

## History Section

The History Section includes joint appointments with the Department of Urban Studies and Planning and the Program in Science, Technology, and Society (STS). History faculty support a number of Institute 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). Three of our faculty have joint appointments in Global Studies and Languages (GSL), 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. Faculty searches in Latin American history and post-1945 United States history were completed over the past academic year to address vacancies and long-standing gaps and priorities in our curriculum.

### Faculty Updates

Sana Aiyar, assistant professor of history, published her first book, *Indians in Kenya: The Politics of Diaspora* (Harvard University Press). She also gave talks at Yale University, Tufts University, New York University's Abu Dhabi campus, and Johns Hopkins University. In addition, she created a new module on South Asian independence and was involved in teaching the department's very successful 21H.001 How to Stage a Revolution subject.

William Broadhead, associate professor of history and the Class of '54 Career Development Chair, received the Levitan Award for Excellence in Teaching and currently holds the MacVicar Faculty Fellowship. Professor Broadhead again accompanied 15 Independent Activities Period (IAP) students on a trip abroad with Eric Goldberg and Steve Ostrow. This year, for the first time, the program visited Athens and other Greek sites instead of Rome and Pompeii. Going forward, we plan to have trips to Greece and Italy in alternate years. Professor Broadhead is finishing his book *Hegemony and Mobility in Roman Italy, Fourth–First Centuries BC*.

Christopher Capozzola, associate professor of history, serves as a distinguished lecturer for the Organization of American Historians. On leave this year, he completed a draft of his book *Brothers of the Pacific: America's Forgotten Filipino Armies and the Making of the Pacific Century*. He published essays in the journal *Diplomatic History* and the Oxford University Press volume *Empires at War, 1911-1923*; the latter piece was also translated into Portuguese. Professor Capozzola, a noted expert on US participation in World War I, gave interviews on this topic during the centennial of the war's start in *The New Republic*, *The Huffington Post*, *The Times of India*, and *MIT Continuum*. He was a resident at the Center for American and Pacific Studies at the University of Tokyo, and he served on the development committee for the US history advanced placement exam administered each year by the College Board Advanced Placement Program.

Lerna Ekmekçioğlu holds the McMillan-Stewart career development chair in women in the Middle East and North Africa. This year she was promoted to associate professor without tenure. Stanford University Press will publish her book *Recovering Armenia: The Limits of Belonging in Post-Genocide Turkey* in January 2016. She has been much in demand over the past year as an expert on the tragic events surrounding the outbreak of the Armenian genocide 100 years ago. She has spoken on this topic at Harvard, Cornell, the University of Michigan, the University of Chicago, the Carnegie Endowment for Peace in Washington, Humboldt University in Berlin, and the American University of Armenia in Yerevan.

Robert M. Fogelson, who holds a joint appointment in the History Section and the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, continued work on a book-length project concerning the rise of Co-op City in the Bronx in the late 1960s and the fall of cooperative housing. He presented a paper at the Technical University of Berlin.

Malick W. Ghachem, associate professor without tenure, continued work on his current book-length project, *The Revolt against the Indies Company: A Corporate Perspective on the Age of Revolution*. He presented a paper related to this work at a meeting of early American specialists in Chicago and gave talks on related themes at Harvard and Brown. He also published an essay on the 1804 Haitian Declaration of Independence in a volume dedicated to the history of that landmark document and another comparing contemporary French and American paths to the legalization of gay marriage in the *Southern California Law Review*.

Eric Goldberg, associate professor of history, received a research fellowship at the School of Historical Studies of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, NJ, for the 2015–2016 academic year. While there, he will be completing his current book manuscript, *With Practice, Art, and Skill: Hunting and Identity in the Frankish World, AD 315–987*. He gave a presentation on “The Hunting Death of Carloman II (884)” at the annual international gathering of medievalists in Kalamazoo, MI, in May.

Caley Horan (PhD, University of Minnesota, 2011) is a new tenure-eligible assistant professor of history whose appointment begins in fall 2015. Professor Horan comes to MIT after serving as a lecturer in history at Princeton University. Her dissertation, which examined the rise of the insurance industries and actuarial cultures in the post-World War II United States, has an advanced book contract from a major university press.

Christopher Leighton, who holds the Class of 1948 Career Development Chair, was promoted to associate professor without tenure this year. He is nearing completion of a book manuscript tentatively titled *The Revolutionary Rich: Political Capital in the People’s Republic of China*. He presented excerpts from this work at a number of venues this year, including “Return of the Rich: The Chinese Communist Party’s Business Advisors” at the University of Coimbra in Portugal; “China Through Travel: Pleasure and Politics in the Twentieth Century” at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New York City; and “Shanghai’s Gilded Youth: Playboys and Playgirls under Socialism” at the annual meeting of the Association of Asian Studies in Chicago.

