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WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2018 EDITION OF HISTORY NEWS



Master's and PhD students share a drink at the Department's annual Sutherland Gathering in September 2017

STAY CONNECTED

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Faculty or to plan a reunion, visit
dal.ca/fass or email fassalum@dal.ca

NOW THAT THE 2017-2018 ACADEMIC
year is coming to a close, we would like
to take this opportunity to recognise
the achievements of the Dal History
community. This year was marked by
exciting new beginnings: the department
welcomed a new cohort of MA students,
two PhD students, and three visiting
scholars.

There were also bittersweet farewells
as we bid fond adieus to
graduating students and to our resident
Scottish historian,
Dr. Cynthia Neville, who retires this year.
Dr. Sarah-Jane Corke is also moving on
as she has accepted a position at the
University of New Brunswick.

Another piece of Department news is
the majority appointment of
Dr. Afua Cooper, the most recent James
Robinson Johnston Chair in Black



Dr. Afua Cooper

Canadian Studies,
to History. Dr.
Cooper is cross-
appointed to
the Department
of Sociology
and Social
Anthropology.

In April,
Dr. Cooper was installed as the seventh
Poet Laureate for the Halifax Regional
Municipality. During her two-year
term as Poet Laureate, Dr. Cooper will
perform poetry at civic events, and
work to promote literature and the arts
more broadly in the city.

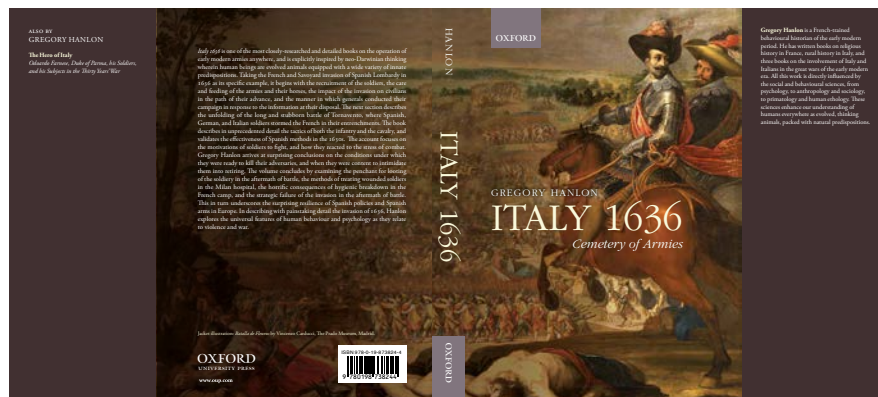
In reflecting on the
accomplishments of various
department members achieved this
year, it is clear that Dal History has a
great deal to celebrate.

FACULTY UPDATES

GREGORY HANLON

Gregory Hanlon's 2016 book *Italy 1636: Cemetery of Armies* (Oxford University Press) has just appeared in paperback amidst a flurry of very positive reviews. Two reviewers labelled it a "masterpiece". French and Italian translations of the work are presently being studied.

His 2014 book, *The Hero of Italy*, (Oxford University Press) has just appeared in Italian with ACIES Edizioni of Milan. Professor Hanlon will be giving several lectures at the Université de Montpellier III early in May on various aspects of his research. On May 17 he will be making his first presentation to the Académie Nationale des Sciences, Belles-Lettres et Arts de Bordeaux, (to which he has been admitted) on how neo-Darwinian approaches widen our understanding of interpersonal conflict in Ancien Régime societies. On May 24 he will give the keynote address to an international conference on early modern soldiering at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, on the human universals involved in soldiering and combat. On June 2 he will take part in a university conference on Catholics and Protestants in 17th-century France in Clairac, presenting work on the Counter-Reformation of the bishops of Agen through their daily correspondence. In June, Professor Hanlon will be giving several conference presentations on his research on the Thirty Years' War in northern Italy, in Valenza, in Piacenza, at the University of



Dr. Hanlon's 2016 monograph with Oxford University Press.

Pavia, and possibly as well in Parma, his base overseas.

KRISTA KESSELING

In 2017/18, Krista Kesselring has been on sabbatical after a four year term as Associate Dean. She spent the autumn in London at the National Archives and the winter and spring terms as a visiting fellow at the University of Durham. She is finishing a book on homicide in early modern England and beginning a new project on the infamous Court of Star Chamber and its records.

