

History Section

The [History Section](#) includes joint appointments with the Department of Urban Studies and Planning and the Program in Science, Technology, and Society. 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). Two of our faculty have taken leadership roles and joint appointments in Foreign Languages and Literatures, and several historians offer undergraduate- and graduate-level instruction in other sections of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS), the Sloan School of Management, and the School of Architecture and Planning.

Faculty Activities

Sana Aiyar was hired as an assistant professor of history this year. She had previously taught at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and holds a doctorate from Harvard, bachelor's and master's degrees from Cambridge University, and a bachelor's from St. Stephen's in Delhi, India. Professor Aiyar has already published two major essays in leading journals and has a contract with Harvard University Press for her book, *Nation, Race, and Politics across the Indian Ocean: Kenya's South Asian Diaspora, c. 1895–1968*.

William Broadhead, associate professor of history and the Class of '54 career development chair, is the current recipient of the Levitan Award for Excellence in Teaching and holds the MacVicar Faculty Fellowship. Professor Broadhead led 16 students on the Independent Activities Period (IAP) in Ancient and Medieval Italy trip with Eric Goldberg and Steve Ostrow. He has just completed "The Ancient City Online," an interactive digital resource for the study of the archaeology of Athens, Rome, Olynthos, Pompeii, and Herculaneum. He has several forthcoming reviews and contributions to encyclopedic collections. Professor Broadhead is finishing his book *Hegemony and Mobility in Roman Italy, 4th–1st Centuries BC*.

Christopher Capozzola, associate professor of history, organized the fall 2012 "Border Crossing" conference at MIT, which brought scholars from across the nation to discuss the newest work on citizenship, race, and gender at the borderlands. He gave invited lectures at Princeton University, Harvard University, and the University of Toronto. Professor Capozzola has presented at Teaching American History initiatives in Illinois and Delaware. He has given papers and chaired panels at the meetings of the American Studies Association and the Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations. He is also doing the final research and writing for his forthcoming book *Brothers of the Pacific: Soldiers, Citizens, and the Philippines in America's Pacific Century*.

Assistant professor Lerna Ekmekcioglu holds the McMillan-Stewart career development chair in women in the Middle East and North Africa. She has just published a major article, "A Climate for Abduction, a Climate for Redemption: The Politics of Inclusion during and after the Armenian Genocide," in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*

(July 2013). Professor Ekmekçioglu is revising her book manuscript *Surviving the New Turkey: Armenians in Post-Ottoman Istanbul*, which is under review at Stanford University Press. She gave talks at Clark University, Harvard University, the meeting of the National Association for Armenian Studies, and the Armenian General Benevolent Union in Canada. She also presented at the “Border Crossing” conference at MIT and the conference of the Council for European Studies in the Netherlands.

Malick W. Ghachem, associate professor without tenure, joined the faculty this year. He previously taught at the University of Maine Law School and worked at two Boston law firms. Professor Ghachem holds the juris doctorate from the Harvard Law School, the doctor of philosophy in history from Stanford University, a master’s degree in history from Stanford, and a bachelor’s degree from Harvard. His new book, *The Old Regime and the Haitian Revolution* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), won the 2013 Gordon K. and Sybil Lewis Prize from the Caribbean Studies Association and the 2013 J. Russell Major Prize from the American Historical Association. This year Professor Ghachem published three short essays in law reviews and completed an essay on Haiti in the Atlantic Revolutions for the forthcoming volume *Scripting Revolution: A History Approach to the Comparative Study of Revolutions* (Keith M. Baker and Dan Edelstein, eds.).

Associate professor of history Eric Goldberg’s article “Louis the Pious and the Hunt” has been accepted for publication in *Speculum*. He is finishing an article on “Rudolf of Fulda and the ‘Lost’ *Historia Saxonum*,” drawn from his new book project and a conference paper that he delivered last year. Professor Goldberg’s current book project, *Hunting and the Birth of Europe, A.D. 100–1000*, is nearing completion.

Meg Jacobs, associate professor of history, is returning to MIT after an extended leave. Her article “Austerity Politics: A Look Backwards” will be published in *Democracy* this fall. Professor Jacobs is currently working on two other essays, including a book chapter on “The Gender Gap and American Politics in the Age of Reagan.” Jacobs is finishing a new book, *The Energy Crisis: Washington Conservatives, Divided Democrats, and American Politics in the 1970s*, which is under contract with Hill and Wang.