Anne McCants, professor of history, continues her tenure as the editor of *Social Science History* and as the director of the Concourse Program at MIT. She will be serving as the vice president (and president elect) of the International Economic History Congress, which will hold its 2018 annual meeting at MIT. She is currently the vice president of the American Economic History Association. This year she published a state-of-the-field essay on “Historical Demography” in the *Oxford Handbook of Early Modern European History*, as well as a chapter on the presence of Asiatic goods in 18th-century Amsterdam households in the Palgrave Macmillan edited volume *Goods from the East: Trading Eurasia 1600-1830*. She spoke on aspects of her research, and on topics in social science history more generally, in venues as varied as Lisbon, Portugal; Toronto, Canada; Washington, DC; Singapore; and Tokyo, Japan.

Hiromu Nagahara, promoted to associate professor without tenure, holds the Cecil and Ida Green Career Development Chair. He collaborated with Professor Jeffrey Ravel to create and pilot the world history course developed by SHASS and History for the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). His first book, *Japan’s Pop Era: Music in the Making of Middle-Class Society*, will be published by Harvard University Press. He presented work based on this research at conferences at the University of Colorado and in Taiwan and delivered a paper at Seijō University in Tokyo on “Perspectives on Japan from Within America.”

Tanalís Padilla joined History as an associate professor with tenure. She was previously an associate professor with tenure at Dartmouth College. Professor Padilla is the author of *Rural Resistance in the Land of Zapata: The Jaramillista Movement and the Myth of the Pax-Priista, 1940-1962* (Duke University Press), a highly regarded reexamination of agrarian struggle in 20th-century Mexico. She has since edited an important collection on campesino resistance movements in 20th-century Mexico and published essays in the leading journals in Latin American studies. She is currently completing a history of the radicalization and politicization of Mexico’s rural normal schools. She is also a regular op-ed contributor to *La Jornada*, a respected daily newspaper published in Mexico City.

Jeffrey Ravel, professor of history and head of the History faculty beginning in 2015–2016, finished his five-year term on the executive board of the Society for French Historical Studies. He continued work on the *Comédie-Française Registers Project*, an internationally funded digital humanities initiative that will launch at the end of 2015. He began a collaboration with the MIT Museum and MIT Libraries to make a collection of 4,000 maps, engravings, and other visual materials curated by the museum available online. The Boston-Area French History Group, which Professor Ravel organizes, resumed its monthly meetings to discuss work in progress by local scholars of the French past. He presented “The King of Spades, 1770-1830,” a paper based on his current work on the history of French playing cards, at the annual meeting of the Society for French Historical Studies in Colorado and at the University of Paris. He also spoke on the *Comédie-Française Registers Project* at the French National Archives in Paris. In late April, he agreed to serve as faculty lead on MIT’s efforts to assist Nepal in the wake of the devastating earthquake there.

Harriet Ritvo, Arthur J. Conner Professor of History, was a Rachel Carson Fellow at Ludwig Maximilian University's Rachel Carson Center for Environmental Studies in fall 2014. This academic year, she presented work in London, Edinburgh, Canterbury, Munich, and Vienna. Professor Ritvo's groundbreaking study, *The Animal Estate*, has been selected for the Harvard One Hundred as one of the most important books in the first century of Harvard University Press. Professor Ritvo advises several doctoral candidates in the HASTS program as well as at Harvard and other top research institutions. She is editor of the "Animals, History, Culture" series published by the Johns Hopkins University Press, and she serves on the Board of Incorporators of *Harvard Magazine*. In addition, she serves on the board of several academic journals, including *Animals and Society*, *History*, and *Victorian Studies*. She is an external reviewer for the Radcliffe Institute, the National Humanities Center, the Stanford Humanities Center, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Emma J. Teng is T.T. and Wei Fong Chao Professor of Asian Civilizations in Global Studies and Languages and the History Section. In 2015–2016, she will begin heading GSL after leading the Program in Women's and Gender Studies. Professor Teng is also a MacVicar Faculty Fellow. She translated "Selections from the Diary of Qiu Miaojin" in *The Columbia Sourcebook of Literary Taiwan*. Also, she published "Other as Self?: The 'Civilized Barbarian' in Dong Yue's 'Poetic Exposition on Korea'" in *Imagining Korea, Imagining the World: Accounts of Travels to and from Korea*. Professor Teng is serving on the board of the Association for Asian Studies and is a faculty advisor for the Harvard-Yenching Institute.