A personal highlight of the year so far was the visit to Sweden in December, when she was invited to speak at the University of Uppsala and was able to visit the pre-Viking burial mounds nearby. Although she reports very much enjoying the research leave, she's looking forward to the return to full-time teaching in September.

COLIN MITCHELL

I was fortunate enough to spend the 2017-18 academic year as a sabbaticant/visiting research scholar at the Centre for Near and Middle East Studies in the Philipps-Universität of Marburg. Most of my time was spent researching and writing my current book project (*Ruling from a Red Canopy: A Study of Prince and Appanage in the Turco-Persianate World, 1000-1650*, contracted with Edinburgh University Press). To this end, I have visited archives at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen, Forschungsbibliothek Gotha, and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.

I have one forthcoming article ("Custodial Politics and Princely Governance in 16th-century Safavid Iran" for *The Safavid World*, ed. R. Matthee (Routledge), and have been contracted to produce two further chapters on the Safavid dynasty for the Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion (OUP) and a 2-volume work in German focusing on Islamic history which is part of the *Religionen der Menschheit* series published by Kohlhammer Verlag. Since arriving in Marburg in July, I have attended a number of workshops and seminars in England, France and Germany. In September 2017, I presented a paper on the exiled Timurid Prince Yadgar Muhammad (ca. 1470) for my first visit to the 33rd triennial Orientalistentag, Germany's largest academic meeting for Middle East studies.

I am also an adjunct member of a multinational (based in Marburg and Paris) research project entitled



Dr. Kesselring had the opportunity to visit pre-Viking burial mounds near the University of Uppsala while on sabbatical this year.



Dr. Mitchell standing in front of his much-loved 2009 Skoda Fabia.

DYNTRAN (Dynamics of Transmission: Families, Authority and Knowledge in the Early Modern Middle East, 15th-17th Centuries); as part of a major DYNTRAN workshop held in March 2018, I presented a paper ("Understanding Sufi Siblings in 17th-c. Mughal South Asia"), and I was also honoured to be asked to participate as a special guest for the CNRS's annual 'academic day' for Iranian studies, the 20th Journée Monde iranien (March 16, 2018). I also gave research talks in May and June at the respective universities of Marburg, Bochum, and Erlangen.

As the proud father of 2 young hockey players, I also was fortunate enough to spend 8 months visiting every low-level hockey rink in the German states of Hessen and Nordrhein-Westphalia. Auf gent's Bad Nauheim! Rote Teufel!

CYNTHIA NEVILLE

I am pleased to report that my 2016 article, "The Beginnings of Royal Pardon in Scotland", published in the *Journal of Medieval History* 42: 5 was identified in the December 2017 issue of the *English Historical Review* as among the most significant and noteworthy articles in any field of history and in any period written in English that year. This past year I completed one article on the exercise of royal mercy and the legal technicalities of royal pardon in fourteenth-century Scotland, and another that examines the ideological connections between secular ideas of remission (i.e. pardon) for crime and the ecclesiastical notions of remission

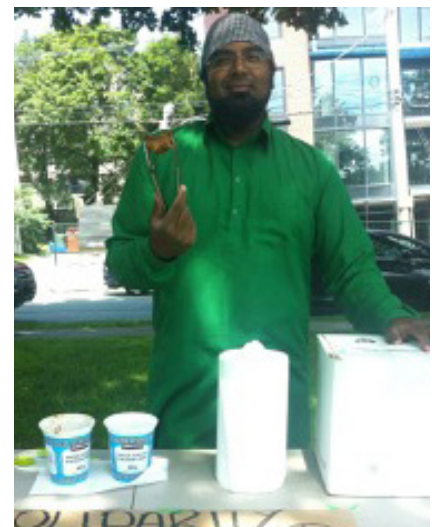
for sin and the ways in which these ideas found expression in political theories of kingship in high medieval Scotland. I am currently working on an article that examines closely the language of royal with royal mercy and the transition in Scotland from Latin-language letters of remission to letters written in the vernacular (Inglist).

AJAY PARASRAM

Last summer Dr. Parasram went conference hopping, colluding with interdisciplinary colleagues, and working on different pieces of writing. One, entitled "*The Little Nyonya* and Singapore's national self: reflections on aesthetics, ethnicity, and postcolonial state formation" is forthcoming from the journal, *Postcolonial Studies*. Within the realm of pop culture, he also penned a blogpost for *E-International Relations* entitled "The International Relations of A Tribe Called Red" which brings together some of his favourite things: radical theory, radical music, and the knowledge that better worlds are coming.

