

History

The mission of the History faculty is to promote advanced research and undergraduate teaching in a broad range of fields, including American, ancient, East and South Asian, European, Latin American, Middle Eastern, and Russian history. The faculty includes joint appointments in Urban Studies and in Science, Technology, and Society, and it participates in the joint doctoral program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS).

Arthur J. Conner professor of history Harriet Ritvo published “Onward Then, Ye Penguins” in *Environmental History*. Professor Anne McCants published “Goods at Pawn: The Overlapping Worlds of Material Possessions and Family Finance in Early Modern Amsterdam” in *Social Science History*, “Inequality Among the Poor of Eighteenth Century Amsterdam” in *Explorations in Economic History*, and “After-Death Inventories as a Source for the Study of Material Culture, Economic Well-Being, and Household Formation Among the Poor of 18th century Amsterdam” in *Historical Methods*. Professor Elizabeth Wood published “The Woman Question: Contradictions and Ambivalence” in *Companion to Russian History* (Abbott Gleason, ed.).

Assistant professor David Ciarlo submitted for review “Retail, Race, and Representation: The Visual Politics of a Colonialist Chain Store at the Brink of Modernity, 1896–1914.” Associate professor Jeffrey Ravel published “The Coachman’s Bare Rump: An Eighteenth-Century French Cover-up” in *Eighteenth-Century Studies*. Lister Brothers career development associate professor Christopher Capozzola published “Thomas Dixon’s War Prayers” in *Mark Twain Studies* and “From Harlem to the Rhine: New Perspectives on African-American Military Service in World War I” in *New York History*.

T.T. and Wei Fong Chao professor of Asian civilizations Peter C. Perdue spoke on “Border Wars, Border Jaws: The Frontier in Asian History” and “Eurasian Borderlands in Theory and Reality: People, Borders, and States” at the University of Illinois and at Yale University (History Department). Professor Ritvo spoke on “Humanities and Animalities” at the Humanities Institute, Buffalo, NY, and “Counting Sheep in the English Lake District: Rare Breeds, Local Knowledge, and Environmental History” at Yale and Harvard University. Assistant professor Haimanti Roy presented papers on “Becoming Minorities in Post-Partition Bengal, 1947–1965” at the South Asia Conference (Madison, WI) and “Citizens without a Nation: Minorities in Post-Partition Bengal” at the Association for Asian Studies conference (Boston).

Professor Ciarlo presented a paper on “Picturing Genocide in German Consumer Culture, 1904–1910” at the War and Memory Conference, University of Sheffield (United Kingdom). Professor Ravel spoke on “The Would-Be Commoner: Comic Certainty and Judicial Doubt in France ca. 1700” at Indiana University. Professor Capozzola spoke on “Conscientious Objectors and the Meanings of Citizenship in the United States, 1917–1918” at the Elizabeth Battelle Clark Legal History Colloquium, Boston University School of Law, and “Mary and Charlie Save (for) America: Political Obligation in Liberty Loan Films, 1917–1918” at the Charles Warren Center, Harvard University.

Ford International professor of history John Dower was awarded the James R. Killian Faculty Achievement Award. William R. Kenan Jr. professor of history Pauline Maier was awarded a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Class of 1947 career development associate professor Meg Jacobs was awarded the James A. and Ruth Levitan Prize for her project “Panic at the Pump: How Conservatives Used the Energy Crisis to Undermine Faith in Washington,” and her book *Pocketbook Politics* won the New England Historical Association book award. Professor Perdue was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Professor Roy received the Ohio Academy of History Dissertation Award for “Citizenship and National Identity in Post-Partition Bengal, 1947–65.”

Professor Ritvo was elected as the new vice president and president elect of the American Society for Environmental History. Professor McCants received the Arthur C. Smith Award for meaningful contributions and devotion to undergraduate student life and learning at MIT. Professor Capozzola was awarded the Haynes Research Grant by the Historical Society of Southern California for his project “Marriage, Migration, and Citizenship in Filipino Los Angeles.” Assistant professor William Broadhead received the Jephtha H. and Emily V. Wade Award for his project “Judging Caesar: Ancient and Modern Interpretations of Julius and Augustus Caesar.”

Professors Ritvo, Perdue, McCants, Jacobs, and Capozzola participated in HASTS by teaching graduate seminars and reading courses, setting general examinations, and supervising dissertations. Professors Dower, Ritvo, Perdue, and McCants advised Harvard graduate students.

History enrollments totaled 265 in the fall term and 378 in the spring. Two history majors graduated in June 2007. Katonio A. Butler’s senior project, supervised by Professor Jacobs, was titled “The Lost Revolution: Capitalism, Democracy, and Black Citizenship in Early Twentieth-Century America’s Biggest Race Conflicts,” and Christine A. McEvelly’s senior project, supervised by Professor McCants, was titled “Catechisms and Cataclysms: Communication in the Reformation.”

Three undergraduates submitted winning essays in the annual Bruce Mazlish History Prize competition: Tongyan Lin, “Revolutionary Fashion: Women’s Lingerie of the 1910s and 1920s”; Eric Conner, “Letter Concerning the State of the Roman Catholic Church—1600”; and Katherine Romer, “Reclaiming Paradise: A Comparative Analysis of *Chronicles of the Years of Ember* and *Fantasia: An Algerian Cavalcade*.” Professor Maier served as chair of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences dean search committee and served on the Committee on the Undergraduate Program. Professor Ciarlo served on the Campus Committee on Race Relations.

Professors McCants and Wood supervised Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program projects. Professors Wood and Jacobs served on the Gender Equity Committee. Professors Ravel and Roy served as chairs of the Bruce Mazlish History Prize committee. Professor Broadhead and lecturer Steven Ostrow ran an Independent Activities Period (IAP) travel program, IAP in Ancient Italy. Professor McCants served as president of

MIT's Phi Beta Kappa chapter and chaired the Committee on Student Life. Professor Wood served as chair of the Program in Women's Studies in the fall. Professor Capozzola ran the freshman preorientation program, Discover History in Boston.

The Sahin Lecture Series for 2006–2007 included the following presentations: Craig Wilder on "THE HIGH: The Tragic Fall of New York City's Model Public School"; Stephanie Smallwood on "Bleeding Boundaries of the Middle Passage: Explorations in the Social History of the Atlantic Slave Trade"; Eric Avila on "The Folklore of the Freeway: Highway Construction and the Making of Race in the Modernist City"; and Tiya Miles on "Bodies of Evidence: Reconstructing Women's History in the 19th Century Cherokee South." Professor and associate provost Philip Khoury directed the Bustani Middle East Seminar. Professor Ritvo was coorganizer of the Seminar on Environmental and Agricultural History. Professor Jacobs organized two seminar presentations— "Rethinking Revolution" by Steven Pincus and "Reconstruction: A Second American Revolution" by Eric Rauchway—as part of the development of the new 21H.001 subject "How to Stage a Revolution."

Anne McCants

Section Head

Professor of History

MacVicar Faculty Fellow

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