

# HISTORY News

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences newsletter for the Department of History

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**We want to hear from you!**  
Please send all comments,  
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to [fassalum@dal.ca](mailto:fassalum@dal.ca)

## Welcome to the Spring 2017 Edition of the History Department Newsletter

The 2016-17 academic year has come to an end, which means the History department finish line for many of our graduating students. As our graduates head off on their next adventures, we'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate them and celebrate their accomplishments over the past several years, and also celebrate the research, accomplishments, publications and more of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni.



In spring 2016, members of the Undergraduate History Society buried a time capsule on Dal campus with plans to dig it back up in the year 2026. More on this on page 15.

# Faculty Updates

## CHRISTOPHER BELL

Dr. Bell had two new publications in the spring of 2017: a book, *Churchill and the Dardanelles* (Oxford University Press), and a chapter in *The Sea in History - The Modern World* (Boydell Press). In April 2016, he presented the keynote address at the Politics and History Annual PhD Student Conference, Brunel University London. More recently, he gave a paper at a conference on US intelligence and naval strategy in the First World War at the US Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island. He has become one of the series editors for a new academic series on naval history about to be launched by Naval Institute Press.



Dr. Christopher Bell

## JUSTIN ROBERTS

The most enriching and delightful change in my life this past year was the birth of my daughter in September of 2016 but this past year and a half has been productive on many levels. I spent the fall of my 2015-2016 sabbatical researching my second book project as a fellow at the Library Company in Philadelphia and at the Huntington Library in Los Angeles. I published a piece of this book project

in the *William and Mary Quarterly* in April of 2016 and wrote a blog post for the Omohundro Institute about the research process for that essay. I also finished an essay on slavery throughout the British Americas that is forthcoming in *The World of Colonial America: An Atlantic Handbook*. I am now finishing the final revisions on two coauthored essays and getting them ready for journal submission in the early summer. One is on slavery and the process of amelioration in the Danish West Indies and the other is a study of roving gangs of hired slaves in the British West Indies.

## GREGORY HANLON

For 20 years Dr. Hanlon has been exploring human behaviour in the early modern era in the light of evolutionary thinking. Humans display a considerable number of innate default settings, shared by all populations and discernable throughout recorded history, covering a wide variety of measurable behaviours. He has just published a short article on this topic in the first issue of a new journal, *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture*; a much longer piece will appear in *The Cambridge Handbook of Evolutionary Studies*, edited by Jerome Barkow and Lance Workman. Dr. Hanlon's 2016 book *Italy 1636: Cemetery of Armies* (Oxford UP) focuses on the human ethology of mortal combat, set during the Thirty Years' War struggle between France and Spain. He lectured on the universal features of warfare at University College London last spring. A previous book studying the workings of armies,

*The Hero of Italy: the Duke of Parma, his soldiers and his subjects in the Thirty Years' War* (Oxford UP 2014) will appear soon in Milan in Italian translation (ACIES Edizioni). Another vector of Dr. Hanlon's research is his ongoing work on unreported routine infanticide in the early modern West. An overview article, based in part on the work of Dalhousie Honours and M.A. students, has just been published in *History Compass*, and the text was presented last spring at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. A more robust article focused on Northern Italy is nearing completion, and will be presented to the research seminar on Family History and Demography at the Sorbonne in Paris at the end of April 2017. He is also supervising graduate work with Ben Cable on display (another human universal) at the ducal court of Parma in the High Baroque era.

## CYNTHIA NEVILLE

I was on sabbatical leave from 1 July through 31 December 2016. I spent



Dr. Cynthia Neville in Australia

two very pleasant months of that time (1 October - 30 November) as a Visiting Research Fellow at the Humanities Research Centre at the Australian National University in Canberra.

My time in Australia gave me the opportunity to complete research and to write an article on the relationship between canon law and common law in the matter of felony in later medieval Scotland, as well as deliver formal research seminars at the University of Sydney (Ninth Australian Conference on Celtic Studies), Monash University's Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the ANU Humanities Research Centre. In the course of my time in Australia I also met informally with colleagues who are members of ANZAMEMS (the Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Renaissance Studies) in Brisbane (University of Queensland) and Hobart (University of Tasmania). The best parts of the trip were the frequent nature walks that I took with colleagues and new friends from the ANU, who knew of my fondness for hiking and the outdoors. I became something of an expert at spotting all kinds of wildlife that I have never seen before!

### AJAY PARASRAM

Dr. Parasram was recently elected to join a line of succession to become chair of the Global Development Section of the International Studies Association, one of the largest scholarly meetings of international studies. He has two forthcoming book chapters, the first coauthored with Lisa Tilley (Warwick) entitled, "Global Environmental Harm, Internal Frontiers, and Indigenous Protective Ontologies" in the forthcoming *Routledge Handbook of Postcolonial Studies*. The second is entitled, "Hunting The State of Nature: Race and Ethics in

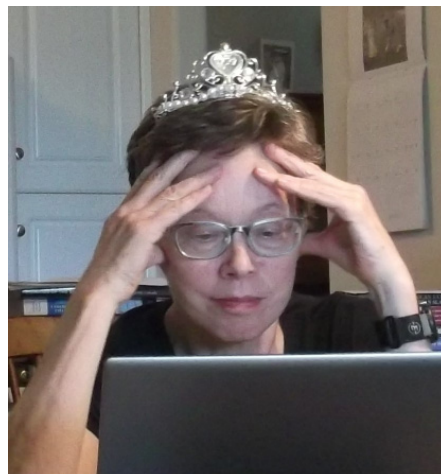
Postcolonial International Relations" and will appear in the forthcoming *Routledge Handbook of Ethics and International Relations*. He is currently developing new research concerned with the continued significance of Eric Williams's *Capitalism and Slavery* (1944) as well as borders and boundaries in decolonial studies which will be discussed at upcoming workshops and conferences in Halifax, Brighton, and San Francisco.