Ajay's been developing classes on South Asian and transnational history, including "Empire, War, and Resistance in Sri Lanka," "Histories of the State," "Decolonial and Postcolonial theory and methods" and (through his sister department, IDS) "The Development of Development," and "Indian Society: Continuity and Change." He's been writing book chapters for the Routledge Handbook of Postcolonial Studies and the *Routledge Handbook of Ethics in International Relations*, which are out this spring. The first (in collaboration with Lisa Tilley) argues that the ecological crises produced through the modern/colonial encounter cannot be overcome without privileging those knowledge systems that have always existed beyond the limit of modern reason. The second traces the racist origins of international relations theory, revisiting the trope of the "state of nature" and its Eurocentric assumptions. He had the privilege of writing a short piece entitled, "Living Fragments Within Empire" to introduce his father's life long project, *Beyond Survival: Indians In Trinidad & Tobago, 1845 – 2017* (London: Hansib, 2017).

After the election of Donald Trump, Ajay participated in a public meeting entitled, "President Trump: Now What?" in which he used his time to argue



Dr. Parasram giving out "Solidarity Pakoras" at one of the Remove Cornwallis rallies last summer.

that structural white supremacy has a longer history (and future) than # 45. Committed to the need to normalize public conversations about structural white supremacy in order to dismantle it, he worked with students and colleagues around the city to host "Race in a Glass Nation: Fragility and Dissent in the University and Beyond" in the fall. He's working on an article that considers "white fragility" as a pathological condition of settler-colonial nationalism, currently under peer review. He's travelling to San Francisco to present works in progress at the International Studies Association this April, and then hopes to spend the summer building a garden and a monograph based on his doctoral dissertation, "Becoming The State: Territorializing Ceylon, 1815 – 1850."

JUSTIN ROBERTS

Justin Roberts received recognition in the *English Historical Review* this year for his recent article, "Surrendering Surinam: The Barbadian Diaspora and the Expansion of the English Sugar Frontier, 1650–75," published in the *William and Mary Quarterly* 73:2 (2016):225-256.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Rowan Laird

BA Hons. '15

AFTER GRADUATING FROM

Dalhousie/King's in 2015, I was lucky enough to participate in the prestigious British Columbia Legislative Internship Program, gaining experience in public policy and legislation at the BC Legislature. I returned to academia in 2016 to start my master's degree at the University of Ottawa's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA). As part of my degree program, I lived and worked in Helsinki for three months, completing an internship at the Embassy of Canada to Finland, where one of my stranger job tasks involved supervising a professional safe-cracking.

Currently, I am working at Global Affairs Canada in the International Humanitarian Assistance Bureau, where I help support programming and policies for humanitarian organizations and food assistance. I expect to complete my master's degree in April 2018, and will be moving back to my native British Columbia to enjoy more temperate winters! My career thus far may not have been directly related to history, but every day I appreciate the



Rowan celebrating at a traditional Midsummer bonfire in Helsinki.

training I received at Dal; skills such as writing clearly and well, spotting global patterns, handling large swaths of information, and elucidating

chronologies of both past and present can carry historians far outside of the classroom.

Graduate Student Update



*First-year Master's student
Sophia Allen-Rice*

SOPHIA ALLEN-RICE

IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON HER MA THESIS with Justin Roberts. Initially interested in how pseudo-scientific rhetoric concerning slaves was constructed and reproduced, Sophia explored a wide variety of primary source material, and this has led her away from her original thesis proposal.

For historians, the search for primary sources that allow in-depth and meaningful analysis is often a complex task; as a student of history, Sophia has found this search both challenging and productive. She has moved from Anglo-American anti- and pro-slavery pamphlets, to British Sessional Papers concerning the slave trade, and ultimately to Jamaican slave sale ads in order to engage in a discussion about the commodification and commercialization of enslaved peoples. She is intending to make a connection between commodification and later arguments and rhetoric around racial inferiority.

Sophia is also a teacher and has frequently been substitute teaching where, when asked by students what her thesis is on (and frequently what a thesis is) she has been both surprised and encouraged by the engaging and respectful conversations she has had with youth about racism, history, and education. She is planning to complete her MA by September 2018 in order to apply for full-time teaching positions within the province.

