MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

GREETINGS TO THE STUDENTS, alumni, staff, faculty and friends of Dal History, near and far. What a year it's been! We started back mostly in person and had a distanced, masked, but on balance great Fall term; then Omicron hit and Winter term was once more a disordered challenge. Many students – and faculty – found the Winter perhaps the hardest of the COVID-terms thus far. But we have much to celebrate nonetheless and much for which we can be deeply thankful. Certainly, I want to express my gratitude to all the students, staff, faculty, and alumni who made this year as good as it could be. Thank you.

I invite you to read in the pages that follow news from or about students, staff, and faculty, past and present. Sadly, we lost two former members of the department this year: John Flint and Guy Robertson Maclean. We bid a happier though bittersweet farewell to Tina Jones, our long, long-time department administrator who retired this year. (We're still reeling from this departure, to be frank!) But we also welcomed new members and welcomed back a few familiar faces in new roles. We are delighted that Kassandra Luciuk has joined us as a new tenure-stream appointment in Canadian history. One of our alumna, Jillian Durkee, has joined us as a new tenure-stream appointment in Canadian history. One of our alumna, Jillian Durkee, has joined us as a new tenure-stream appointment in Canadian history. One of our alumna, Jillian Durkee, has joined us as a new tenure-stream appointment in Canadian history. One of our alumna, Jillian Durkee, has joined us as a new tenure-stream appointment in Canadian history. One of our alumna, Jillian Durkee, has joined us as a new tenure-stream appointment in Canadian history. One of our alumna, Jillian Durkee, has joined us as a new tenure-stream appointment in Canadian history. One of our alumna, Jillian Durkee, has joined us as a new tenure-stream appointment in Canadian history. One of our alumna, Jillian Durkee, has joined us as a new tenure-stream appointment in Canadian history.

As ever, please do get in touch with any news you might like to share. In the meantime, please accept best wishes for the future from all your friends in History.

Krista Kesselring, department chair, and Ronny Blanchard, winner of the University Medal in History, at Convocation in May.

Krista Kesselring
THE UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY Society (UGHS) was created to foster a community among History students in which they could discuss common interests – historical or otherwise. It was also meant to be a welcoming environment for students interested in history, spreading the appreciation for history and growing connections. As the first year (mostly) in person since 2020, making social connections was crucial as we came out of our houses. This year, UGHS expanded from a dozen or so active members to over 120 members. Many of these members are not history students, and some are not even FASS students. We have also gained a large group of exchange students, showing the success of our goal to create an atmosphere where students from any background can participate in our events and build connections.

We held an average of one event a week in the fall semester. These included social events such as board game nights, a Citadel Ghost Tour, two study sessions, a day trip to McNabb’s Island, a prof mixer and more. The winter term was not as busy due to the resurgence of COVID cases, but we still managed to host a few events such as history trivia night, another board game night, an Honours information session, and our election. UGHS was also heavily involved in forming a new Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society executive because that society had been dormant since 2019. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our gala due to a spike in COVID cases. We also did a History Department clothing order with a new logo!

UGHS also supported students in their assignments with study sessions and encouraged them to consider degree options in History such as Honours, double majors, and minors. UGHS partnered with the History Honours Seminar to produce Pangaea – a journal featuring student-authored work – making it easier for undergraduates to have their work published. As one of the Pangaea editors (along with Lucy Carolan), I can say that the submissions this year were diverse, intriguing, and well-written. We received a record 26 submissions, making the final selection challenging.

A pdf of the journal is now available online; printed copies are available from the History Office.

UGHS was highly honoured to have won the Impact Award for Most Impactful Department/Faculty Society in March. This award is a significant milestone for UGHS. Since this is only the third year since the society has been
re-activated, it is truly amazing to see how successful UGHS has become in such a short time. For me personally, as Vice-President the first year it was re-ratified, and then President during COVID and again this year, it has been a tremendous journey. I have made some of my closest friends and helped many others make friends. I know everyone worked very hard this semester, so it was nice to receive recognition. I cannot think of a better way to end my time at Dal than earning this award for a society I have spent the last three years growing with my friends.

Next year, Amy Paleczny will be the President of UGHS. Aly Boone will be Vice-President, Gideon Morton is returning as Treasurer, Meg MacDonald is the new Social Media Coordinator, and Leah Luong is the new DASSS Rep. I am incredibly excited to see where this new executive takes UGHS in the 2022/23 year. I hope everyone who joined UGHS this year enjoyed it, and I hope you will join again next year.

For information on the Society for this coming academic year, please contact ughs@dal.ca. Be sure to follow UGHS on Instagram @dalhistorysociety for updates. It has been truly wonderful to get to know so many of you, and I wish everyone success in their academic journeys and beyond!

UGHS Citadel Ghost Tour

EXECUTIVE TEAM:
Ronny Blanchard, President
Amy Paleczny, Vice President
Gideon Morton, Treasurer
Aly Boone, Secretary
Matt Sutherland, DASSS Representative
Ireland Wright, Social Media
Jewel Pirie, Laura Saad & David Cowx, First Year Representatives
Claire has recently graduated from Dalhousie with a combined Honours in History and Political Science. She is starting a MA in History at Saint Mary’s University and hopes to focus her research in the area of Second World War cultural policy in Europe. Claire works as a genealogical researcher at the Canadian Museum of Immigration, and in her spare time enjoys reading and caring for her houseplants.

Q Why did you decide to study history at Dalhousie?
A I actually went into my undergrad intending to do my Honours in Political Science, which ended up being my second major. In second year, I had an epiphany that I had been ignoring – history was my passion! So, I switched and ended with my Honours in History.