### JOLANTA PKACZ

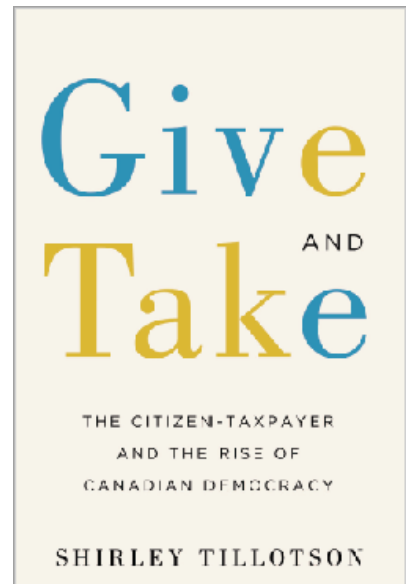
Dr. Pekacz gave a keynote address on "Visual Representations of Musical Salon as a Cultural Discourse" at the 16th International Conference of Association RIDIM (Répertoire International d'Iconographie Musicale), 7-9 September 2016, in the Rimsky-Korsakov Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia. The volume *Musical Biography: Towards New Paradigms* which Dr. Pekacz edited and which was first published by Ashgate, was issued as a paperback edition by Routledge in 2016.

### SHIRLEY TILLOTSON

Dr. Tillotson's long-awaited social history of 20th century taxation is going to be in print in October 2017. In the UBC Press catalogue listing



Professor Tillotson worries about little girls wanting to grow up to be princesses. Maybe it would help if she were to portray the hardworking tax history scholar as a princess? #everydaytiaras"



"Enthralling, witty, and masterful, *Give and Take* brings to light Canada's surprisingly unruly tax history, showing the tax clashes and compromises that made Canadian democracy."

its Fall 2017 lineup, the description of the book will be: "Can a book about tax history be a page-turner? You wouldn't think so. But *Give and Take* is full of surprises. A Canadian millionaire who embraced the new federal income tax in 1917. A socialist hero, J.S. Woodsworth, who deplored the burden of big government. Most surprising of all, *Give and Take* reveals that taxes deliver something more than armies and schools. They build democracy. Tillotson launches her story with the 1917 war income tax, takes us through the tumultuous tax fights of the interwar years, proceeds to the remaking of income taxation in the 1940s and onwards, and finishes by offering a fresh angle on the fierce conflicts surrounding tax reform in the 1960s. Taxes show us the power of the state, and Canadians often resisted that power, disproving the myth that we have always been good loyalists. But *Give and Take* is neither a simple tale of tax rebels nor a tirade against the taxman. Tillotson argues that Canadians also made real contributions to democracy when they taxed wisely and paid willingly."

# Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Harvey Amani Whitfield (M.A.'99, Ph.D. '03)

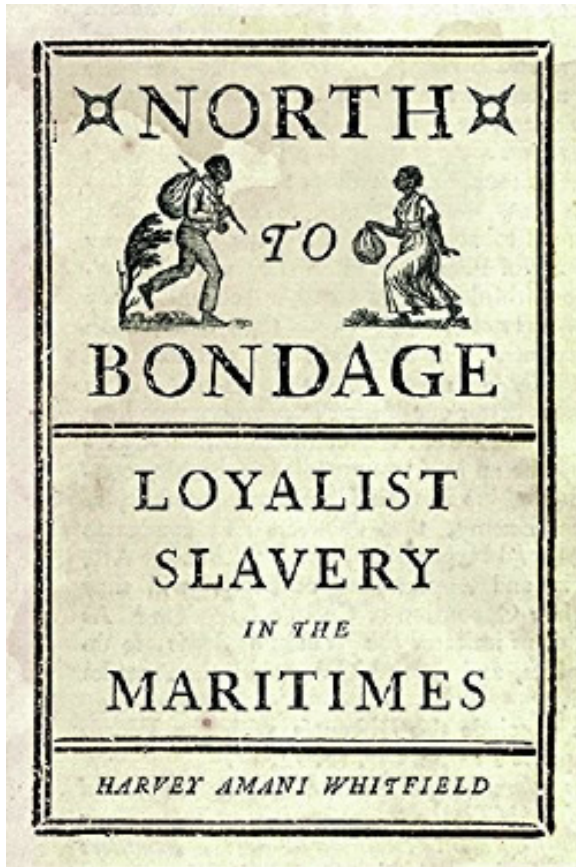
A graduate of Dalhousie University's M.A. and Ph.D. program in the History Department, Harvey Amani Whitfield, has made significant contributions to the field of African-Canadian and African-American history. After completing his dissertation "Black American Refugees in Nova Scotia, 1813-1840" with Drs. David Sutherland and Judith Fingard, Dr. Whitfield worked at St. Mary's University for one year before his appointment as Assistant Professor in the History Department of the University of Vermont. In 2008, he was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor, and he is currently under review for promotion to full Professor.