ALUMNI NEWS

GHAZI JARRAR (MA '16)

Ghazi is attending Osgoode Hall Law School at York University. He is finishing up his second year of the program, which means one more year to go! Last year Ghazi worked at a community legal aid clinic in the Parkdale neighbourhood of Toronto doing immigration law. He found working with refugee communities at the clinic was extremely rewarding and this experience has shaped what he wants to do with his law degree. His job at the clinic, as with most law jobs, included lots of research and writing. Every time he submitted something to his supervisor, Ghazi was reminded of how grateful he is for the thorough training he received from his wonderful professors and peers in the Dalhousie History Department. He continues to be thankful for his time at Dalhousie.

BRENNA MACPHEE (MA '17)

Brenna has begun her PhD at the University of Toronto, where she is currently wrapping up her first year, and is beginning to turn her attention to preparing for comprehensives. In the past year, Brenna has had the opportunity to participate in several conferences, work on her language skills, and publish her first ever book review. Last summer, in between her MA and her PhD, Brenna held a student position at the Textile Museum of Canada in Toronto, where she organized their archives and did research for upcoming exhibitions. In both of these pursuits, Brenna has been thankful every day for the wonderful training she received at Dal. Her supervisor, Dr. Philip Zachernuk, as well as many others in the department, pushed her to think critically, write purposefully, and to care deeply about the discipline. According to Brenna, she sees now more than ever just how valuable the MA thesis project was for getting her to wrap her head around a large-scale dissertation. In her own words: "I owe a great deal to the wonderful staff and professors in the Dal History Department!"

JEFFERS LENNOX (PHD '10)

Jeffers' 2017 monograph, *Homelands and Empires: Indigenous Spaces, Imperial Fictions, and Competition for Territory in Northeastern North America, 1690-1763*, has been shortlisted for the Canadian Historical Association prize for the Best Scholarly Book in Canadian History. This prize is awarded annually to the non-fiction work of Canadian history judged to have made the most significant contribution to our understanding of the Canadian past.

Recent Master's Graduates

SPRING 2017

JILLIAN FORSYTH

Jillian began her PhD in Russian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, on full scholarship.

BRIDGET GRAHAM

Bridget has been working as the Engagement & Retention Coordinator at the College of Sustainability at Dalhousie. She is also a Board Member of the Halifax Women's History Society, and training to be a full Spectrum doula with Doula Canada.

BRENNA MACPHEE

Brenda is working on her PhD in African History at the University of Toronto. Her supervisor there is Stephen Rockel.

FALL 2017

JAMIE BENCZE

Jamie is attending the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

BRENDAN GEMMELL

Brendan began Law School at the University of Alberta this year.

ALEX MARTINBOROUGH

Alex started his PhD in History at Queen's University with a University Scholarship, under the supervision of Jeff McNairn.

CYNTHIA PANNETON

Cynthia is starting her Masters in Teaching and Learning at McGill. After completing her degree, she intends to teach English as a second language in Quebec schools.

KYLIE PEACOCK

Kylie is now a Research Assistant in the Department of Community Health & Epidemiology and the School of Occupational Therapy at Dalhousie.

MITCHELL POTTER

Mitchell is working in Halifax as an English tutor and teacher for immigrants with literacy challenges. He is also studying Japanese in anticipation of his move to Japan this summer.

MIKE SMITH

Mike is currently working as a courier.

SARAH TOYE

Sarah is currently working at Pier 21. She is also involved with the Halifax Women's History Society.

INTERVIEW WITH

Brennan Dempsey, PhD Student

BRENNAN DEMPSEY HAS BEEN A fixture of the History Department for several years. He completed his MA at Dalhousie in 2016, where he worked with Krista Kesselring on Quaker childhood in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Brennan began his doctoral studies at Dal in the fall of 2017; he is now working with Justin Roberts on the history of enslavement and Atlantic world history. He is currently studying for his comprehensive exams, which he will write in the fall of 2018.

WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO STUDY HISTORY AT THE DOCTORAL LEVEL?

Although I have professional ambitions, beginning a PhD was mostly a personal choice. I love the grad school atmosphere, and reading, thinking, and writing about the past.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO STUDY AT DALHOUSIE?

In some ways Dalhousie was an easy choice for me – Halifax is my native city, and I knew Dal well from prior degrees. That said, I feel very lucky that I live in a city with such a vibrant academic community. The Dalhousie History Department is full of committed, passionate scholars, not to mention their encouragement and support.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE AREA OF RESEARCH YOU INTEND TO EXPLORE IN YOUR DISSERTATION? WHAT IS THE STATE OF YOUR FIELD AND WHERE DO YOU SEE YOUR SCHOLARSHIP FITTING WITHIN IT?