Q What was your area of research?
A My Honours thesis focused on how totalitarianism and national socialism in Nazi Germany failed to translate into artistic propaganda and representation. Therefore, it failed to translate larger national socialist ideologies to the general public, specifically in 1937 art exhibitions. I thought it might be an art history project, but it turned out to be more of a policy project. I looked primarily at historical policies of the Third Reich as well as figures of the Nazi Party and their artistic policies. I really wanted to show the disconnect between Hitler and art, which he is famous for now.

Q What sparked your interest in this topic?
A Definitely the time period. I’ve always been interested in 20th century German history. I have been to Europe a couple times and my favorite places to visit were museums and galleries. So, I wanted to combine two interests – art and German history.

Q Congratulations on your Impact Award. Do you mind briefly explaining the award?
A Thank you. The Impact Awards are a joint prize between the Dalhousie faculty and the Dalhousie Student Union that recognize students who contribute to the Dalhousie community while also having good academic standing. I received the Impact Award for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Q What are your plans for after graduation?
A I am attending Saint Mary’s University to begin my master’s in history. I am actually starting next week by taking a spring course! I will be working with Dr. Kirrily Freeman, and we are going to be looking at the displacement of art during the Second World War. Not just from Germany, but it was actually a global initiative to displace art and much of it is still not found. So, it is partly a continuation of my Honours project but there’s lots of research involved, which I really enjoy.

Q Do you have a fondest memory of your studies at Dalhousie?
A I really enjoyed our Honours seminar with Dr. Chris Bell every Tuesday. I found that we worked so well together in that class, and it was just fun updating each other on how we were doing. I found that the pandemic really caused a break in my degree, so it was really a joy to be able to come back and share an experience with a group of people who I really am friends with now. Hopefully, some of them will be lifelong friends.

Q Do you have any advice for future students of the history program?
A I would say that you should do your readings for seminars, study what you are passionate about because the knowledge you gain is very rewarding, and work hard. It pays off.
THE GRADUATE HISTORY SOCIETY (GHS) had an eventful 2021/2022 campaign. An entirely new exec was elected in September 2021, with the goal of fostering a positive and stimulating off-campus program for the University’s graduate students. While we encountered some roadblocks along the way, we managed to make the most of the events that did occur. Despite the remnants of COVID-19 restrictions hampering our ability to organize certain events, we created a full program. Weekly gatherings were supplemented with game nights, museum trips, bonfires and a Super Bowl party. The Exec owes a great deal to those who were able to host events and provide tours, and thus a special thank you must be extended to Amaan Kazmi and Amber Laurie for their help in this capacity.

Given the state of COVID restrictions in Nova Scotia we were forced into the regrettable decision to host our annual conference on Microsoft Teams. Given the widespread focus on colonial encounters in current historiography we felt that our theme reflected current affairs while allowing presenters the space necessary to carve out their own niche within the topic. The conference featured graduate students from across the world and was titled “Encountering Colonialism: Land, Lives, and Legacies”. Over the course of the weekend, presentations were given in panels, split by subject matter and geography.

We must also express our immense gratitude to our keynote speaker, our own Dr. Ajay Parasram, who presented “The Refrain of Territory: Archiving in Relief and the Politics of Post/Settler Colonial land.” Dr. Parasram’s excellent keynote address allowed us to kick off the conference in style and set the tone for an engaging and thought-provoking weekend of discussion. Thanks must also be extended to all of the chairs who gave up their time to ensure the smooth running of proceedings.

On behalf of myself and all the other members of the Executive Committee I want to thank everyone who contributed to our events this year as we started to navigate our post-COVID reality. Congratulations to those of you finishing your theses this year, and good luck to those taking an extra year! It has been a pleasure to play a small role in leading the society through this year, and I look forward to helping the executive for next year get off the ground!
Amaan is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in History at Dalhousie University. The focus of his research is the Indian National Congress’s, and by extension, India’s, claim to secularism. Amaan is also a Dalhousie employee and works at the Office of the Registrar with the Academic Scheduling and Examinations Team. In his spare time he likes to tinker around with DIY projects.

Q Why did you decide to study history at Dalhousie?

A I got offers from several universities and I’d wanted to go to Trinity College in Dublin. But I didn’t see a future in that country, although they have a good tradition of scholarship and the history program is solid.

Dalhousie gave me good scholarship and there seemed to be prospects of a future life in Canada. Being an Indian Muslim in the current climate, I wanted to get out of [India] and wanted to start my life elsewhere. I didn’t see a respectable future in India for myself just by virtue of being born into a Muslim family. And so, I came here [for my undergraduate degree] and I have been here ever since.

For my Masters, I had made good relationships with a lot of the professors. They had great guidance and were very patient with me. They showed concern for their students, especially Dr. Mitchell. My first class ever at Dal was with Dr. Mitchell. I remember sitting down with Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Austin outside the classroom in first year as an 18-year-old, fresh-off-the-boat guy, and just chilling and talking about life. They’re good people. They were also supportive of my plans to undertake a master’s degree in History once I had graduated!

Q Did you always want to study history?

A Oh, 100%. History has been my passion. Since childhood, I had this dilemma of figuring out who I am. History helped me there. I took the historical route. A lot of people take other routes, but I took the historical route to answer that question, and it’s been fruitful.

Q What is the area of your graduate research?

A India calls itself the world’s largest democracy, but it finds itself in the throes of the most virulent form of Islamophobia in the world. At the same time, it seems to be a secular country. So, my research is focused on South Asia, India specifically, and India’s claim to post-colonial secularism considering what’s going on right now. I do this through a survey and an exploration of the independence movement, and within it, the Congress Party in particular. The Congress Party is supposedly the secular alternative to the more communal Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and I’m trying to examine how secular the Congress was. Through the independence movement from the British Raj, I study how religious identity came to be politically mobilized. Is secularism even possible in a place like India?