Dr. Harvey Amani Whitfield

Throughout this appointment, he has generated significant works and continues to explore African American movement throughout Eastern Canada. Recently, Dr. Whitfield commented that he never intended to become a historian of the African Diaspora in Atlantic Canada. He began his M.A. degree at Dalhousie with the intention of working in African and British Imperial history, but made the switch to North American history after finishing comprehensive examinations in African history. After living in Halifax for several years, Dr. Whitfield became interested in learning more about the African Nova Scotian community. Though not everyone believed this was the right switch for Dr. Whitfield, his passion and curiosity drove him to continue asking questions and working in the field. Dr. Whitfield's completed dissertation in 2003 led to his first book, *Blacks on the Border: The Black Refugees in British North America, 1815-1860* (University of Vermont Press/University Press of New England, 2006).

Dr. Whitfield's compelling research has culminated in several recently published books: *The Problem of Slavery in Early Vermont, 1777-1810* (Barre: Vermont Historical Society, 2014) and *North to Bondage: Loyalist Slavery in the Maritimes* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2016). The latter work unravels the complex networks associated with the migrations of slaves and slavery by drawing on information-rich historical sources such as court documents and newspapers. In addition to these publications Dr. Whitfield has produced an impressive number of journal articles, encyclopedia entries, book reviews, and international conference presentations. Since graduating from Dalhousie he has also published "The Struggle over Slavery in the Maritime Colonies" in *Acadiensis: Journal of the History of the Atlantic Region* and another Nova Scotia-centered piece titled, "Slavery in English Nova Scotia, 1750-1810" in the *Journal of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society*. We look forward to reading Dr. Whitfield's upcoming historiography article, "The African Diaspora in Atlantic Canada", which will be published in *Acadiensis* and details the forced and voluntary migrations of African-Canadian and African-American peoples throughout Atlantic Canada.



Staying close to his academic roots in Halifax, Dr. Whitfield has delivered several conference presentations at Dalhousie and Saint Mary's University to discuss his findings in the Maritimes. Both of his presentations, "Runaway Slaves and Social Disorder in the Maritimes" at the *Unrest, Violence, and the Search for Social Order* Conference at Saint Mary's (2016) and "The Question of Slavery in the Maritime Colonies" for the *Black Canadian Studies Association* at Dalhousie (2015), provided insight into the role of our Maritime provinces during the peak of slavery-associated voyages. Whitfield's continued passion and contributions to this field further our understanding of Atlantic Provinces' role during the slave trade.

Whitfield is currently sitting on the panel convened to better understand Dalhousie University's roots, and Lord Dalhousie's historical connections with race and slavery. Within the next year, we can expect to see the release of a crucial report that explores Dalhousie's historical values and ensures that our collective, current aspirations are in line with a welcoming and equal opportunity academic community.

One story about Dr. Whitfield's time in graduate school proves especially memorable. While at Dalhousie, he became a noted collector and distributor of cats! Yes, you read that right. His friend at the time wanted a kitten for her birthday; he went to the shelter and was talked into a very stout but nonetheless lovely cat. Feeling a bit bad about that, he went back for another. We are told that Whitfield

was up to five cats before his friend made him stop. Then, naturally, he started volunteering at the shelter and convincing other friends and colleagues to adopt. This is how faculty member Dr. Krista Kesselring received one of her two cats. Whitfield's legacy as a cat-broker continues here at Dalhousie University, and we can thank Dr. Kesselring for the fun story!

The History Department at Dalhousie University is proud and excited to see Dr. Whitfield flourish as he continues to advance our knowledge of Maritime slavery. His contributions to the field are essential in understanding our local roots, and in comprehending our current challenges. We look forward to hearing more from this passionate and outstanding Dalhousie alumnus.

## **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Do you have an interesting story to share?  
Know of a former classmate who is doing something  
exciting and newsworthy?

**Email us at: [history@dal.ca](mailto:history@dal.ca)**

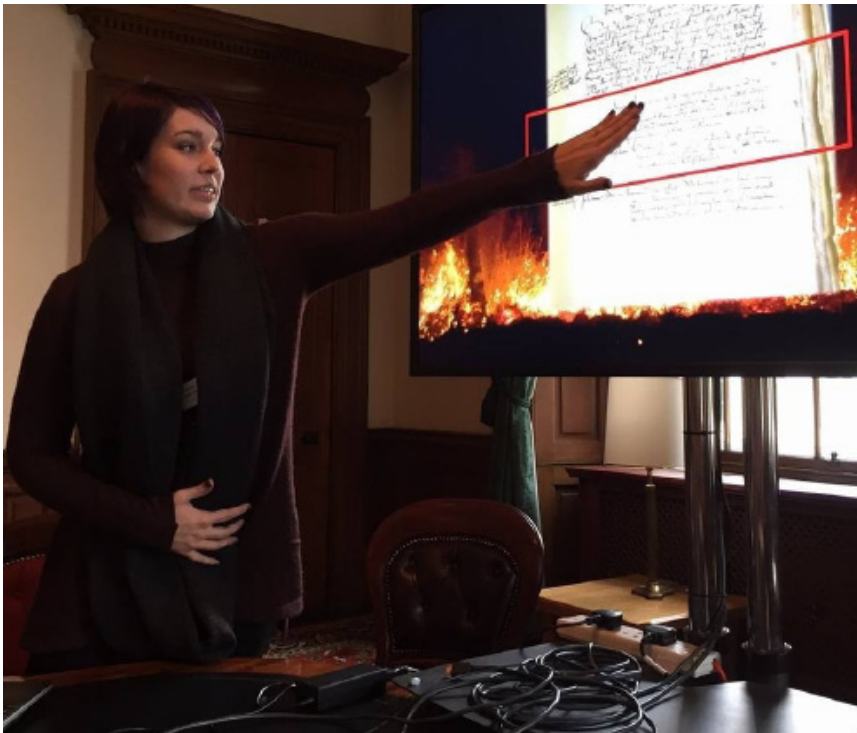
# Alumna Spotlight: Chelsea Hartlen (B.A.'12, M.A. '14)