My dissertation will explore the intersection of family life and slavery in 18th-century America and the Caribbean. While there have been many studies of the social and economic dimension of slavery, its relationship with the oldest human institution, the family, is only now coming to the fore. I hope that my contributions add to our understanding of race, racism, and the dark legacy of slavery.



First-year PhD student Brennan Dempsey

“I love the grad school atmosphere, and reading, thinking, and writing about the past.”

WHAT HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVES PROCESS BEEN?

Comps are an intellectual journey! Engaging with multiple fields of scholarship on a deep level is a very rewarding process, though sometimes a daunting one.

IN WHAT WAYS DOES HISTORY SPEAK TO PRESENT-DAY NEEDS AND CONCERNS?

This is both an easy and a hard question. The easy answer is: in every way! The story of how we got to where we are is vitally important to understand just where that truly is – history can provide important

context and deeper understandings. The subtler answer is that many present-day needs and concerns are shaped by historical forces, so to truly comprehend and confront them, we need to study their history. Lastly, many people in the present have a desire to understand their own place in the world, and history is a powerful (and corruptible) way of answering that kind of deep question. Rigorous academic history is all the more important in an age of conspiracy theories and alternative facts!

Scholarships and Awards

UNDERGRADUATE PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The George E. Wilson Prize for the most meritorious essay by a first-year student in a first-year class was awarded to Christine Hughes.

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 Gabriel Goodman. This prize is funded by a gift from Dr. David Jessop and Dr. Karen Ostergaard.

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 Lyndon Kinkley.



*Third-year student
Lyndon Kinkley*

Jill Durkee received the Laurel V. King Scholarship for second year students who excel specifically in History.



*Second-year student
Jill Durkee*

Amel Bensalim and Ethan Ray 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 University Medal in History for the best undergraduate record among graduating Honours students in History was awarded to Maggie O'Riordon-Ross.

GRADUATE PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Patricia Keene Scholarship supports graduate student research, particularly travel to archives that would otherwise be inaccessible to students. In 2017-2018 the scholarship was awarded to Dana Campbell.

Joy Shand received the DSU Dal-King's Impact Award, given to the King's student who is most highly engaged and takes on a leadership role at Dalhousie.

The Gold D prize is awarded to Dalhousie students to recognize an elite level of involvement and achievement in campus life over the course of their university career. These students have shown outstanding extracurricular contributions in the community. This year, Mercedes Peters received the prize.

Mercedes also received the Bowes Scholarship in History. Endowed by Janeen Bowes (BA '67) the Bowes Scholarship is awarded to the most deserving graduate students working in the fields of Halifax, Nova Scotia or Atlantic History.

HONOURS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Carli LaPierre (B.A. Hons '18)

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO PURSUE A DEGREE IN HISTORY?

I don't actually remember making the conscious decision to do my Honours in history. In our first year of university when we were thinking about declaring majors, my friend Jill and I were looking into the history program. We saw the option for Honours and suddenly we were sorting out how many history classes we'd need to take a year to be eligible. As I continued my degree, I saw the Honours program as an opportunity to push myself and possibly help me to continue with history after my undergraduate degree.



*Carli Lapierre
will begin her
Master's at
Dalhousie in
the Fall*

WHAT ARE YOUR RESEARCH INTERESTS?

My research is on maps. I did a biography of Moses Harris' *A Plan of the Harbour of Chebucto and town of Halifax (1749)* to understand the complexity of maps and the importance of contextualization. I used a critical cartography framework, but expanded it to include an artistic analysis of the map.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER GRADUATION?

I'm going to be starting a Masters in history at Dalhousie with Dr. Bannister in the fall. I'm hoping to continue working with maps for my MA. I'd be expanding my scope to look at eighteenth century maps of Nova Scotia from French, British, indigenous and/or other Northeastern North American sources.



Two of our Master's student award recipients, Joy Shand and Mercedes Peters

Farewell to Cynthia



Stephen Bloom pictured with Dr. Neville at her retirement reception in April

IN APRIL FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES gathered at the University Club to bid a fond farewell to Dr. Cynthia Neville, who is retiring this year. A George Munro Professor of History and Political Economy since 2010, Dr. Neville has been a valued member of the Dalhousie community since 1986.

