

History Section

The [History Section](#) includes joint appointments with the Department of Urban Studies and Planning and the Program in Science, Technology, and Society. History faculty support a number of MIT programs, including Women's and Gender Studies, American Studies, African and African Diaspora Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Religious Studies, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Ancient and Medieval Studies, and the graduate program in History, Anthropology, and Science Technology, and Society (HASTS). Two of our faculty have taken leadership roles and joint appointments in Foreign Language and Literatures (FL&L), and several historians offer undergraduate- and graduate-level instruction in other sections of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS); the Sloan School of Management; and the School of Architecture and Planning.

Over the past year, MIT historians published numerous journal essays, editorials, and reviews as well as three new books: Emma Teng's highly praised *Eurasian: Mixed Identities in the United States, China, and Hong Kong, 1842–1943* (University of California Press); Robert Fogelson's *The Great Rent Wars: New York, 1917–1929* (Yale University Press); and Craig Steven Wilder's *Ebony and Ivey: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities* (Bloomsbury). The American Historical Association presented professor John Dower of MIT with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Two searches were conducted, one for a post-1945 US history position and one for a Latin American history position. These positions will replace those formerly occupied by Meg Jacobs and the late Pauline Maier. History introduced nine new courses this year and anticipates broadening its course offerings with the addition of a Latin Americanist. Professor Anne McCants taught "Old Food: Ancient and Medieval Cooking" and "The Distaff Arts: Pre-Industrial Spinning Techniques" during the Independent Activities Period (IAP). Christopher Leighton offered an IAP lecture on the documentary film *Chinese Democracy by and for Third Graders*. Professors William Broadhead, Steve Ostrow, and Eric Goldberg accompanied 15 History IAP students on a trip to Italy. They also began planning an IAP trip to Greece for 2015. Professors Christopher Capozzola and Malick Ghachem organized a committee to plan a legal studies concentration in SHASS.

Faculty Activities

Sana Aiyar completed her first year as assistant professor of history. She introduced three new courses to the History curriculum: 21H.571 The Making of Modern South Asia; 21H.357 South Asians in the British Empire: Trade, Labor, Politics; and 21H.358 Colonialism in South Asian and African History. Professor Aiyar is completing work on her book *Out of India: Politics of Race and Nation amongst Kenya's South Asian Diaspora* (Harvard University Press). She has also submitted an article, "Race, Religion, and Rights: Politics across the Indian Ocean," for a collection on Islam along the Indian Ocean rim. This year she presented papers at the annual meetings of the Asian Studies Association and the African Studies Association and at Boston College, Indiana University, Delhi University, the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in New Delhi, and the Global Borders Research Conference in Paris.

William Broadhead, associate professor of history and a MacVicar Faculty Fellow, has made significant contributions to MIT over his career and especially over the past year. He chaired the Faculty Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement, served as a first-year student advisor, and was a speaker during Campus Preview Weekend and at the SHASS professional development workshop. As noted above, he took 15 students on the History IAP trip to Italy with Eric Goldberg and Steve Ostrow. He introduced two new courses this year: 21H.237 *The City of Athens in the Age of Pericles* and 21H.239 *The City of Rome in the Age of the Caesars*. Professor Broadhead presented conference and seminar papers at the Sapienza University of Rome and for a presidential panel held during the annual meeting of the American Historical Association. He is completing work on his book *Hegemony and Mobility in Roman Italy, 4th–1st centuries BC*.