Assistant professor of history Christopher Leighton was named the Class of 1948 career development chair. He is developing a body of scholarship on the history and nature of Chinese investment and economic planning. He delivered “The Merits of Exploitation: Capitalists’ Contributions to New China” at the Paris meetings of the European Association for Chinese Studies. He is publishing a chapter, “Venture Communist: Gu Zhun in Shanghai,” in a new University of California Press volume, and he is revising “Truth from Fictions” for *China Quarterly*. Professor Leighton will be on leave this fall and will be working on his book manuscript.

Pauline Maier, William R. Kenan, Jr. professor of American history, followed the publication of her award-winning book, *Ratification*, with numerous lectures and papers. Professor Maier is planning a new book on the history of the Bill of Rights, that 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, continued her tenure as the editor of *Social Science History*, is entering her second year as the director of the Concourse Program at MIT, and will begin her service as the program chair for the American Historical Association's 2014 meeting. This year she published *Railroads in Historical Context: Construction, Costs, and Consequences* with Eduardo Beira, Jose M. Lopes Cordeiro, and Paulo Lourenco. Her article "Public Welfare and Economic Growth" appeared in *Economic History of Developing Regions*. She has also completed two chapters for compilations: "Becoming Consumers: Asiatic Goods in Migrant and Native-born Middling Households in 18th Century Amsterdam" in *Goods from the East: Trading Eurasia 1600–1830* (Palgrave, forthcoming) and "Porcelain for the Poor: The Material Culture of Tea and Coffee Consumption in Eighteenth Century Amsterdam" in *Early Modern Things: Objects and their Histories, 1500–1800* (Paula Findlan, ed., Routledge, 2013).

Assistant professor of history Hiromu Nagahara completed his second year as a member of the History faculty. This year he and professor Jeffrey Ravel piloted the world history course that SHASS and History have developed for the Singapore University of Technology and Design. Professor Nagahara published "The Censor as Critic: Ogawa Chikagoro and Popular Music Censorship in Imperial Japan" in *Negotiating Censorship in Modern Japan* (Rachael Hutchinson, ed., Routledge, 2013). He also presented papers at the Columbia University Modern Japan Seminar and the MIT "Border Crossing" conference.

Jeffrey Ravel, professor of history, served as co-president of the Society for French Historical Studies, and he brought its annual conference to Cambridge this spring. He is also on the executive board of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies. Professor Ravel has provided extraordinary service to the Institute. Within the History section, he piloted our world history course and continued organizing roundtables and presentations to help our faculty conceptualize their work and field interests within the framework of world history. Professor Ravel contributes to the HASTS graduate program and the History undergraduate program. He has a forthcoming article in *Littératures classiques*.

Harriet Ritvo, Arthur J. Conner professor of history, was a distinguished visiting scholar at Queen's University in Belfast and a visiting scholar at the University of Tasmania. This academic year, she presented work in Munich and Belfast as well as at Sewanee University and Harvard. Professor Ritvo's groundbreaking study, *The Animal Estate*, was selected for the Harvard One Hundred as one of the most important books in the first century of Harvard University Press. She has three forthcoming essays: "Back Story: Migration, Assimilation and Invasion in the Nineteenth Century," in *Rethinking Invasion Ecologies from the Environmental Humanities* (Iain McCaolman and Jodi Frawley, eds., Routledge); "Calling the Wild: Selection, Domestication, and Species," in *After Darwin: Animals, Emotions, and the Mind* (Angelique Richardson, ed., Rodopi); and "Reaching and Grasping: Some Reflections on Joachim Radkau's *Nature and Power*," in *Social Science History*. Professor Ritvo advises multiple doctoral candidates in the HASTS program and at Harvard and other top research institutions. She has just completed her final year as the director of graduate studies for the HASTS program. She is editor of the *Animals, History, Culture Series*, published by the 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 the Radcliffe Institute, the National Humanities Center, the Stanford Humanities Center, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Emma J. Teng, associate professor of foreign languages and literatures, now holds a joint appointment in the History faculty. This year Professor Teng was awarded the MacVicar Faculty Fellowship, and she was also chosen as the head of the Program in Women's and Gender Studies. She has worked with Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program students consistently for the past 15 years and has been an active presence in the intellectual lives of our students. She is currently a summer fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Professor Teng gave talks at Brown, Harvard, and Yale and presented at the Association for Asian Studies conference in San Diego and the "Crossing Borders" conference at MIT. Her new book, *Eurasian: Mixed Identities in the US, China, and Hong Kong, 1842–1943* (University of California Press), will be published this summer and is receiving advanced praise. She also has a number of articles in progress.