Dr. Krista Kesselring presented her with a book, put together in her honour, entitled *Crossing Borders: Boundaries and Margins in Medieval and Early Modern Britain*. The book was edited by Dr. Kesselring and Dr. Sara W. Butler. Krista was Cynthia's BA Honours student and Dr. Butler, who is now at



Drs Neville and Kesselring

Ohio State University, was Cynthia's PhD student. The collection contains essays and writings from Dr. Neville's former students, including Chelsea Hartlen, a recent graduate of the Master's Program, who is now a PhD candidate at the University of Guelph.

From the History Department, Cynthia received two beautiful pieces of pottery handmade by Lilynn Wan, who is a former PhD graduate from Dal History. She also received a terrific backpack for future hiking. In addition to writing a great deal more medieval history, Dr. Neville intends to put her new backpack to use by travelling and hiking as much as possible.

Cynthia will be dearly missed by her friends and colleagues at Dalhousie.

Upcoming New Courses

THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY launched a series of first-year courses with biographical themes. These courses use the life of a single figure to explore the historical questions and contexts of their times. Three courses will be offered in 2018-2019 on Elizabeth I, Nelson Mandela, and Saladin, the 12th century Muslim political and military leader. These courses have a maximum enrollment of 25 and are designed to provide closer interaction with professors and peers than available in large introductory courses.

Two new linked courses team-taught by Drs. Colin Mitchell and Christopher Austin and cross-listed with the Department of Religious



This first-year course on the life history of Queen Elizabeth I will be taught in Fall 2018

Studies are being introduced for 2018/2019. HIST/RELS 2509 Hindu, Muslim, Sikh: Identity, Culture, and State in Pre-Colonial South Asia introduces students to the religious and political history of the areas known as India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh in the pre-Islamic period. HIST/RELS 2510 Locating the Trauma of Modern South Asia picks up in the winter where 2509 left off, examining South Asian history from 1750 until the modern day. Both courses are broadly concerned with how religious communities like Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs should be understood in imperial and nationalist contexts.

Graduate Conference

THIS YEAR'S HISTORY ACROSS THE Disciplines Conference took place from March 23-25. The theme of the conference was "Revolutions: Changing Society and the State." The keynote address was given by Dr. Stephen Snobelen, entitled "A Bloody Revolution?": Continuity and Discontinuity in the Anatomical Discovery of Circulation." An expert in

the theology of Isaac Newton, Dr. Snobelen has been at King's College since 2001.

The proceedings were opened on the first full day of the conference with a roundtable discussion around the role of identity in research.

The panelists, Dr. Chike Jeffers (Dal PHIL), Professor Diana Lewis (Dal SOSA), Dr. Ajay Parasram (Dal IDS/HIST) and Mercedes Peters (Dal HIST), offered insightful comments on their experiences as researchers.



Dr. Snobelen illustrates the nature of circulation in his keynote address at the Graduate Conference. Photo credit: Maddie Hare



From left to right: Diana Lewis, Ajay Parasram, Chike Jeffers, Mercedes Peters, Katherine Crooks, Joy Shand. Photo credit: Maddie Hare

December Potluck

Room 1170 in the McCain Building serves as venue for the department's weightier discussions; the weekly Stokes Seminar, thesis defenses, and department meetings are all held here. Every December, however, the tables and chairs are rearranged and – thanks to the work of our department elves, Val and Tina – 1170 is transformed into a festive space for the annual History Department Potluck.

This year, Maddie Hare showed herself to be not only a wonderful MA student, but an accomplished cook as well. She provided a delicious turkey dinner for the partygoers, complete with all the fixings. Maddie received several requests for copies of her stuffing recipe, which was spectacular.



Maddie (far left) can finally relax after preparing a spectacular turkey dinner for the potluck

VISITING SCHOLAR PROFILES

THIS YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT WAS lucky enough to welcome three new visiting scholars, working in diverse fields of study. Best of luck as they move forward with their academic endeavours!

