center, City University of New York. Professor Maier is planning a new book on the history of the Bill of Rights, in which she will examine the invention of these amendments as a package of entitlements in the years after the deaths of the Founding Fathers.

Anne McCants, professor of history, served her final year as head of the History Section. Professor McCants guided several changes in the staffing and reorganization of the Section office. She has begun her tenure as editor of *Social Science History* and is preparing to become program chair for the American Historical Association's 2014 meeting. She is finishing a book on the Gothic cathedral. During the last year, she organized and participated in international conferences in Foz Tua, Portugal; Wassenaar, The Netherlands; and Boston. Professor McCants has written an article on the material culture of tea and coffee consumption, which will be published in a compilation under the Routledge imprint. She has served as guest editor of *Historical Methods*, for a volume in which she also contributed an essay.

Hiromu Nagahara, assistant professor of history, completed his first year as a member of the History faculty. He began his teaching offerings with a course on the history of premodern Japan. He also offered a workshop on world history, and is part of the committee that is producing the new World History Subject. Professor Nagahara is now completing an article for a compilation that has been contracted with Routledge. He delivered an essay on local and global tensions in Japanese popular culture at Seijo University, Tokyo, and gave a paper on middle-class music and mass culture at the Association of Asian Studies 2012 meeting.

Jeffrey Ravel, professor of history, will publish his "Des Definitions aux usages" this summer in the journal *Parlement(s)*. As part of his current research efforts, he presented lectures and papers at the Sorbonne, Universite de Caen, Vanderbilt University, Universite Laval (Quebec), and Yale University. Professor Ravel has been elected to the executive committee of the American Society for Eighteenth-century Studies, and he has been appointed copresident and coorganizer of the Society for French Historical Studies 2013 conference. Within the History Section, he has guided the creation of the World History Subject and has organized roundtables and presentations to help faculty conceptualize their work and field interests in the context of world history. Professor Ravel is a major contributor to the HASTS program, and he has served as chair of the Committee on Undergraduate Policy's subcommittee on humanities, arts, and social sciences requirements and on the Palitz Prize Committee.

Harriet Ritvo, Arthur J. Conner professor of history, has three forthcoming essays: an article on the migration and invasion of animals, in *Environmental History*; "Calling the Wild," which will appear in *Gorgeous Beasts* (Penn State University Press); and "Edging into the Wild," in the edited volume *Designing Wildlife Habitats* (Harvard University Press). Professor Ritvo advises multiple doctoral candidates in the HASTS program, for which she also serves as director of graduate studies, and at Harvard University, Queens University (Canada), and the University of Oslo. She continues her service as editor of the *Animals, History, Culture Series*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press, and she serves on the board of several academic journals, including *Animals and Society*, *History*, and *Victorian Studies*. She is an external reviewer for applicants to the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, the National Humanities Center, the Stanford Humanities Center, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Craig Steven Wilder, professor of history and the new head of the History Section, completed his book manuscript *Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities* (Bloomsbury Press, forthcoming). He has several articles and essays in press this year, including in *New York History* and in edited volumes that will appear in *Slavery's Capitalism* (University of Pennsylvania Press) and *Slavery and the University* (University of Georgia Press). Professor Wilder served as chair of the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid, and during the spring term was distinguished senior fellow at the Bard Prison Initiative, where he taught three courses in the undergraduate college program at Eastern Correctional Facility, a maximum security prison in New York State.

Elizabeth Wood, professor of history, published "Performing Memory: Vladimir Putin and World War II in Russia" in the *Soviet and Post-Soviet Review*. She has a draft article under submission with *Slavic Review* that explores the hypermasculine culture of contemporary Russian politics. Professor Wood has begun a book on the deployment and politics of masculinity in President Putin's Russia. She is a major contributor to the Women's and Gender Studies and the Russian Studies programs, and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.

Academic and Program Initiatives

The History Section takes pride in its capacity to support a broad range of academic and programmatic initiatives in the undergraduate and graduate curricula. History faculty chair programs and advise students in the languages, arts, sciences, and social sciences, and provide a collective service to the Institute. The central concern of the faculty remains undergraduate teaching. History undergraduate enrollments totaled 611, distributed across 39 courses, during the past academic year, and the Section currently carries 10 majors and 73 concentrators. The History Section ran a range of IAP offerings designed to enhance the learning experiences and broaden the perspectives of undergraduate students. The Bruce Mazlish Undergraduate Prize in History continues to draw significant student submissions—Matthew Houston's "Vigilante Motives: Why 2,000 Men Participated in the Bisbee Deportation" won first prize this year; second prize went to Alexandra Hsu's "The Spread of the 'Salem' Witchcraft Trials" and Christina Welsh's "Celebration, Meditation, and Education: The Role of Singing in Early Christianity."

The Section has several ongoing ventures aimed at improving the quality and diversity of undergraduate learning, including *How to Stage a Revolution*, and *Empires*, through which a number of faculty have rotated and introduced new and exciting modules that exploit their expertise and draw connections with the work of their colleagues. The World History Subject team, which began last year, will mount its first course offering this coming academic year. This first course will be launched through the History Section but the larger team and long-term aim of the project draws faculty from the Anthropology Program, the Foreign Languages and Literatures Section, and the Literature Section. A version of this course is being designed for the SHASS component of the curriculum for the Singapore University of Technology and Design.

The History Section's lecture series brings scholars from around the globe and attracts a broad audience from the Cambridge and Boston region but also from the greater New England area. The series provides an extraordinary opportunity for HASTS graduate students to engage in discussions with leading scholars doing transformative research. The Sahin Lecture Series hosted a number of distinguished scholars. David Edgerton, of the Centre for the History of Science at Imperial College, London, began the year with a presentation on the new history of production. Dominic Fontana, a University of Portsmouth geographer, gave a lecture on the use of geographic information system technology in historical maritime modeling. Mae Ngai, a historian from Columbia University, presented on current challenges to the narratives of American immigration history. The Section also used these lectures and the remaining portion of the series to further develop the material and concepts for its new World History Subject. Several MIT faculty presented Sahin lectures as part of this initiative: Professors Leighton and McCants introduced commerce and communication networks in Late Medieval Europe and Asia, and Professor Ritvo opened up the possibility of examining world history through the migration, survival, and disappearance of plants and animals. Peter Purdue (Yale University) and professors Diana Henderson and Shankar Raman discussed the conquest legacies of Asia and Europe. Tsolin Nalbantian, a former visiting faculty member now at the University of Leiden, offered a new interpretation of colonial rule and its legacies in Egypt.

The Seminar on Environmental and Agricultural History, under the direction of Professor Ritvo and dean Deborah Fitzgerald, began with an introduction to the "farms race," the Cold War competition in agricultural production. William Beinart, of Oxford University, gave a presentation on the African perspective on plant transfer and imperialism. Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud, of the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, examined the evolution of ideas about pollution, hazard, and public safety in nineteenth-century French policymaking. Joyce Chapin, of Harvard University, argued that early modern ship crews and officers developed complex ideas about the sources of sickness and health during lengthy voyages at sea, and her presentation examined the associations that were made between land, earth, plants, and health.

Craig Steven Wilder
Section Head
Professor of History