Q Do you have any particular aspirations for this research?

A I think it might have policy implications. I believe that Western democracies should keep an eye out for the world’s largest democracy. I think that knowing what we’re dealing with gives Canadians a more informed Indian foreign policy regarding human rights.

Q How has your experience been as an international student studying at Dalhousie?

A I do appreciate that Dalhousie is inclusive and focuses on inclusivity in the workspace. I honestly didn’t have much of an issue navigating through university life as a racialized international student. The support was great. My instructors were great. Everyone was great.
PHD STUDENT GRACE MCNUTT JOINS DALHOUSIE’S OPENTHINK COHORT

Engaging the public with history isn’t new to Grace. In addition to eight years of experience with Parks Canada, she has been producing and hosting the Canadian Podcasting Award-nominated Minute Women since 2020. The podcast takes a critical, comedic look at Canadian Heritage Minutes - the iconic, 60-second commercials we were all inundated with in the 1990s that attempted to recap important moments in Canadian History.

These public history experiences have informed Grace’s current research which explores the politics of commemoration. In particular, Grace considers the place of colonial commemoration in the aftermath of Truth and Reconciliation. “OpenThink has not only provided me with media training and a public platform to share my ideas,” says Grace, “but it has also given me the opportunity to explore research questions through blogging. In the first year of study, much of a PhD student’s time is spent preparing for comprehensive exams. So, to have an outlet to engage in research has been very rewarding.”

The OpenThinkers contribute to a collective, interdisciplinary blog. Additionally, the cohort features their research on popular media outlets, especially The Conversation, an independent source of news and views from the academic and research community delivered direct to the public. Grace has been featured on The Conversation twice and, combined, her articles have been read by over 20,000 people. “It’s been a great and terrifying experience to be honest,” Grace confesses. “To have your words in the hands of a public that doesn’t know you for the first time is scary. But OpenThink has been great to lean on when it gets overwhelming. Sharing our work with a public that often funds our research is important and writing on accessible platforms is a good start.”

You can read Grace’s Conversation contributions here:

- Set in stone: Using statue-related metaphors to describe history misses the mark
- Why defacing the Terry Fox statue touched a nerve with so many Canadians
CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

The Department of History would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to all our 2021/22 graduates for their dedication, hard work, and many achievements. Good luck with all your future endeavours!

UNDERGRADUATES (BA OR BSc, DAL OR KING’S, WITH A MAJOR OR HONOURS IN HISTORY):

- Erin Appelbe
- Dominik Bergeron-Latulippe
- Ronald Blanchard
- Henry Bryden
- Scott Burns
- Lucy Carolan
- Aerin Cathcart
- Melizza Claydentabobondung
- Angus Cochran
- Cornelius Escaravage
- Madeleine Flanagan
- Mikaela Fletcher
- Anna Gaudet
- Megan Grey
- Samual Gruchy
- Laura Hann
- Geordie House
- Madeline Hoyle
- Alexandria Jackman
- William Keys
- Zachary Lake
- Stephanie Lefebvre
- David Leonard
- Lindsay MacKay
- Emily Martens-Oberwelland
- Claire McCarroll
- Anna McCarthy
- Skylar McEachern
- Erin McGuire
- Claire Mercer
- Robert Murphy
- Megan Osler
- Katherine Pope
- Grayson Porter
- Chiara Power
- Emilie Quinn
- Alec Rembowski
- Oscar Richards
- Daniel Simpkin
- Aleksei Sychterz
- Jamieson Urquhart
- Jonathan Vroom
- Emma Whaley
- Isabel Wong
- Ireland Wright

MASTER’S GRADUATES:

- Kristen Becker
- Holly Dickinson
- Emily Fenton
- Madelaine Hare
- Bethany Henderson

HISTORY NEWS
DEPARTMENTAL STUDENT AWARDS, 2021/2022:

The History Department would like to offer its thanks to the alumni and donors whose generous gifts have made prizes and scholarships possible. This support enables the continued celebration and encouragement of academic excellence among History students.

THE UNIVERSITY MEDAL FOR HISTORY, awarded on the basis of the best undergraduate record among graduating Honours students in History: Ronald Blanchard

THE GEORGE E. WILSON PRIZE AND SCHOLARSHIPS:
Prize for the most meritorious essay by a first-year student. Deniz Yildirim
First year scholarship, for a student with high standing in an introductory History class. Cameron McLeod
Scholarship for students completing an honours or major in History with high standing. Lucy Boyd and George Mitchell

THE EDITH AND ROSE GOODMAN PRIZES FOR CANADIAN HISTORY, for students with the highest marks in Canadian History. Hayley Kirk and Ellen Yarr

TOM AND ADA J ENNEX UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP, for a History major finishing third year who demonstrates academic excellence in the study of the Atlantic World. Morgan Campbell

SUSAN BUGGEY ATLANTIC WORLD HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP, awarded to a History major in recognition of the importance of studies in history that connect Atlantic Canada and its people to a multicultural world outside its region, nation and continent. Stuart McEachern

LVK SCHOLARSHIP IN HISTORY, for second year students who excel specifically in History. Pascale Legault

THE COMMONWEALTH HISTORY PRIZE, to facilitate and encourage the study of Commonwealth or British history. This prize is awarded annually for the best undergraduate essay on a topic relating to the history of Britain and/or the Commonwealth countries.

The prize is funded by a gift from Dr. David Jessop and Dr. Karen Ostergaard. Anna Gaudet

OTHER PRIZES:
Holly Dickinson, MA'21, rejoined the department this year to begin a PhD, and won the University's KIM RILDA LEBLANC MEMORIAL AWARD for outstanding work at the intersection of the arts and humanities and health and medicine for her MA thesis on the history of midwifery in Nova Scotia. (Dal News ran a profile of Holly at her October '21 convocation that can be read online.)