ERIN CORBER

This year, Erin Corber was the inaugural Simon and Riva Spatz Visiting Chair of Jewish Studies, a rotating appointment in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Erin received her PhD at Indiana University in Bloomington in 2013. Since then, she has held several teaching appointments and research postdocs in various places in Europe and the United States, including a postdoc at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in DC. Below, Erin shares some thoughts about her time at Dalhousie:

"It was an honour for me to be the first to hold this named chair, but also a great opportunity to teach in one of Canada's great history departments. At Dal, I taught a small upper-level seminar-style course on the Jews and Modern France, as well as a course on the history of The Holocaust. My students were motivated, inquisitive, and many were skilled writers and researchers. I had excellent classroom experiences with my students. I was exceedingly proud of one of my students who was awarded the 2018



Dr. Erin Corber, Simon and Riva Spatz Chair of Jewish Studies

Mushkat Memorial prize (FASS) with a paper I helped him revise from the Holocaust course. I also guest lectured on various topics for courses at Dal and King's College. A highlight for me was guest lecturing in John Bingham's honours seminar course. It was wonderful to be able to teach, mentor, and advise students in the history department and I wish them all the best in their future endeavours at Dal and beyond.

At Dalhousie, I worked on revising portions of my doctoral dissertation for publication. I am a historian of Jews in Modern France, and my research explores aspects of "regeneration" projects and discourses in interwar

French Jewish life. I was grateful to have an opportunity to share some of my work with grad students and history faculty at the Stokes' seminar in the Spring. I presented a chapter that explores the concept of race in the early years of the Eclaireurs Israelites de France, France's Jewish Boy Scouting movement, and feedback from the Stokes seminar has also been helpful in approaching revisions on other chapters.

At Dal, I also had a wonderful chance to develop my public history and scholarship profile while contributing to university and community environments of learning. I applied for a grant from the Royal Society of Canada (Atlantic) to fund a visiting scholar to put on two public programs on the Jewish history and culture of Esperanto, including a history lecture, and a Yiddish and Esperanto poetry and translation evening. I enjoyed this kind of work immensely. I also had the opportunity to give public talks on topics related to the Holocaust and to my research in European Jewish history at both synagogues in town as well as a keynote lecture for the Atlantic Jewish Council's Holocaust Education Week. These experiences allowed me to make some wonderful connections with the local community and to share my work and research with audiences beyond the classroom.

Finally, I made my very first forays into Canadian Jewish history with an invited public keynote lecture at Mount Allison University which explored methods and approaches to Jewish history in the Canadian context. It was also the very first time I presented work on my own family history, for which I used books from my grandparents' home from the 1940s and 50s (and oral historical testimony from my grandfather) as primary sources. It was a special project that I hope to pursue alongside my work in European and French Jewish history.

While in Europe working on my revisions, I am currently pursuing a few other projects related to teaching, as well as my greater publishing agenda. I was invited to give a research seminar at the Institute for Advanced Study at New Europe College in Bucharest,



Visiting scholars (left to right) Drs Quintanilla, Langford and Corber at the Sutherland Gathering in September

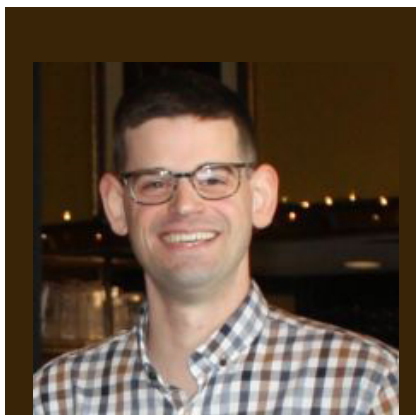
Romania, where I was an international fellow in 2015-16. My mandate as Spatz chair encompassed duties in teaching, public work and service, and research. I had great experiences in my classrooms this year at Dalhousie, with public audiences in Halifax, and have ended my appointment with some very rich weeks of research and writing in Europe. From Romania to France, two countries described as 'Latin siblings' by many interwar European scholars, and two countries with rich, vibrant, and often tragic Jewish stories (albeit with very different postwar chapters), this summer's research portion of my chair has offered me time to delve into my own research on interwar France, but also the space and material with which to develop new research questions along the way."

WILLIAM LANGFORD

William Langford brings his Postdoctoral SSHRC to Dalhousie for the years 2017-2019. Dr. Langford received his PhD at Queen's University. He received the SSRHC Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship for this doctoral work.

According to Will, he decided to pursue his postdoctoral work at Dalhousie because "I'd heard good things about the university and the city. And I thought that I would benefit from bouncing ideas off of Shirley Tillotson - who is an enthusiastic and excellent historian. So, Dal was a great place to take up a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship. Getting the chance to participate in the Stokes Seminar has been an added benefit.