Christopher Capozzola, associate professor of history, was awarded the Cold War Essay Prize from the Virginia Military Institute's John Adams Center for Military History. Professor Capozzola published "The United States Empire, 1914–1924" in the edited collection *The First World War* (Oxford University Press). He has three forthcoming essays: "The Secret Soldiers' Union: Labor and Soldiers in the Philippine Scout Mutiny of 1924" in *Working the Empire* (New York University Press); "Legacies for Citizenship: Pinpointing Americans during and after World War I" in *Diplomatic History*; and an introduction to *What's New about the 'New' Immigration to the U.S.? Traditions and Transformations since 1965* (Palgrave Macmillan). He is currently completing work on a new book, *Brothers of the Pacific: Soldiers, Citizens, and the Philippines in America's Pacific Century*. He presented papers and lectures at the National Arts Club in New York, the conference of the American Society for Legal History, the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, the University of Hawai'i's Program in Southeast Asian Studies, Williams College's commemoration of the Great War, and the Borders Research Initiative in Paris. He is also the senior historian and co-curator of "The Volunteers: Americans Join World War I, 1914–1918," an exhibition at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Assistant professor Lerna Ekmekçioğlu holds the McMillan-Stewart career development chair in women in the Middle East and North Africa. Professor Ekmekçioğlu is finishing revisions to her book manuscript *Surviving the New Turkey: Armenians in Post-Ottoman Istanbul*. This year she gave talks at the annual conference of the American Historical Association, at Orient-Institut Istanbul in Turkey, and at the Council for European Studies conference in Amsterdam. Professor Ekmekçioğlu served as the coordinator for History's IAP courses and events and was a member of the admissions committee for the HASTS graduate program.

Malick W. Ghachem, associate professor without tenure, added a module on the Haitian Revolution to 21H.001 *How to Stage a Revolution* (which he taught in the fall with professors Jeffrey Ravel and Craig Steven Wilder) and created two new courses: 21H.181J *Libertarianism in History* and 21H.382 *Finance and Fraud in the Revolutionary Atlantic*. He chaired a panel on fraud in 18th-century France at the annual convention of the American Society for Legal History, presented a paper on the internationalization of the Haitian Declaration of Independence at the Center for Jefferson Studies, and delivered a paper on the place of Haiti in the narrative of the Atlantic Revolutions for the

University of Pennsylvania Legal History Workshop and the Montreal French Atlantic History Seminar. Professor Ghachem published “Religious Liberty and the Financial War on Terror” in the *First Amendment Law Review* (fall 2013) and an introduction to the Symposium on Religion and the State in France/Europe and the United States in the *Maine Law Review* (spring 2013).

Eric Goldberg, associate professor of history, is serving on the steering committee of the New England Medieval Association. He is a founder of the New England Frankish and Anglo-Saxon Seminar. Professor Goldberg published “Louis the Pious and the Hunt” in *Speculum* (2013) and “‘The Hunt Belongs to Man’: Some Neglected Treatises Related to Hunting and Falconry from the Court of Louis the German” in the edited collection *Discovery and Distinction in the Early Middle Ages* (Medieval Institute Publications). During the winter term, he presented a paper on hunting misadventures and disasters in Vienna. Professor Goldberg’s current book, *Hunting and the Birth of Europe, A.D. 100–1000*, is nearing completion.

Christopher Leighton, assistant professor of history and the Class of 1948 career development chair, won the Levitan Award for Teaching this year. Professor Leighton was on leave during the fall term. He submitted a new article, “Truth from Fictions,” to the journal *China Quarterly* and has a chapter, “Venture Communists: Gu Zhun in Shanghai,” forthcoming with Cornell University Press. He presented papers at the Northeast Association of Asian Studies conference and the Harvard Business, Government, and International Economy conference. In addition, he served on a History undergraduate essay prize committee and the MISTI (MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives) Global Seed Fund evaluation committee.

Professor of history Anne McCants continues her tenure as the editor of *Social Science History*, is entering her third year as the director of the Concourse Program at MIT, and served as the program chair for the American Historical Association’s 2014 meeting. She led a roundtable discussion on “Why the West Rules—For Now” during the Social Science History Association meeting in Chicago and presented papers at the Brown University Seminar in Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, the third Foz Tua International Conference in Portugal, and the Warwick University Global Centuries Project conference in Venice. She published “Nature and Power: A Global History of the Environment” in *Social Science History* (2013). She also contributed two chapters to compilations: “Becoming Consumers: Asiatic Goods in Migrant and Native-born Middling Households in 18th Century Amsterdam” in *Goods from the East: Trading Eurasia 1600–1830* (Palgrave), and “Porcelain for the Poor: The Material Culture of Tea and Coffee Consumption in Eighteenth Century Amsterdam” in *Early Modern Things: Objects and their Histories, 1500–1800* (Routledge).