I am currently a third-year SSHRC-funded PhD Candidate studying Medieval and Scottish History at the University of Guelph's Centre for Scottish Studies. My dissertation, tentatively entitled, "Murder and (Wo)Manhood: A Relational Study of Gender, Homicide and Criminality in Scotland, 1381-1600," is supervised by Dr Elizabeth Ewan. The project considers the influence of gender on the incidence and prosecution of homicide between 1493 and 1560. In other words, I want to know whether being a man or a woman affected why and how people committed murder and whether a murderer's gender influenced how society responded to their actions.

Although I miss Dalhousie (and the East Coast!) I am ensconced comfortably in my new home. I currently represent graduate student interests in the department of history and, last year, I held the position of Review Editor with the *International Review of Scottish Studies*. This year I took on the role of one of two Assistant Editors as well as an office support worker for the Centre of Scottish Studies. I also never miss the Spring and Fall Scottish Studies Colloquia hosted by the Centre. Being surrounded by so many opportunities to get involved with the promotion of Scottish Studies in academia and with the public is incredibly rewarding. Although sometimes it's just nice to have other people around who are as nuts about Scotland as I am! I'm not the only medievalist! Or the only Scottish historian!

During the fall semester of 2016, I was fortunate enough to spend three months in Edinburgh. Most of my time was spent in the Reading Room of the National Records of Scotland where I worked with sixteenth-century High Court of Justiciary records in person! These records contain hundreds, perhaps thousands, of cases of homicide that occurred in late medieval Scotland and these are the foundation of my research. I am currently wrestling with database management and trying to sort out just what I am going to do with all this information. It's a lot more than I anticipated!

Now I am back in Guelph and spending the semester working as a sessional lecturer in the department of history where I teach a second-year survey course on "The Medieval World." My appreciation of video games and tragically bad jokes is going over well so far and teaching is fast becoming my favourite part of academic life.



Chelsea Hartlen presenting on arson at the British Crime Historians Symposium, 7 October 2016

Somewhere in amongst all the academic responsibilities I have found the time to pick up the violin and raise a rambunctious Rottweiler puppy (I have been sending Val photos of him, if anyone is interested – he's super cute!).

As much as I love Guelph, Dalhousie will always be the place where I fell in love with history and where I learned its value. I was fortunate enough to benefit from both rigorous instruction and gentle encouragement by spectacular faculty members with whom I remain in contact to this day. History at Dalhousie has given me the desire and the skills to promote empathy and understanding of other peoples, cultures and worldviews that I will carry with me wherever I end up in my life or career.

# Alumni Updates

## **KATIE CARLINE** (M.A. '15)

In 2016 I joined the PhD program in History at Michigan State University, where I study South African history with Dr. Peter Alegi. Through MSU's African languages program, I have begun studying Zulu and Xhosa, which will allow me to study South Africa's many historical African language newspapers and do oral history research. In summer 2017, I will spend eight weeks in the Eastern Cape region of South Africa, doing preliminary research for my doctoral dissertation proposal. I'll be visiting archives and libraries in Grahamstown, Bisho, and East London to locate sources about the gendered and religious dynamics of migration within the early-twentieth century Eastern Cape. This research builds on my MA work at Dalhousie; I'm very thankful for the excellent preparation the History department at Dal gave me for this new research.

## **EMILY BURTON** (Ph.D. '16)

Dr. Burton is an Oral Historian at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax. Over the past year, she has worked on an oral history research project on war, dislocation and trauma, and participated in the panel "How and Why We Tell Stories of War" at a Mount Saint Vincent University workshop on *Community Stories of War and Peace*. She co-facilitated an oral history workshop at Dalhousie as part of the Dal Originals project, and presented the paper "Oral History, Community, and Immigration Narratives" at the Saint Mary's University conference in honour of John G. Reid, *Practicing History in the Twenty-first Century* (June 2016). She also had the opportunity to speak about her doctoral research at the Lunenburg Bound Bookstore as part of Lunenburg's Spirits Festival in October 2016. The talk, "A History of Rum in the Americas in Three Drinks," was given with a mixologist (Evan), who prepared grog, rum punch and daiquiris for the public. After receiving many jokes about researching rum as a doctoral candidate, Emily was finally able to share research results and drink rum at the same time. It was an enjoyable afternoon that brought history to life.

## **SARA BUTLER** (Ph.D. '01)

Dr. Butler has moved from her job at Loyola University to take up the King George III Professorship at Ohio State University.

## **JEFFERS LENNOX** (Ph.D. '10)

Dr. Lennox published his book, *Homelands and Empires: Indigenous Spaces, Imperial Fictions, and Competition for Territory in Northeastern North America, 1690–1763* (UToronto Press, 2017).

## **BRAD MILLER** (M.A. '07)

Dr. Miller has published his first book, *Borderline Crime: Fugitive Criminals and the Challenge of the Border, 1819-1914* (UToronto Press, 2016).