Craig Steven Wilder, professor of history and head of the History faculty, has a new book, *Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities* (Bloomsbury), scheduled for release in September. He published "'Driven from the School of the Prophets': The Colonizationist Ascendance at General Theological Seminary" in *New York History*, and he has essays in the forthcoming edited volumes *Slavery's Capitalism* (University of Pennsylvania Press) and *Slavery and the University* (University of Georgia Press). Professor Wilder appeared in two documentary films this year: Ken and Sarah Burns' *The Central Park Five* and Kelly Anderson's *My Brooklyn*. He has begun a term as the faculty advisor to the First Generation Project.

Professor of history Elizabeth Wood began the academic year with a presentation on the unraveling of Vladimir Putin's hypermasculine politics. She presented her recent scholarship at conferences at the University of Pittsburgh, Harvard, and the University of Miami. She wrote a timely and important editorial in the aftermath of the Boston bombings: "How Two Centuries of Conflict Shaped the Tsarnaev Brothers" (*The Atlantic*, May 5, 2013). She also completed a review of Maya Eichler's *Militarizing Men: Gender, Conscription and War in Post-Soviet Russia*. Professor Wood is working on a book on the deployment and politics of masculinity in Putin's Russia. She is a major contributor to Women's and Gender Studies, Russian Studies, the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives Russia program, 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 at MIT. History faculty chair programs and advise students in the languages, arts, sciences, and social sciences, providing a collective service to the Institute. The central concern of the faculty remains undergraduate teaching. History undergraduate enrollments totaled 581, distributed across 39 courses, during the past academic year. The section currently

carries three majors, nine minors, and 67 concentrators. History ran a range of IAP offerings designed to enhance the learning experiences and broaden the perspectives of our undergraduate students. There were 15 entries for this year's Bruce Mazlish Undergraduate Prize in History. The first, second, and third prizes, respectively, went to Sweet Tea Dorminy ("Pre-Frontier Reaper Adoption in the Shenandoah"), Laura Seaman ("How a Battle Over Semantics Led to Busing in Boston"), and Graham Cole ("The Mutable Mausoleum: The Structure and Symbolism of Augustus' Tomb at Rome").

The section has several ongoing ventures aimed at improving the quality and diversity of undergraduate learning at MIT, including "How to Stage a Revolution" and "Empires," through which a number of faculty have rotated to create new modules that exploit their expertise and draw connections to the work of their colleagues. The world history subject team mounted its first course offering during the past academic year. The course was launched through History, but the larger team and long-term aim of the project will draw faculty from Anthropology, Foreign Languages and Literatures, and Literature. Professor Ravel will be traveling to Singapore this fall to help implement the SHASS component of the curriculum at the Singapore University of Technology and Design.

The section's lecture series brings scholars from around the globe and attracts a broad audience from the Cambridge region. The series provides an extraordinary opportunity for HASTS graduate students to engage in discussions with leading scholars doing transformative research. In addition, the section invited scholars from MIT and other institutions to present talks that would help develop the new World History subject 21H.009 The World: 1400–Present. As part of the World History Teaching Workshop, Bernhard Rieger of University College London presented "The People's Car: A Global History of the Volkswagen Beetle," drawn from his new book of the same title, and Nicholas Rowe, an MIT alum who is currently a professor at St. Augustine College in South Africa, gave a talk on "Teaching World History in Post-Apartheid South Africa." Mary Fuller from Literature and Professor Capozzola also offered lectures in this workshop series.

The Seminar on Environmental and Agricultural History, under the direction of Professor Ritvo and dean Deborah Fitzgerald, concluded this year. Walter Johnson of Harvard presented "The Carceral Landscape: Slaves, Horses, Dogs, Fields, Swamps, and Woods," drawn from his new book, *River of Dark Dreams*. Alan Mikhail of Yale presented an essay on animal history, "When Animals Stop Working: An Economy of Labor Transformation in the Ottoman Empire." Kathleen Brosnan of the University of Oklahoma presented "The State in the Vineyard," and Nancy Jacobs of Brown gave a paper on the "Traditions and Networks of Birding in Africa." The seminar's final guest was Peter Coates of the University of Bristol, who introduced his new work on "Fluvio-centric Currents of River History: From the Mersey to the Po."

Craig Steven Wilder
Section Head
Professor of History