Hiromu Nagahara, assistant professor of history, was awarded the Cecil and Ida B. Green career development chair this year. He was on leave during the fall term. Professor Nagahara co-taught a world history collaboration, “The World since 1400,” during a residency at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), where he also presented on “Globalization’s Dissonance: The Beginnings of the Music Industry in Japan and the 20th Century World.” This spring he cotaught 21H.009 The

World: 1400 to Present, a new course at MIT. He was invited to speak on “Music in Japan: A Prehistory” at the Berkeley College of Music’s Stan Getz Library. He gave a lecture on “The Soundscape of Total War: Popular Music in Wartime Japan” at the Japan Forum, held at Harvard University’s Reischauer Institute.

Professor of history Jeffrey Ravel continued to offer invaluable service to the unit, the school, and the Institute. This year he organized the section’s workshop in world history, chaired a departmental promotion committee, served on FL&L promotion and search committees, sat on the HASTS admissions committee, and co-organized the History and Literature freshman pre-orientation program (FPOP). He was a member of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program and the SHASS Education Advisory Committee. Professor Ravel was in residence at the Singapore University of Technology and Design in the fall, where he presented “Digitizing the Past: The Comédie-Française Registers Project at MIT” and co-taught the world history course. He published “Trois images de l’expulsion des comédiens italiens en 1697” in *Littératures classiques* (2013). In addition, he continued the development of online publications for the Comédie-Française Registers Project. Professor Ravel received grants from the Florence Gould Foundation and the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation to support Comédie-Française and a grant from the Andrew A. Mellon Foundation to support a project on teaching world architectural history.

Harriet Ritvo, Arthur J. Conner professor of history, published three essays this academic year: “Calling the Wild: Selection, Domestication, and Species” in *After Darwin: Animals, Emotions, and the Mind* (Rodopi); “Reaching and Grasping: Some Reflections on Joachim Radkau’s *Nature and Power*” in *Social Science History* (2013); and “Edging into the Wild” in John Beardsley’s *Designing Wildlife Habitats* (Harvard University Press). This academic year, she presented work at St. Antony’s College in Oxford, the Rachel Carson Center in Munich, Queens University in Belfast, Sewanee University, and Harvard. She chaired a panel on coping with wild predators at the American Society for Environmental History conference in Toronto and a panel on the circulation of environmental knowledge at the European Society for Environmental History meeting in Munich. Professor Ritvo reviews applications for the American Council of Learned Societies, the Wellcome Trust (United Kingdom), the National Humanities Center, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. This year, she acted as an external evaluator for tenure and promotion reviews at four peer institutions, and she is a doctoral advisor to a dozen graduate students at MIT, Harvard, Sydney, and Oslo. This fall, she will be a resident fellow at the Rachel Carson Center in Munich.

Emma J. Teng, associate professor of history and of foreign languages and literatures and head of the Program in Women’s and Gender Studies, has been promoted to full professor. She published a new book that has already received wide acclaim: *Eurasian: Mixed Identities in the United States, China, and Hong Kong, 1842–1943*. Professor Teng was a 2013 MacVicar Faculty Fellow, she received a summer grant for the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, and she was named to the Ten Outstanding Faculty list by Kappa Alpha Theta. Professor Teng delivered the keynote address for the New England Association for Asian Studies. She was also invited to present at the meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, the Yale History and Literature of Modern China Seminar, and the 2013 Institute Diversity Summit at MIT. Professor Teng is currently researching the history of students from China at MIT.

Craig Steven Wilder, professor of history and head of the History Section, published *Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities*. The book has been covered in the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, on NPR and MSNBC, and by other national news outlets. He delivered lectures at Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Virginia, the College of William and Mary, Marquette University, St. Louis University, the University of Mississippi, Columbia, Brown, Fordham, and several other institutions. Professor Wilder has essays that will be appearing in two edited collections: *Slavery's Capitalism* (University of Pennsylvania Press) and *Slavery and the University* (University of Georgia Press). He serves on the MIT 2016 anniversary committee and the MITx faculty advisory committee.