**Stay Connected to Dal and Our Alumni Community!**

**Follow us on social media and stay up to date!**

### **Twitter**

@DAL\_ALUMNI

@DAL\_FASS

@notyetpast

### **Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/Dalumni/>

[www.facebook.com/FASSDal/](http://www.facebook.com/FASSDal/)

<https://www.facebook.com/dalhistory/>

# Graduate Student Updates

**BRIDGET GRAHAM** is currently working on her Master of Arts thesis project under the supervision of Dr. Jerry Bannister. The scope of her project has been to examine five diaries of the nineteenth century Baptist Missionary Silas Tertius Rand, in order to identify changes in Rand's character over time. Bridget is also actively involved on campus and in the community. She is currently on the Planning Committee for the *CifD'gCifDUBY< UJZI Mi h 9bQUA Yh* Conference taking place in early March. The goal of this conference is to engage youth and to highlight the triumphs and challenges of the Polar Regions. Bridget is also proud to be a Board Member for the Halifax Women's History Society. The group is working tirelessly to erect a monument in recognition of the work of female volunteers during the Second World War. This will be the first monument depicting women in Halifax.

**SARAH TOYE** (University of King's College BA '15) is working on her MA in history with Dr. Jerry Bannister. Her field of research is the depiction of female pirates in popular culture, with a focus on the famed buccaneers Anne Bonny and Mary Read. In November 2016 she gave a lecture, "Female Pirates and Internet Lore," at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and is the alumna speaker for the Fifth Annual Conference of the Early Modern at the University of King's College on March 11. Sarah is also kept busy with her position as the recording secretary on the board of the Halifax Women's History Society, which has been working to erect the city's first historical monument honouring women. It is expected to be unveiled in the fall of 2017 and will commemorate the efforts of Halifax's hardworking female Second World War volunteers. Additionally, Sarah will have a book review in an upcoming issue of the *Canadian Historical Review*; it will be her first publication. In the meantime, she is the teaching assistant for Dr. Simon Kow's class "The Pirate and Piracy" at the University of King's College, in which she also lectures. Though much occupied, her thesis has not been neglected and she hopes to graduate in the fall of this year.



M.A. Student Sarah Toye

**Congratulations to the following students who graduated in 2016!**

## Recent Doctoral Graduates

**Barb Pearce  
Emily Burton**

**Dr. Barb Pearce** is currently teaching in the History Department at Dalhousie University.

**Dr. Emily Burton** is currently an oral historian at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21.



Dr. Barb Pearce at Convocation 2016



# Recent Master's Graduates

**Abigail McLinnis**  
**Brennan Dempsey**  
**Christine Harens**  
**Ghazi Jarrar**  
**Hillary MacKinlay**

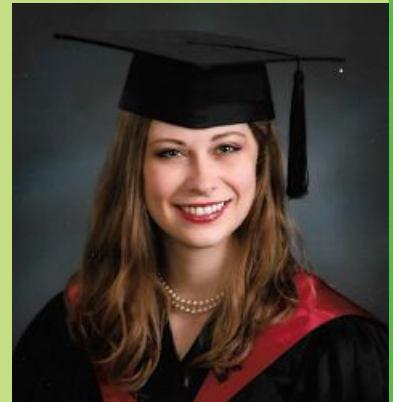
**Abigail McLinnis** is pursuing her passion for yoga and looking forward to moving to Calgary in September.

**Brennan Dempsey** will start his doctoral studies at Dalhousie University in September.

**Christine Harens** is currently working as a research assistant at the Nova Scotia Archives.

**Ghazi Jarrar** is currently attending Osgoode Hall Law School at York University.

**Hillary MacKinlay** is currently pursuing doctoral studies at Georgetown University.



Hillary MacKinlay

## History not Enough: A Look at the Climate of Reconciliation in Canada Today

By Dal M.A. student Mercedes Peters

*Mercedes Peters is a Mi'kmaq graduate student at Dalhousie University. She is currently writing a thesis on the impact of the Indian Act on the identities of Mi'kmaq women in the twentieth century.*

The following post is the first in a series that features collaboration between the *Acadiensis* blog and the students in Jerry Bannister's undergraduate and graduate Canadian Studies and History classes at Dalhousie University. It was originally posted on 23 January 2017. Please see original post here:

<https://acadiensis.wordpress.com/2017/01/23/history-not-enough-a-look-at-the-climate-of-reconciliation-in-canada-today/>

Canadians following the news lately could probably say something about The Tragically Hip's ailing frontman, Gord Downie, and his most recent artistic endeavor, "The Secret Path." The conceptual album, paired with a graphic novel designed by artist Jeff Lemire, tells the story of Chanie Wenjack, an Anishinaabe child who froze to death trying to escape his

Northern Ontario residential school in 1966. Reactions to the album, to the CBC special which broadcast the live performance of "The Secret Path," and to the accompanying documentary film have been generally positive. Many see it as a continuation of the efforts of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), whose mandate to collect and tell the stories of Indian Residential

School (IRS) survivors ended with the release of their final report in June 2015. Downie has been praised for his dedication to indigenous rights, and for once Canadians are participating in a dialogue about a once neglected history, acknowledging the horrors indigenous people in Canada have faced for centuries.