My research focuses on social movements and everyday politics. I



Postdoctoral SSHRC Dr. William Langford

wrote a dissertation about Canadian development programs - both at home and abroad - in the 1960s and 1970s. I explored the connections between development, democracy, and anti-poverty activism in a global context. My new research project, a political history of right-wing movements in postwar Canada, has similar sensibilities. I'd like to get at grassroots activism and understand how it mattered in a period when the Cold War, decolonization, and the creation of the welfare state greatly shaped political debate. My research asks: Was there a political right in mid-twentieth century Canada, and what was its class, ideological, and cultural character? In what sense was it a 'new' right? To what extent could it be described as conservative? Thus far, I've been looking at anti-communists, Cold War militarists, neoliberals, libertarians, 'pro-life' activists, conspiracy theorists, evangelical Protestant 'unionists,' Catholic traditionalists, and more."

MARK QUINTANILLA

Mark Quintanilla, Fulbright Scholar at Dalhousie, 2017-2018. Dr. Quintanilla is a Professor of History at Hannibal-LaGrange University in Missouri. His research is focused on the Ceded Islands of Grenada, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Tobago. Mark has kindly shared with us some thoughts on his time at Dal:

"First, let me say that coming to Dalhousie as a Fulbright Scholar and Research Chair was a dream of a lifetime! I came to Nova Scotia last fall to trace connections between the Maritime Provinces and the British West Indian colonies of Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Tobago, collectively known as the 'Ceded Islands.' As I began my inquiry I cast my net broadly, and my hope was to identify and trace as many connections as possible.

Once on the ground in Halifax, I pursued my project with vigor, narrowing my investigation primarily to the eighteenth-century figure, George Scott. My research on George and the larger Scott family allowed me to pick up on a research thread that I had left much earlier in my career. In 1994, I had undertaken archival work in Grenada, St. Vincent, and Dominica in island court houses exploring property records and wills as I attempted to gain a better



Fulbright Scholar Dr. Mark Quintanilla

understanding of British colonization of the region. Lieutenant Governor Scott's 1767 will, which I discovered in Grenada and later Dominica, was an intriguing find, especially as it listed a large expansive Atlantic family, mentioning relatives in Nova Scotia, Massachusetts, Grenada, Ireland, and friends serving in various locales.

In the months before arriving at Dalhousie, I made contact with the Fort Sackville Historical Society who are based at the Scott Manor House in Bedford. This proved to be a tremendous resource as it firmly linked my research in the Caribbean with local (Canadian) history. As you may know, the Scott Manor House was built by George's younger brother Joseph on a tract of land originally patented to George and Joseph in the early 1760s. My new friends at the Manor House proved to be such a source of encouragement, inviting me twice to make presentations of my research. As I discovered, George Scott not only played a central role in shaping the Caribbean colonies of Grenada and Dominica but had also shaped eighteenth-century Canada.

Finally, let me extend my thanks to the department, committee, university, and Fulbright Canada who made my time in Nova Scotia a reality! In the time since returning from Canada, I have presented a portion of this research at the Missouri History Conference in April and will present another portion to the Trans-Atlantic Studies Association this summer. At present, I am working with a publisher to finalize another project that I hope will be published in the coming months."

ANNUAL DEPARTMENT BONSPIEL

The Annual History Department Bonspiel was held in early in the new year. Illness and weather reduced our numbers to about 40. The Best Curlers in History, and other grades of curlers in related disciplines, have been determined for 2018:

The "Best Curlers in History" are (until history moves on): Stefano Sokolic, Amel Bensalim, Sophia Allen-Rice, and Lauren Berry.

The team that lost it all for bottles of wine and the "Losing with Grace" trophy: Harry Bingham, Mary McNulty, Lucy Garrett, Keigan Sutherland.

Sophia Allen-Rice committed perhaps the best fall in the history of History Curling, and won the prize.

Sarah Toye did NOT win the Best Fall prize this year.

John Bingham was MVP by a landslide.

Stephen Henderson won the half-time hitting contest.

Szymon Pogoda may have put the pot in potluck with his crowd-pleasing and prize-winning pulled pork dish.

Ajay Parasram, last year's prize chef, won a newly created prize: best theoretical fall.



*Top: MA student Aonghus Garrison learning from the master
Right: Mercedes, John and Aonghus talk Stokes on the ice*



*Top: Ajay Parasram, winner: Best Theoretical Fall
Middle: (Left to right) Lauren Berry, Sophia Allen-Rice, Maddie Hare
Left: Dr. John Bingham, the real MVP!*

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Know of a former classmate who is doing something exciting and newsworthy?

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