Catherine Charlton, MA student, received the Viv Nelles Award from the Wilson Institute at McMaster University, which 'recognizes the essay written during that year by a graduate student that best places Canadian history in its transnational context.'

Hannah Wygiera, a Dalhousie alumna now doing her MA at the University of Calgary, won the department's JOHN E. FLINT PRIZE, for the best paper at the annual graduate students' conference.
INTERVIEW WITH CAROLINE BLAIR-SMITH

Caroline has worked for Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) in a variety of roles over the last 17 years, most recently as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (DCAO). After graduating from Dalhousie University with a Bachelor of Arts with an advanced major in History in 1993, Caroline started her career at Coca-Cola before joining HRM in 2005. Caroline began her public service career with HRM in the Human Resources department, spending 13 years in various roles working with teams across the organization on conflict resolution, labour relations, talent management, training initiatives, etc. In 2018, Caroline became the Senior Advisor to the Chief Administrative Officer, providing strategic counsel on corporate initiatives and managing numerous special projects. She gained the reputation as a respected and effective leader with a corporate vision and the ability to advance projects and initiatives. Caroline moved on to become the Executive Director of People, Communications and Information Technology, building strong foundational services to support the future needs of the organization.

In the newly created position of DCAO, Corporate Services, Caroline is providing leadership to various business units including Human Resources and Corporate Communications, Information Technology, Legal, Finance and Corporate and Customer Services, ensuring that they provide high quality customer service to internal stakeholders and the residents of HRM. Caroline volunteers on Dal’s Insight Circle of Dal Alumni providing feedback on a wide range of topics to support and guide initiatives at the University. Over the years she’s also volunteered with ISANS as a mentor and coach assisting new immigrants to find employment. She recently moved closer to downtown Halifax and enjoys walking to work - rain or shine. She also enjoys travelling with her husband and two children (her dogs keep her busy as well!).

**Q:** Can you tell us a bit about yourself and about your studies at Dalhousie?

**A:** I am from Halifax, or at least I’ve lived in Halifax for a long, long time. My family are Newfoundlanders but have been in Halifax for a while. And I actually started at King’s College in the Foundation Year Program (FYP). I was thinking about studying journalism. My sister had just gone into journalism. But one of the things the FYP does for a lot of people is it instills a real love of history. And so, if you were interested in history before, and then you go through the FYP, it is very hard to pull yourself out of it! So, that’s how I ended up deciding to major in History and move to Dalhousie. I tell my kids all the time – you have to pick a degree where every day you think “this is fantastic.” Maybe not during exams or paper writing, but overall, you should feel excited and happy to go to classes and learn. That’s how it was for me. I was completely fascinated in all my classes. They changed my perspective on the world.

**Q:** When you were at Dalhousie, what was your area of research?

**A:** I had absolutely thought that I was going to focus on Russian history. I took a number of Russian history courses. But in the end, I ended up focusing on German and British history. But it was hard for me to choose! There were so many wonderful professors - I would like to have gone through and taken every History course available. Every time you went into a new course it was just like, “oh my god, this is so interesting!”

**Q:** What did you do after you graduated?

**A:** I had a really great time in my degree, and when I graduated from my undergraduate degree, I wanted to pursue a Master’s in History but ultimately decided to take a few years to work and never went back.
I took some PT education courses and eventually got hired by Eaton’s – that shows how old I am! I got hired into an Eaton’s management role and that led me into a lot of training courses and taught people how to have good customer service and all that stuff. Eventually, that sparked an interest in Human Resources, which was the real start of my career.

Q: What is your role with the city of Halifax?

A: When I first came to the city 17 years ago, I came here as a senior HR consultant. I worked in a lot of the different business units. It was a great start.

Today I am the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer. I’m responsible for the corporate services side of the house – finance, IT, HR, facilities, all support functions.

Q: Do you find that your studies have helped you throughout your career?

A: I think that the History degree taught me how to write at another level. That can be the basis for just about any career. I tell mentees that all the time – don’t let somebody tell you not to take an arts degree because you will come out of there able to express yourself verbally and with writing skills that others won’t have. You’ll rise to the top because of that.

That was a real boost in terms of my career. If you’re going into Human Resources as I did, you need to be able to communicate and write. I look at a History degree as a fantastic basis for any career.

When you get yourself through any degree, that increases your confidence. You believe that you can do things that you didn’t before.

Q: Reflecting on your time at Dalhousie, do you have any particularly fond memories that stand out?

A: I was very shy and a somewhat sheltered individual when I went to Dalhousie. You won’t stay that way there. There’s great camaraderie—certainly in the History department. There was a huge sense of belonging. It was a really great time in my life to have that feeling – a sense of belonging. You have strong friends and professors who cared. I hear all the time “oh Dalhousie is so big. Nobody cares about you there. You shouldn’t go there.” I never had that experience. I know in History it didn’t feel that way at all. It was a caring and positive environment.

Q: For future graduates of the History program, do you have any further words of advice?

A: You’ve got to believe that you have gained necessary and transferable skills. You don’t necessarily have to go into a career that is focused on history. It’s great if you can and want to – I often wish I had – but you don’t have to. You just have to believe that the skills you’ve gained are marketable.

I did several jobs before I got into my first real HR job, which was with Coca Cola. People find it interesting that I walked out of a History degree into a job with Coca Cola, but it is because I believed I could. I was confident I could do it. I spent many years there and had an exciting, fabulous career before I went with the city – which has also been exciting.