This is a good thing. We need sustained conversations about IRS in the public sphere; we need them in the government. In this regard, the TRC has been crucial to ensuring that Canada does not forget this history, as has the work of Gord Downie and others like him. The history is important, the people dedicating their time to spread this knowledge are indispensable to the reconciliation movement, but Canada is only looking at a history, past tense, and that serves as a cause for worry. It appears that our satisfaction with these endeavors leaves us content with merely recognizing a tragic story. The real work — asking tough questions of ourselves and taking action to combat the *legacy* of these institutions and the existence of the systems that allowed the schools to flourish in the first place—goes undone.

The TRC was, and still is, key to facilitating reconciliation in Canada, but we place too much weight on its existence as an example of our success in mending the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. We are content to watch *The Secret Path* on TV, with reading stories about survivors on the CBC, with praising school boards for including the history of residential schools in their curricula. The issue with this is that the TRC was only meant to be the beginning of a much larger and more difficult task than merely collecting historical evidence. The late Roger Simon rightly worried

in an article published in *Reconciling Canada* that in the months following the beginning of the TRC's mandate Canadians would see the material the Commission generated and do nothing with it. This seems hard to believe, especially with the success of Downie's work, and of books like Richard Wagamese's *Indian Horse* and Joseph Boyden's *Wenjack* on a national level. When we look at what we have achieved, however, in terms of indigenous rights, it's clear that we have a long way to go.

The most tangible legacy of the TRC comes in the form of its ninety-four Calls to Action, designed to hold government and various other organizations accountable for continuing reconciliation work in Canada. The recommendations are meant to acknowledge and remedy the systemic racism and oppression that Indigenous people have been subjected to since before Confederation. Now, if we were to take the calls to action as a rubric for successful reconciliation, Canada would receive a failing grade. In the past few weeks, overshadowed by broadcasts of *The Secret Path*, the Liberal Government has been chastised for under-funding Indigenous child welfare, something that continues to contribute to many issues within Indigenous communities today. Reserves country-wide are experiencing record youth suicide rates; many of these victims are children as young as thirteen.

Perhaps most telling of the situation in Canada is that despite ratifying The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the government has dragged its feet when challenged to actually implement it. Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould explained in response to criticisms from indigenous



Mercedes Peters (photo: Danny Abriel, Dal News)

leaders, that “with respect to the UNDRIP, it is important to appreciate how it cannot be simply incorporated, word for word, into Canadian law.” We keep talking about history, but our focus on that history neglects the fact that much of what we see as part of a dark past is occurring right now. The IRS system has ended, but we continue to perpetuate its effects through different means. The unfortunate thing is, because there is now access to this information, we can no longer use ignorance as an excuse for inaction.

Yet, as Simon anticipated, because we consume media and educational material designed to bring the history of residential schools to light, many mistake acting for simply taking the time to listen to testimonies. We are either unaware of, or too afraid to acknowledge our own role in the system that created residential schools, a system that continues to put Indigenous people at a distinct disadvantage. Exploring IRS in the historical past is a safe way to confront Indigenous issues; we can read about them and pity survivors of assimilation policy, but not have to confront how Canada is allowing a generation of new survivors — of poverty, of abuse, of systemic racism — to grow.

As a historian, I increasingly wonder about my own role in the reconciliation movement; I believe that it is my responsibility to identify how what I know about the past can be applied to the present. It's not that I believe that we should neglect the history of colonial oppression in Canada, but I feel that we should use our understanding of it to inform how we "do reconciliation" now. The history doesn't matter unless we do something with it. We cannot be content with just knowing IRS happened; until we begin to raise further questions that pull the focus from history to today, society will continue to be satisfied with this illusion of progress, while Indigenous people continue to suffer.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is necessary, but we need to be careful and make sure that the discussions it generates don't overshadow current issues. Real reconciliation work requires action beyond just hearing about how Indigenous people were wronged. We must look at how they *are* wronged. I don't have concrete solutions to the issue at hand, but what I do know is that it is important that we at least acknowledge that we cannot achieve reconciliation until we recognize that the systems and ideologies we benefit from are the reasons we need it in the first place.

## Scholarships and Awards

The Patricia Keene Scholarship supports graduate student research, particularly travel to archives that would otherwise be inaccessible to students. In 2016 the scholarship was awarded to three students:

Jillian Forsyth  
Brendan Gemmell  
Nick Kaizer

## Undergraduate Prizes and Scholarships

**The Edith and Rose Goodman Prize** for the best essay in the field of Canadian history was awarded to **Maria Fournier**.

**Fatena Ali** received the **George E. Wilson Prize** for the most meritorious essay by a first-year student in a first-year class.

**The Commonwealth History Prize** for the best undergraduate essay on a topic relating to the history of Britain and/or the Commonwealth countries was awarded to **Minho Choi**. This prize is funded by a gift from Dr. David Jessop and Dr. Karen Ostergaard.

**Grailing Anthonisen** and **Maggie O'Riordan-Ross** both received

the **George E. Wilson Memorial Scholarship** for the best returning History Major or Honours student now in the second or third year.

**The Gilbert F. Jennex History Scholarship** for a student finishing third year who demonstrates academic excellence in the study of the Atlantic World was awarded to **John Humble**.

**Carli LaPierre** received the **Laurel V. King Scholarship** for second year students who excel specifically in History.

**The University Medal in History**, for the best undergraduate record among graduating Honours students in History was awarded to

**Lauren Vanderdeen**.

**The Clan Ramsey of Nova Scotia Prize**, which is awarded annually to the student in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences who has written the best paper dealing with (any aspect of) the influence of Scottish culture within Canada, was awarded to **Katie Comper**.