Professor of History Craig Steven Wilder won the 2014 Michael Harrington Book Prize from the American Political Science Association and the 2014 Hurston-Wright Legacy Award for his *Ebony & Ivy* (2013). The book motivated numerous college and university boards to address the history of slavery on their campuses, and Professor Wilder is advising several of these projects, including those at William and Mary, Virginia, Columbia, and Yale. Professor Wilder was also elected to the Society of American Historians, and he is a board member of the new Lapidus Center for Transatlantic Slavery at the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center. He continues as a senior fellow with the Bard Prison Initiative, for which he taught three classes last year. Professor Wilder is also advising faculty and community organizations in Wisconsin and the United Kingdom on delivering higher education to incarcerated people. He is an advisor on Ken Burns' 2015 documentary *Race Man*, which examines the extraordinary private and public life of Jackie Robinson. Wilder will be on sabbatical during 2015–2016 and is working on a new book.

Professor of History Elizabeth Wood was a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center for Advanced Studies, where she continued work on her current book project, *Power and Politics in Putin's Russia*. During her fellowship, she edited a collection of essays on the origins of Russia's war in Ukraine that is under consideration at the Columbia University Press; her own contribution to this volume is titled "A Small Victorious War? The Symbolic Politics of Vladimir Putin." She is a member of the boards of the National

Council of ITMO University in St. Petersburg, Russia, and the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research. In Cambridge, she organized speaker series on Russia at MIT's Center for International Studies and on "Gender, Socialism, and Post-Socialism" at Harvard's Davis Center for Russian Eurasian Studies.

## Section Priorities

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. Historians chair programs and advise students in the languages, arts, sciences, and social sciences, enhancing educational programs at the Institute. The central focus of the faculty remains undergraduate teaching. History undergraduate enrollments totaled 538, distributed across 39 courses, during the past academic year. The section currently carries one major, 12 minors, and 48 concentrators. History ran a range of IAP offerings designed to enhance the learning experiences and broaden the perspectives of our undergraduate students. Professor Leighton gave a timely lecture on the documentary *China's Nightmares of Affluence*. Professor Capozzola moderated an equally timely public forum titled "Is It Immoral to Watch the Super Bowl?" As noted above, 15 MIT students participated in the History IAP trip to Greece. There were 23 entries for this year's Bruce Mazlish, Pauline Maier, and John Dower undergraduate essay prizes. The winners were Parker Zhao ("A Dangerous Haven: How Jewish Refugees Survived in War-torn Shanghai"), Juana C. Becerra ("United States vs. Russia: The Nuclear Program in Iran"), and Semon Rezchikov ("Paintings on a Political Tapestry: The Exhibitions of 1979-1980").

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 Empire, in which a number of faculty have rotated to create new modules that exploit their expertise and draw connections to the work of their colleagues. The world history collaboration has now successfully launched and refined its courses at MIT and SUTD. This project draws faculty from Anthropology, Global Studies and Languages, and Literature.

The section's lecture series brings scholars from around the globe and attracts a broad audience from the Cambridge region. This series provides an extraordinary opportunity for HASTS graduate students to engage in discussions with leading scholars doing transformative research. The section also invited scholars from MIT and other institutions to give talks that would help develop the new world history course. As part of our world history seminar, we brought Pier Larson of Johns Hopkins and Parsannan Parthasarathi of Boston College to explore the power of literacy in 19th-century Madagascar and labor in 19th-century Tamilnad, respectively. This year's Sahin seminar lecturers included Catherine Clark of GSL, who examined amateur photography through the archives of Paris, and Susan Grayzel of the University of Mississippi, who presented an essay on chemical technology, gas masks, and corpses in early-20th-century warfare. Professor Ravel also helped to bring Ian Milligan of the University of Waterloo and Jo Guldi of Brown to MIT as part of the HASTS digital initiative.

The Seminar on Environmental and Agricultural History, under the direction of Harriet Ritvo and Deborah Fitzgerald, continued this year. Ian Miller of Harvard presented “The Mystery of the Missing Watt: Electricity in the Making of Modern Tokyo”; Julia Adeney Thomas of Notre Dame gave a lecture on “Hope in the Hinterland: Alternative Modernities and the Anthropocene”; and Etienne Benson of the University of Pennsylvania offered an essay on “Experiments in Environing: An Alternative History of Environmentalism.”

**Craig Steven Wilder**  
**Section Head**  
**Professor of History**