Q: If you were ever to come back to your history studies, what would you hope to research?

A: I’ve often thought about it! My own children are in university now – my youngest is in engineering and my oldest is just graduating from astrophysics. They ask me this question a lot. I definitely want to go back – there is just no time in my life!

I think I would still want to pursue World War Two German history. I think that there was a love for me in that and I see the world still promoting the kind of hatred and societal issues that I fear could lead us back there. I think it’s a really important area to study.

Taking a History degree at that young age really makes you appreciate the privilege you have. To live in a place like Halifax and to study freely -- I feel so lucky.
FACULTY AND POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS:
UPDATES AND INTRODUCTIONS

JACK CROWLEY, EMERITUS PROFESSOR

On 14 March 2020, when the Government of Canada directed that the COVID pandemic precluded all unnecessary foreign travel, Jack had just docked near Colombo after sailing along the south coast of Sri Lanka for a week, and having spent the previous month birdwatching and visiting archaeological sites around the island. He intended to go on to the Maldives for another week’s sailing and snorkeling, but instead he was back in Halifax within twenty-four hours. For the next twenty-four months he only left the province once, to visit a friend of Marian’s in Toronto, and to see the granddaughters at university - Hannah at Guelph and Amelia at Trinity, U of T. That confinement gave him a chance to write three articles: “Picturing Early Modern Domestic Energy Transitions: Fireplaces and Stoves as Icons of Comfort,” in Energy in the Early Modern Home: The Material Culture of Heating, Lighting, and Cooking (1500-1850), edited by Bruno Blondé, Wouter Ryckbosch, and Wout Saelens (London: Routledge, 2022), for a consortium based at the University of Antwerp; “Landscape is Imperial,” in Landscape Is...!: Essays on the Meanings of Landscape, edited by Gareth Doherty and Charles Waldheim (London and New York: Routledge, forthcoming), for the Harvard School of Landscape Architecture; and “How Averages Became Normal,” for the American Historical Review, his third with the AHR, which may be a record. All three papers had benefitted from advice at the Stokes Seminar.

J AMIE J ELINSKI

Jamie Jelinski is a Killam postdoctoral fellow in the History department. He is currently in the final stages of completing a book manuscript based on his doctoral research, which is tentatively titled Needle Work: A History of Commercial Tattooing in Canada and Beyond and under contract with McGill-Queen’s University Press. During late 2021, his contribution examining the circulation of preserved tattooed skin in Quebec was published in a Routledge volume entitled Museums and the Working Class and he just submitted an article for review that studies a sculpture program developed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the 1950s. Jelinski is also actively working on his second book manuscript, under contract with Wilfrid Laurier University Press, which investigates the use of access to information legislation as a methodology in visual culture studies. He recently gave an invited lecture at the Canadian Studies Centre at University of Naples “L’Orientale” and participated in the Maple Leaf and Eagle Conference in North American Studies at University of Helsinki. Additionally, he taught a third-year special topics course entitled History of Law and Justice: Crime and Visual Culture, which was cross-listed with the interdisciplinary Law, Justice, and Society Program. He will spend June in Europe conducting archival and museum research in Lyon and Antwerp and take part in a conference, “Le dessin sur la peau: tatouages et narrations graphiques”, in Paris. Jelinski was also awarded a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Art History at University of Toronto that will begin in early 2023.

KRISTA KESSELRING

This past year, Krista worked with two MA students who’ve now successfully defended their theses, Emily Fenton and Kristen Becker, and extends her congratulations to both. She was pleased that the return to in-person teaching in the Fall coincided with the first offering of a new course, ‘The Rule of Law? Topics in British Legal History’. She recognized some value in the Covid-induced switch to more online collaborations, though, which allowed her to give a talk to an audience at Henan University, do a radio interview in Spain, and participate in doctoral defenses at three British universities. The intermittent return to international travel allowed her to give one of the two keynote addresses at the November 2021 meeting of the North American Conference on British Studies, where she discussed her work on the history of homicide; she also participated in workshops on ‘historicizing consent’ and on the history of coverture at Harvard and at the University of Florida respectively. Two books that she mentioned in last year’s update have now appeared in print: Star Chamber Matters: An Early Modern Court and its Records, co-edited with Natalie...
DENIS KOSLOV
The highlight of this past academic year for Dr. Denis Kozlov was his sabbatical during the winter term of 2022. He used these months to catch up on archival research previously delayed by the pandemic. In particular, he explored the collections of several national and institutional archives in Italy and Austria, among them the Central State Archive in Rome and the Austrian State Archive in Vienna, as well as a few other Italian and Austrian repositories. He also conducted archival research in the United States. This work is part of his book-length project on Jewish migrations from the Soviet Union to the West during the 1970s and 1980s. The project is funded by a SSHRC Insight Grant. In the coming academic year, Denis looks forward to doing some writing based on the archival materials he found, as well as returning to the classroom and (last but not least) assuming the duties of the Department’s Undergraduate Coordinator.

KASSANDRA LUCIUK
Kassandra Luciuk is a historian of migration and ethnicity in Canada. She received her PhD in History from the University of Toronto in 2021 before joining Dalhousie as an assistant professor. Kassandra’s dissertation, which was supported by SSHRC, focuses on the Ukrainian Canadian community in the postwar, Cold War period. Specifically, it details the process by which anti-communism became the de facto political outlook of the community and, in turn, entrenched itself into mainstream political consciousness. Kassandra’s dissertation was awarded the 2022 Eugene A. Forsey Prize by the Canadian Committee on Labour History and the Canadian Historical Association. She is currently focusing on turning the dissertation into a monograph.