# History Department News & Events

## Farewells

On Monday, 1 May, History Department faculty, students, alumni and friends bid a fond but sad farewell to Professors Shirley Tillotson and Amal Ghazal. Dr. Tillotson, who is retiring, was cross-appointed in 1994 to the Department of History and University of King's College. Teaching the history of modern Canada, as well as in the Gender and Women's Studies Program, she has been an inspiring, cheerful and unfailingly reliable colleague, serving on innumerable committees and as



Dr. Amal Ghazal (photo: Bruce Bottomley)

Chair from 2005-08. Dr. Ghazal, who has taught the history of the modern Middle East here since 2005, is moving to Vancouver to take a position as Associate Professor and Director of Simon Fraser University's Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Cultures. Her scholarly insight, warm sense of humour, and unerring ability to find the best food in town will be sorely missed. Both these colleagues have been extraordinary department citizens, inspiring scholars and teachers, and are dear friends. We wish them success and happiness in the future!



Dr. Shirley Tillotson (photo: Danny Abriel)

## New Course Launched

A new Dalhousie course this winter took students on a voyage through more than 400 years of African Nova Scotian history. The three-credit-hour course is being offered as part of the Black and African Diaspora minor program launched this past September. For more information on this course and the minor program, please see: <https://www.dal.ca/news/2016/12/16/exploring-the-black-experience-in-nova-scotia.html> and <https://www.dal.ca/academics/programs/undergraduate/black-african-diaspora.html>



## Annual Graduate Conference: History Across the Disciplines

**Friday, March 31st – Saturday, April 1st, 2017**

History Across the Disciplines was held March 31 – April 1 with Diana Lewis, researcher, lecturer, and program coordinator at Dalhousie University delivering the keynote address on 31 March. Lewis joined Dal as lecturer and coordinator for the Indigenous Studies Minor program in the summer of 2015. Lewis is also a PhD candidate with more than a decade of experience working for Mi'kmaq organizations in Nova Scotia.



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF ARTS AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

# MacKay History Lecture

## “Containers & Humans in Deep Time: An Environmental History”

With Dr. Daniel Lord Smail, Harvard University

This year’s MacKay History Lecture, organized by Dr. Hanlon, featured Dr. Daniel Lord Smail, the Frank B. Baird, Jr. Professor of History at Harvard University. Smail is a pioneer of what is called “Deep History” - identifying and developing new narratives for binding human history together over long periods of time. His book *Before the Mind* examines how cultural structures shape patterns of the brain-body system. Simultaneously Smail examines the role of universal emotions as they are expressed in the specific context of late medieval Provence and Tuscany. A gifted archival historian with considerable expertise in judicial and notarial papers in Marseille and Lucca, Smail’s new book *Who Remains* examines material culture through the lens of material accumulation and debt recovery. The lecture was well attended by the Dalhousie Community and the public at large. Dr. Smail also presented a paper at the History Department’s Stokes Seminar entitled, “Pattern in History.”

# Annual History Department Curling Bonspiel

The Annual History Curling Bonspiel is our most anticipated social event in the department. Every February, intrepid students and faculty alike hit the ice for an epic contest of will, skill, dexterity, and - ultimately - humility. The bonspiel is held at one of Halifax’s cherished institutions, the Mayflower Curling Club, which is also home to the championship rinks of Colleen Jones and Mark Dacey.

The Best Curlers in History, and other grades of curlers in related disciplines, have been determined for 2017.

The “Best Curlers in History” were the “Sweeping Generalizations (in the Natural Sciences),” a.k.a. Alastair Simpson, Georgina Tarrant, Ian Stewart and Gordon McQuat.

The team that lost (resoundingly but “With Grace”) included Andrea Shannon, Chris Austin and Chris Boyd.

Sarah Toye managed the Best Fall (for the second year in a row!) while Harry Bingham was voted MVP. Bob Huish, from “The Team in Development,” won the skills contest. Ajay Parasram’s pakoras won the best potluck dish.



M.A. Student Alex Martinborough



Dr. Ajay Parasram

We also managed to raise \$350 for the St. George’s Church Refugee Sponsorship, making all the falls and yells worthwhile.



Harry Bingham and Dr. Andrea Shannon

# Visiting Scholar Profile: Mathias Rodorff

Mathias Rodorff is a visiting Ph.D. scholar in the History Department at Dalhousie University. Rodorff studied modern and social history at the University of Freiburg, in addition to media studies at the University of Basel (Switzerland) in a jointly delivered master's degree. He received his M.A. for his thesis entitled, "*The American Civil War in the editorials of the Globe (Toronto) and the Times (London)*". In October 2013, he joined the Ph.D. program of the America Institute. His current dissertation focuses on transatlantic processes and how they interacted with local spaces in Great Britain, Atlantic, and French Canada during the 1850s – 1870s. The project is supervised by Dr. Michael Hochgeschwender (LMU Munich) and Dr. Jerry Bannister (Dalhousie University).

## What brought you to Dalhousie?

Every summer since I was six years old, I would go on camping trips with my parents. We started in Vancouver and went through the Canadian and American Rockies. I enjoyed exploring the diverse Canadian wilderness and meeting people along our travels. These trips and the memories associated with the trips kept me interested in Canada.

As a scholar, I focus on the relationship between history, politics, and the public sphere. In my M.A. thesis, I concentrated on Canada and her relationship to Great Britain and the U.S. during the Civil War. During my research, I got acquainted with the importance of a province that until then was unfamiliar to me: Nova Scotia.