Professor of history Elizabeth Wood was selected as a fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She is co-director of MIT-Russia, supervisor of the Russian language program in FL&L, and a faculty advisor and mentor in FL&L and Women's and Gender Studies. She delivered talks on "Homophobia in Russia" (Harvard University); "The Tsarnaevs: A Tale of Two Brothers" (MIT Center for International Studies); the spectacle of Vladimir Putin (University of Pittsburgh); and "Sexuality, Political Power, and the State" (Northeastern University Conference on Gender of the State and Politics in the Middle East). She serves as a graduate advisor for two students at Northeastern University. Professor Wood is currently working on a study of Vladimir Putin and the spectacle of power in contemporary Russia.

Impact

The History Section takes pride in its capacity to support a broad range of academic and programmatic initiatives in the undergraduate and graduate curricula at MIT. History faculty chair programs and advise students in the languages, arts, sciences, and social sciences, providing a collective service to the Institute. The central concern of the faculty remains undergraduate teaching. History undergraduate enrollments totaled 594, distributed across 44 courses, during the past academic year. The section currently carries two majors, 10 minors, and 67 concentrators. History ran a range of IAP offerings designed to enhance the learning experiences and broaden the perspectives of our undergraduate students. There were 32 entries for this year's History Undergraduate Writing Prize in honor of John Dower, Bruce Mazlish, and Pauline Maier. The awardees were Charlotte Hulme ("If It Is Good Enough for *Good Housekeeping*, It's Good Enough for America: *Good Housekeeping* Magazine and the Pure Food Crusade of 1901–1902"), Abigail Ostriker ("Modern Economic Growth in the Middle Ages"), and Reuben Saunders ("And in Every Account There Is This Same Omission: A Mismatch of Technology and Corporate Institutions during Railway Mania"). Yi Zhong, a sophomore, won the 2014 Palitz Fellowship for the study of Dutch art and culture.

The Section has several ongoing ventures aimed at improving the quality and diversity of undergraduate learning at MIT, including 21H.001 How to Stage a Revolution and 21H.007J/21L.014J Empire: Introduction to Ancient and Medieval Studies, in which rotating faculty members have created modules based on their expertise that draw connections to the work of their colleagues. For the first time, a team comprising untenured faculty will teach 21H.001, and we have plans for mounting a version of the class that focuses on Asian revolutions. The world history subject team is continuing to

develop and refine its courses. This plan is to draw faculty from Anthropology, Foreign Languages and Literatures, and Literature as courses evolve. Professors Ravel and Nagahara traveled to Singapore last year to help implement the SHASS component of the curriculum at the Singapore University of Technology and Design, and an SUTD faculty member will be visiting in our department this fall.

The section's lecture series brings scholars from around the globe and attracts a broad audience from the Cambridge region. The series provides an extraordinary opportunity for HASTS graduate students to engage in discussions with leading scholars doing transformative research. In addition, the section invited scholars from MIT and other institutions to give talks informing the new world history courses. Several MIT faculty also presented Sahin lectures as part of this program. Pamela Crossley of Dartmouth College presented a lecture on "Writing a Global History Textbook" for the world history series, and Egyptian journalist Yasmine El Rashidi offered a talk on "Egypt: The Fall of Mubarak and After" for our How to Stage a Revolution course. The latter lecture was open to the public and cosponsored by Women's and Gender Studies and FL&L. Carina Johnson of Pitzer College lectured on "Interdisciplinary Approaches to Teaching World History," and Mary Dewhurst Lewis of Harvard spoke on "Sovereignty and Empire in the Imperial Mediterranean: The Case of Tunisia." The section also hosted two international visiting scholars during the academic year: Nelson Aprobato Filho from the University of São Paulo in Brazil and Masamichi Ogawara from Keio University in Japan.

The Seminar on Environmental and Agricultural History, which had been under the direction of Harriet Ritvo and Deborah Fitzgerald, was not held during AY2014. Although the organizers believed that it had largely run its course, there has been growing interest in the seminar, and it is being revived in AY2015.

Craig Steven Wilder
Section Head
Professor of History