In addition to her dissertation related interests, Kassandra actively researches and publishes on the history of the Canadian Left, ethnic radicalism, political policing, and internment. This includes her 2019 article in *Labour/Le Travail*, “‘More Dangerous Than Many a Pamphlet or Propaganda Book’: The Ukrainian Canadian Left, Theatre, and Propaganda in the 1920s,” which was awarded the Jean-Marie Fecteau Prize by the Canadian Historical Association. In 2020, Kassandra published a graphic history, *Enemy Alien: A True Story of Life Behind Barbed Wire*, which relied on the previously undiscovered archives of a Ukrainian internee held in Kapuskasing from 1914-1917. *Enemy Alien* was shortlisted for the 2022 KOBZAR Award. She is currently co-editing a book on the World War One internment camps in Kapuskasing and Fort Henry (under contract with Athabasca University Press) as well as finishing up two articles: one on the uses of political violence in postwar Canada and another on an alleged communist saboteur working in Canada’s wartime bureaucracy.

In 2021-2022, her first year at Dalhousie, Kassandra taught ‘Many Canadas: Canada, 1930 to the present’; ‘Law and Justice in Canadian Society, to 1890’; ‘Criminal Law, Crime and Punishment in Canadian Society, 1890 to the present’; and ‘The Right and the Left in Twentieth Century Canadian Political Culture’. In 2022-2023, she looks forward to taking on the department’s new offering, HIST 2700: Introduction to Historical Methods.

In July, WILL LANGFORD joined the Department of History as a limited-term assistant professor. In fact, he rejoined the department! He held a postdoctoral fellowship at Dal between 2017 and 2019. A historian specializing...
in twentieth-century Canada, Will is interested in political activism, social movements, environmental change, and transnational connections.


At the moment, Will’s research focuses on the history of right-wing political movements in late twentieth-century Canada. The project will consider conservative activism, in all its diverse expressions. So far, Will has written about the early history of neoliberalism in Canada. In fall 2021, as part of the department’s Stokes Seminar, he delivered a paper to the department about the history of Canadians who supported apartheid in South Africa. That essay should be published in the not-too-distant future.

Teaching was Will’s main focus during the past year. He is cross-appointed to the College of Sustainability, where he teaches big, interdisciplinary lecture courses that introduce the concept of sustainability to first-year students. But Will also teaches history! The three new courses offered this year were seminars in Public History and Environmental History, plus a lecture course – stretching from the 15th century to the present – on the history of Acadians, French Canadians, and Québécois.

Will has also been serving as a member of the Canadian Historical Association’s Taskforce on the Future of the History PhD in Canada. The taskforce is examining the current state of PhD programs in Canada, especially since graduates are now more likely than ever to find jobs outside of academia than as university professors. PhD students, recent graduates, and graduate program coordinators have all been consulted. The taskforce is aiming to report on the current situation regarding curriculum, funding, professional development, and employment and to make some recommendations about best practices going forward.

**COLIN MITCHELL**

2021-22 continued to present challenges in the developing physical and virtual worlds where we teach and research. On the former, Colin Mitchell launched a new class - HIST 3508: History of Perso-Islamic Culture in South Asia, 1000-1800 - to reflect new and exciting trends in South Asian historiography. He also introduced a new feature to his 3rd-year classes - “Geo-Sessions” - whereby the class use advanced whiteboard technology to work as a group to collectively identify, chart and map cities, regions, natural features in the Middle East and South Asia. The class enjoyed the interactive nature of these sessions, plus they felt more confident in their sense of geographical awareness. On the research front, Colin has two articles set for publication in 2022: “Exploring Patronage, Genre and Scholar-Bureaucracy: The Trans-Imperial Career of Khwandamir (d. 1534)”, *Entangled Religions: Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of Religious Contact and Transfer* and “The Early Safavids, 1450-1510: Embodiment and Disembodiment”, for a special festschrift issue dedicated to his doctoral supervisor Dr. Maria Subtelny in *Iran Namag*, guest edited by Mahdi Tourage.

**STEPHAN PIGEON**

Dr. Stephan Pigeon is a historian of modern Britain whose research is at the intersection of historiography and literary studies. He’s come to Dalhousie University to take up a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellowship. Stephan received his PhD in History from McGill University in 2021. During his doctoral studies, he completed research fellowships from the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals, the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing, the Willison Foundation Charitable Trust, and Canada Science and Technology Museum.

Stephan’s research project at Dalhousie, “How News Transformed Empire: C. F. Moberly Bell and Britain’s Global Journalism, 1865-1911,” examines the development of Britain’s political economy of news at the turn of the 20th century and investigates the relationship between the British empire and journalism as produced through foreign correspondence during those crucial decades. It is a global history that explores the social, economic, and political forces behind the development of journalism work across the British imperium.

Additionally, Stephan is revising his doctoral thesis into a book about the labour, law, and practice of circulating journalism in the 19th century British newspaper and periodical press. Through that research, he reveals how sub-editors played a critical role in the development of Britain’s public sphere and market for popular print by making texts from across the nation and world intelligible and accessible to transnational readerships.

Stephan has published about the practice of rewriting and reprinting transatlantic didactic fiction in the *Journal of Victorian Culture* and about the suppression of transnational news distribution in the revolutionary Irish newspaper press in *Publishing History*. He also has a forthcoming chapter about trade customs in 19th century periodical publishing which will appear this summer in *Work and the Nineteenth-Century Press: Living Work for Living People*. Stephan’s public-facing research reports are published with *Victorian Review*, *Ingenium Channel*, and *Journal of Victorian Culture Online*. 
ALANA TOULIN

Alana Toulin studies the history of restaurants in Chicago during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and teaches courses in modern U.S. history at Dal as a visiting assistant professor. She received her Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 2020. Her dissertation, titled "Open Tables: Restaurants and Reform in Progressive Chicago" considers restaurants as contentious spaces where larger debates about business organization, labor relations, physical and moral health, and the role of state oversight were negotiated between the end of the Civil War and the ratification of the 18th Amendment. The History Department at Northwestern University nominated "Open Tables" for the 2021 Allan Nevins Prize for the best-written dissertation on U.S. history.