For my PhD thesis, I decided to take a closer look at Nova Scotia during the 1860s. With Dr. Bannister as my adviser and later as my co-supervisor, I commenced my research at the Nova Scotia Archives in 2014. Since then, my thesis and my diverse projects show me every day that Nova Scotia may be one of the smaller provinces, but offers several events, processes, and accomplishments that are crucial to understand the Atlantic Canada, Canada and their connection to Great Britain and the U.S.

## Describe the project you've chosen for your dissertation.

My thesis will show how transatlantic processes interfered with local spaces and how public communication and opinion was created. Many scholars have examined the American Civil War and the Canadian Confederation, yet few have focused on ports as local and urban spaces within a transatlantic frame. Montreal, Halifax, and Liverpool are used as a case study to show how the Civil War and the founding of the Canadian Confederation, as transatlantic processes, interacted with local interests and how these interferences were communicated within the 'public sphere'.

## Current Projects

Since 2014, I've participated in a three-year international SSHRC funded project titled, "*Unrest, Violence, and the Search for Social Order in British North America and Canada, 1749-1876*". In this project, I define the role of newspapers and their relationship with the political elites during the Repeal Movement. In 2015, I became a collaborator in a book project about



Mathias Rodorff

showing the soul and history of Nova Scotia through quotes of famous Nova Scotians, native and non-native. In 2016 during my fellowship at the GLC at Yale University I started to investigate the difficult relationship between abolition and racism in Nova Scotia. Many scholars focused on the Black Loyalists but less on the close attention that Nova Scotian newspapers paid to the issues of slavery, emancipation, and equality during the American Civil War Years. There was little attention on how these issues might have played out in their province. For further details please see my podcast-interview at the Slavery and its Legacies Series: <http://glc.yale.edu/slavery-and-its-legacies/episodes>.

For the Canada 150! anniversary I will focus on the relationship between the press, the voters and the politicians. At the BACS-Conference in London I compared the "populist strategies" used in the Nova Scotian Repeal Movement, the Brexit and Trump campaigns. At the CHA- Conference at Ryerson University I broadened this aspect and included the commemoration of local and national identities in the anniversaries of 1917, 1967, and 2017. This November there will be two more presentations about Atlantic Canada and Confederation at Saint Mary's University and at the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society.

# Undergraduate Honours Student Spotlight: Madelaine Hare

I chose to do my honours in history because I wanted to work on a substantial research project that I felt tied my four years together, and concentrated on an area of history that I have great interest in. I am studying free white society in Jamaica in the eighteenth century, and am working with ten years of *The Diary of Thomas Thistlewood*, which spans almost 40 years. Justin Roberts, my advisor, introduced me to the famous diaries, and they have proven incredibly intriguing to read. I hope my thesis is equally as interesting!

My love for history is best summed up in an excerpt from a book I read this past summer: *A Map to the Door of No Return: Notes to Belonging* by Dionne Brand. She said, “One enters a room and history follows; one enters a room and history precedes. History

is already seated in the chair in the empty room when one arrives. Where one stands in a society seems always related to this historical experience. Where one can be observed is relative to that history. All human effort seems to emanate from this door. How do I know this? Only by self-observations, only by looking. Only by feeling. Only by being a part, sitting in the room with history.” I think university is a pivotal point in one’s life when they try to surmise what their personal odyssey will be. History has always given me insight into my own life and experiences. History is important because understanding our past allows us to understand our present.

Post-graduation, I am hoping to do a camping trip in Gros Morne National Park in Newfoundland. I am then planning to spend the next year



Honours Student Madelaine Hare

travelling South America with my best friend, and working on my Spanish! I am hoping to go to graduate school in the future for either Archival Studies, or Library and Information Studies. I would love to go to either Dalhousie or UBC- I guess I have a fondness for living on the coast!

## The Undergraduate History Society Time Capsule

By Madelaine Hare

The Undergraduate History Society buried a time capsule last year in the Dalhousie quad. It is to be buried for a decade, so its exhumation will be in 2026. We thought it would be a great way to capture Dal during this time, and we asked professors, faculty members, and students from all of FASS to contribute something.



Members of the Undergraduate History Society with the time capsule

We buried it in a storage container bought in the Army and Navy Surplus store in the North End (which was fitting). We had some great submissions. Professor Ajay Parasram included a note which said, “I hope I’ll be working here a decade from now!” as he was interviewing for a professor position, which he got!

We also had letters that students and professors wrote, cards they received, a package of cigarettes (hopefully something that won’t be around in 2026), some pennies, brochures from departments, personal heirlooms, some DASSS memorabilia, etc. The idea was to showcase Dalhousie as it was in 2016, with the

container including things that reflected the students and faculty, and what our lived experience at Dalhousie was like. We also wanted to show future generations what our values and hopes for the future were. I guess in a way anyone who buries a time capsule also wants to preserve a piece of themselves at that age. I think it will be very special for people to come back a decade from now and remember what they were like when the time capsule was buried. I also think it will be special for the Undergrad History Society members to dig up a message from the past, and connect with people like them who studied and lived in the same spaces they are in.

# Department Potluck

Faculty and students gathered in December for the Annual Department Potluck. The potluck was a success thanks to the organizational efforts of Tina and Val and the culinary skills of students and faculty.



Dr. Ajay Parasram and M.A. student Nick Baker



Dr. Jerry Bannister



M.A. Student Nick Baker and Ph.D. Candidate Mary Owusu

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