

## 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 American, 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).

Craig Wilder, formerly of Dartmouth College, joined our faculty effective July 1, 2008, at the rank of full professor. We are especially excited to welcome him to our faculty to teach courses and conduct research in an area where we have not had previous strength: the making of racial identities in American history, particularly through the country's urban and educational institutions. We also report the retirement of Professor Peter Perdue from MIT effective June 30, 2008.

Cognizant of the need to rethink both our undergraduate curriculum and our participation in the HASTS doctoral program in light of these significant staff changes, the department met as a whole for a two-day curriculum evaluation and planning retreat in June 2008. We reconfirmed our commitment to the specialized doctoral training offered by the joint program, but also note our desire to become a full and equal partner in the administration of the program. In addition, we began reordering (and renumbering) our subject listings to better reflect the requirements for our undergraduate major and minor and to better highlight the full range of our geographical specialties. Finally, we would like to pursue a dialogue with the other programs in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences that offer courses in South and East Asian topics to consider changing the minor and major departure programs in East Asian studies to Asian studies more broadly. This would incorporate the growing strength in South Asia at MIT.

Professor Jeffrey Ravel published *The Would-Be Commoner* in July 2008. Lister Brothers career development associate professor Christopher Capozzola published *Uncle Sam Wants You: World War I and the Making of the Modern Citizen* in June 2008. Professor and department head Anne McCants published "Exotic Goods, Popular Consumption, and the Standard of Living: Thinking About Globalization in the Early Modern World" in the *Journal of World History* and "Christian Charity and the Politics of Orphan Care in the Dutch Republic" in *The History of Orphanages Reconsidered* (Richard McKenzie, ed.); and "Maps Matter: A New Spatial View of the 13th Century Manorial Economy," a review of Bruce M.S. Campbell and Ken Bartley's *England on the Eve of the Black Death: An Atlas of the Lay Lordship, Land and Wealth, 1300–49*, in *Historical Methods*.

Professor John Dower presented the Killian lecture in April. Professor Anne McCants was invited to present "Luxury and Misery: The Mysterious Historical Double-Life of Textile Production and Consumption" at Binghamton University's Economics History Seminar in March 2008. Associate professor of history Christopher Capozzola was invited to present "German Enemy Aliens in the First World War and the Making of Modern American Citizenship" at the University of Virginia's Miller Center for Public

Affairs, “Uncle Sam Wants You: World War I and the Making of the Modern American Citizen” at Columbia University’s Workshop on Twentieth-century American Politics and Society, and “Does the Constitution Follow the Soldier?: US Military Bases in East Asia and the Meaning of Cold War Citizenship” at the University of British Columbia. Professor Capozzola also presented “What a Woman Can Do for Her Country: Consent and Coercion in the Shadows of Selective Service” at the meeting of the Social Science History Association and “Following the Flag: Filipino Soldiers in America’s Pacific Century” at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Professor Meg Jacobs’ essay “The Conservative Struggle and the Energy Crisis” appeared in *Rightward Bound: Making America Conservative in the 1970s* (Bruce Schulman and Julian E. Zelizer, eds.).

Professor Dower received major awards for his Visualizing Cultures project from the Getty Foundation, the Luce Foundation, and the Department of Education, ensuring that work will continue on expanding the project website to cover Asia and the Modern World. In addition, Professor Dower received an honorary doctorate in humane letters from Union College. Professor McCants received the Class of 1960 Endowment for Innovation in Education grant for establishment of a program in ancient and medieval studies. Associate professor Jacobs was awarded a Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study fellowship for AY2009. Professor Harriet Ritvo received a Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Graduate Award, presented to alumni of Radcliffe and Harvard for outstanding contributions to their professions. Lecturer Steven Ostrow was named to the Executive Committee of the Vergilian Society of America’s Board of Trustees.

Associate professor Capozzola chaired a session at the meeting of the American Society for Legal History and served as a respondent for the Harvard University Workshop on the Political Economy of Modern Capitalism.

Professor Anne McCants supervised the thesis “Waves of Change: Redefining Globalization in the Pre-Nineteenth Century World” by Sergio Navarro. Professor McCants was also a thesis reader for Harvard student Fabian Drixler.

Professor Ritvo is 2008 co–research director for the Social Science Research Council’s Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship in the Field of Animal Studies.

History enrollments totaled 344 in the fall and 359 in the spring. Five history majors graduated in June 2008. Three undergraduates submitted winning essays in the annual Bruce Mazlish History Prize competition: Elizabeth Holly Bellocchio, “A Recipe for Disaster: How Boston Burned in 1872,” W. Rane Nolan, “The Roman People and their Water Supply,” and Anthony J. Tortorello, “Why Supply Management Failed: How the Agricultural Adjustment Administration Squandered Billions in a Failed Attempt to Reduce Agricultural Production.”

The Sahin Lecture Series for 2007–2008 included the following presentations: Christian Biet (University of Paris X Nanterre), “Race and Violence in Shakespearean and French Theater ca 1600”; Eric Avila (University of California, Los Angeles), “White Man’s Freeway”: Racial Politics and Historical Memory in Post War St. Paul; Craig Wilder (Dartmouth College), “Ebony and Ivy: Race, Science and the Making of the American

College”; and Jeffrey Fynn-Paul (University of Utrecht), “Christianity, Islam, and Slavery in the Greater Mediterranean: The Impact of Religious Ideology on Slaving Patterns in Africa and Russia, 800–1800 C.E.” Professor and associate provost Philip Khoury directed the Bustani Middle East Seminar.

Anne McCants chaired the Committee on Student Life, served as the MIT Truman Fellowship faculty representative and as a member of the dean for undergraduate education’s Faculty Advisory Board, and serves on the executive committee of the Social Science History Association and as a trustee for the Economic History Association, both elected positions. She was the economics network chair for the European Social Science History Conference in February and taught in the MIT-Portugal exchange program. She also sits on prize/fellowship committees for both the Edgerton House Association and the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research.

Jeffrey Ravel chaired the HASS Overview Committee and was a member of the Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement and the Faculty Library Committee. He is also coorganizer of the September “Visions of the Stage” conference at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA. Professor Ravel was a member of the thesis committee of Pannill Camp, a Brown graduate student who successfully defended his thesis.

William Broadhead is a member of the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid (effective January 2008) and the new Global Education Faculty Advisory Committee, which had its inaugural meeting last May. In addition, along with Anne McCants, he served as a faculty advisor for ancient and medieval studies.

Meg Jacobs sat on the Committee on the Undergraduate Program this past year.

Elizabeth Wood was the faculty advisor for Russian studies at MIT.

**Anne McCants**  
**Section Head**  
**Professor of History**

*More information about the History Section can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/history/www/>.*