She is in the process of turning her dissertation into a book, and recently submitted a book proposal to the University of Chicago Press, which has expressed strong interest in "Open Tables" as part of its Historical Studies of Urban America series. She is also working on a journal article about the 1914 waitresses' strike in Chicago that explores the clash between hundreds of striking female restaurant workers and restaurant owners and managers over the women's use of public space as they picketed on the sidewalk outside a prominent downtown restaurant. Toulin presented a draft of this article at a Stokes Seminar in January 2021.

Her work on the early history of the modern American restaurant industry stems from a long-standing interest in the intersections between business, cultural, and policy history. In 2019, she published an article in the Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era that considers how American food manufacturers used advertising and outreach to sway public opinion in the immediate years after the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act amidst the absence of a clearly defined apparatus for enforcement. This article won the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era's Best Article Prize for 2020.

Broadly speaking, Toulin considers herself a cultural historian of American capitalism, and the courses she teaches reflect this. For example, her course on the history of wealth and power (HIST 3292) explores the development and impact of American business from the colonial period to the present. As well, she has taught a class on food and U.S. history at both Dalhousie and Northwestern that uses food to trace a larger narrative about the growth of industrial capitalism. Readings and discussions examine the development of a broadly “American” food culture by looking at topics like enslaved labour, industrial food processing, factory farming, nutritional science and reform movements, and the political economy and ecology of global commodity chains. She has also taught fourth-year seminars on the history of American consumer culture and on organized crime in the United States.

Before becoming an academic historian, Toulin had a career as a journalist and writer/editor in the public and private sectors. From 2006 to 2010, she worked as a reporter for the Ottawa Citizen and the Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal, and her writing has appeared in a variety of these papers' sister publications, including the National Post, the Vancouver Sun, the Montreal Gazette, and the Calgary Herald.

AARON WRIGHT

After three years teaching in the Department of History on a limited-term contract, Aaron Wright is very happy to be continuing on a stable basis. He has always had a foot in both History and the Faculty of Computer Science, where he teaches writing-intensive courses on the history of computing. His new position adds a new community; Aaron has also been appointed in History of Science and Technology, next door at the University of King's College. In addition to the writing-intensive classes, Aaron will be teaching courses on how science has been used to challenge colonialism and how technology interacts with history across North America. He is always happy to chat with students, so please stop by his office in McCain or drop him an email.
New Course for 2022/23

HIST 2920: Environmental History: People and Their Environments

HIST 2920

Environmental History

- Historicize people and their environments
- Think about nature and society over time
- Learn about key themes and approaches
- Lecture course format
- Counts as an ESS elective

Winter 2023 | MWF 9:35-10:25
Will Langford | w.langford@dal.ca
Dept. of History, Dalhousie University

Do glaciers listen? Are tomatoes natural? Do pigs have historical agency?
No, these aren’t rhetorical questions, even if they might initially seem so. They are questions that environmental historians have creatively explored, often with surprising results. Students will consider them – and more – in a new course taught by Will Langford.

Environmental history considers the reciprocal relationships between people and their environments over time. It is a broad and often interdisciplinary field yet rooted in an acknowledgement of the interdependence of nature and society. Examining past human experiences with the environment is as pressing a priority as ever, given how climate change shapes our present social, environmental, and political circumstances and stands to remake them further well into the future.

HIST 2920 Environmental History: People and their Environments will be offered for the first time in Winter 2023.

The course counts as a History credit as well as an elective in the Environment, Society, and Sustainability (ESS) program.

The course will survey global environmental history, exploring key themes and analyzing important transformations that shaped – and sometimes continue to shape – modern societies. The itinerary stretches from the Agricultural Revolution and the Little Age through to late capitalism and climate change. Core topics include transitions in energy, settlement, agriculture, technology, disease, empire, social and political relations, and environmental understanding. Along the way, the course will address processes and examples drawn from local contexts around the world. And it will encourage students to think about the varied ways that ideas, technologies, cultural understandings, social relations, economic strategies, and political projects are as much a part of environmental history as nature.
STOKES SEMINARS

2021/2022

September 24
DR. DENIS KOZLOV (Dalhousie University) - "Village Prose, the Thaw, and Soviet Peasantry: A Reading Audience That Was Not There?"

October 1
DR. JACK CROWLEY (Dalhousie University) – "New Facts: Calculating Averages in Early Modern Europe and Britain."

October 8

October 15
DR. BARTON SCOTT (University of Toronto) - "Codifying Blasphemy: ‘Religious Feelings’ between Colony and Metropole."

October 22
CHRIS BALDWIN (University of Toronto) – “The Basest of All Modern Warfare”: Privateering and Enslavement in the Caribbean, 1739–1763."

October 29
DR. KRISTA KESSELRING (Dalhousie University) - "Queen Elizabeth’s Swedish Gossips: Female Friends and Family in Early Modern England."

November 5
DR. COLIN OSMOND (Mount Saint Vincent University) - "Reflections on the Utility of ‘Settler Colonialism’ as a Theoretical Lens in Canadian History."

November 19
DR. JAMIE J ELINSKI (Dalhousie University) - "Who and Where was ‘Sailor Joe’?: Tattooing, Popular Entertainment, and Investigation by the FBI and RCMP, 1899-1965."

November 26

December 3
Trends in History Session with DRS. WILL LANGFORD and AARON WRIGHT (Dalhousie University) - "Water Power: A discussion of Britteny Luby’s Dammed: The Politics of Loss and Survival in Anishinaabe Territory."

January 21
DR. JUSTIN ROBERTS (Dalhousie University) – "'Corruption of the Air:' Disease and Climate Change in the Rise of English Caribbean Slavery."

January 28

February 11
HEYWOT TADESSE (Dalhousie University) - "Feast or Famine? Or Feast or Work?: The Significance of Labour Conditions to the Height Development of Enslaved Children in the Antebellum US South."

February 18
SIMON FISHER (University of Wisconsin-Madison) - “Sketching a History of the Trans 'New Negro.'”

March 11
DR. HANNAH WOOD (University of Toronto) - “Finite Economies and Alms Competition: Bequests to the Friars and the Poor in the Court of Hustings Probate Records, c.1260–1430.”
JOHN EDGAR FLINT
Professor Flint was a long-time member of the department and a renowned historian of colonial Africa. With Peter Burroughs, he founded the Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History. He wrote several books, including a biography of Cecil Rhodes, and edited *The Cambridge History of Africa*, vol. 5, from c. 1790-c.1870. He established a leading graduate program in African history in the late 1960s and supervised dozens of graduate students, including numerous historians of Africa now teaching around the world. His prodigious contributions as a graduate supervisor are commemorated by the Flint Prize we give for the best paper by a grad student at our annual conference and were manifest in a collection of essays published by some of his former students upon his retirement, *Agency and Action in Colonial Africa: Essays for John E. Flint*, ed. Chris Youé and Tim Stapleton (2001). Professor Flint died on 29 August 2021. The obituary prepared by his family is available online.

LUCK ROBERTSON MACLEAN
Guy Robertson MacLean, from Sydney, Nova Scotia, was a graduate of Dalhousie, with both a BA and MA in History, and returned after studies at Oxford and Duke. After teaching full-time in the Department for nearly a decade and publishing books on Anglo-French military history and the Imperial Federation movement in Canada, he moved into a long career in University leadership. Amongst other positions at Dalhousie, he served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Vice-President (Academic and Research). He was later president of Mount Allison University from 1980-1986. Professor MacLean died on 29 October 2021. The obituary prepared by his family is available online.
Like many, I watched in dismay last autumn as legislators in Texas banned hundreds of books from schools throughout the state. A queer character in a novel, a discussion of racial discrimination, or any depiction of gender outside of traditional norms was enough to get blacklisted, depriving students of varied, enlightening perspectives. I saw notable titles get the axe, including several personal favourites, though never for a second did I think my own books would merit enough attention to be on such a list.

I was incorrect. My 2014 book Wonder Woman Unbound: The Curious History of the World’s Most Famous Heroine was based on my Master’s thesis, written several years before when I was a student in Dalhousie’s History department. It explores how a matriarchal worldview and rampant bondage imagery intertwined to create a fascinatingly complex character. Key topics throughout include the history of feminism, the comics’ queer subtext, and defying traditional gender roles, all of which was enough for it to land on a proposed list of books to be banned.

And I had no idea. Online, fans rallied around famous titles and authors, rightly decrying this censorship, and all the while I was unknowingly on the same list. The book came out eight years ago, so I haven’t kept track of it for some time. It was also published by a small press, which lacks the resources to monitor books this old. I only found out about it months later, when to my shock I stumbled across a mention of my book in an article about the situation in Texas.

It was old news at this point, hardly worth mentioning to rally readers. Not that it would have done much anyway. I write niche history books. I’m not Angie Thomas, Margaret Atwood, or one of the other big names who feature prominently in news coverage of the Texas book bans. My books do well enough that publishers keep letting me write more, but they’re hardly bestsellers. Any rallying to my cause would be minimal.

Such is the insidious nature of book bans. For every prominent title that sees a sales spike in the wake of being banned, there are dozens of smaller books that are forgotten. No one talks them up, no one ships them in bulk to sympathetic libraries. They get taken off the shelves and are never heard from again, their stories, their histories, their unique perspectives lost to young readers. The sad fact is, banning a book works well most of the time. While a few become infamous and live on, most do not.

The only response, I suppose, is to write more books that continue to challenge the status quo, flooding them with so much material that they can’t ban it all. My newest book, Not All Supermen: Sexism, Toxic Masculinity, and the Complex History of Superheroes, is coming out this summer, and aims to do just that. I hope some teens in Texas find it and enjoy it.
OTHER RECENT BOOKS BY ALUMNI


HISTORIANS IN THE NEWS

AFUA COOPER

Macleans magazine named Professor AFUA COOPER to its ‘Power List’ of ‘50 Canadians who are ‘forging paths, leading the debate and shaping how we think and live.’ Read the story here.

IF YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE, PLEASE DO PASS WORD ALONG!
FAREWELL, TINA!!!

TINA’S RETIREMENT

THIS YEAR WE WERE SORRY TO wish a bittersweet farewell to our long-serving and all-knowing office administrator, Tina Jones. Tina worked in History since 1989 after an earlier stint in English. She shepherded generations of students and faculty through their time here with a compassionate, unflappable demeanor and deep dedication. And it’s not just faculty and students in History who recognized her stellar contributions: In 2015, Tina won the University’s Rosemary Gill Award for exceptional service to students. Just last year she won the FASS Award for Excellence in Service, in part for her ‘contributions to creating a welcoming and supportive campus environment’ – and in part for her mind-boggling efficiency. While we already miss her enormously, we wish her all the very best in her eminently well-deserved retirement and extend to her, yet again but never enough, our many thanks.

Students, staff and faculty, past and present, gathered for a small, distanced outdoor farewell for Tina at her retirement in October.
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