

## History Section

In the 2015–2016 academic year, faculty in the MIT History section continued to excel in the areas of scholarship, teaching, and public engagement. MIT historians published scholarship grounded in deep archival research and employed cutting-edge methodologies. We taught a wide array of undergraduate subjects and helped to train a talented cohort of students in the graduate program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS). We reached out to public audiences in the United States and around the world. History especially seeks to give MIT students a full educational experience that will prepare them to be active members of their local communities and an increasingly global society. In all of these activities, we are committed to carrying on the tradition of excellence that has made MIT an important engine of knowledge production and distribution in the humanities and social sciences.

### Faculty Updates

Sana Aiyar, assistant professor of history, enjoyed a sabbatical this year during which she carried out research in India, Myanmar, and England on her next book-length project, tentatively titled *India's First Partition: Burma and India in the 1930s*. She gave talks in India at the University of Hyderabad, Jamia Millia Islamia University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, the Jindal Global Law School, and Delhi University. The Institute has approved her promotion to the rank of associate professor without tenure effective July 1, 2016.

Associate Professor of History William Broadhead recently received the Levitan Award for Excellence in Teaching and currently holds a MacVicar Faculty Fellowship. He served as the section's undergraduate officer this year. Professor Broadhead again led 20 students on the Independent Activities Period (IAP) in Ancient and Medieval Italy trip with History lecturer Steve Ostrow. Professor Broadhead is finishing his book *Hegemony and Mobility in Roman Italy, 4th–1st Centuries BC*.

Christopher Capozzola, associate professor of history, continued to serve as a distinguished lecturer for the Organization of American Historians. He was also elected a fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society. He participated in the group of historians that rewrote the US history advanced placement exam for the College Board Advanced Placement Program. He was co-curator and senior historian for the National World War I Museum's traveling exhibit "The Volunteers: Americans Join World War I, 1914–1919." He spoke at the University of Oklahoma, the Emory University Law School, and the Virginia Historical Society, among other venues. He continued work on his book manuscript, *Brothers of the Pacific: America's Forgotten Filipino Armies and the Making of the Pacific Century*. On campus, Professor Capozzola completed the first year of a two-year term as secretary of the faculty.

Lerna Ekmekçioğlu, associate professor without tenure, holds the McMillan-Stewart Career Development Chair in Women in the Middle East and North Africa. Stanford University Press published her book *Recovering Armenia: The Limits of Belonging in Post-Genocide Turkey* in January 2016. She serves on the executive committee of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association and the nominating committee of the Middle Eastern

Studies Association. This spring, she was the Ara and Edma Dumanian Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. She received the Levitan Award for Teaching Excellence in recognition of her classroom efforts over the past year.

Robert M. Fogelson, professor of history and urban studies and planning, has taught at MIT since 1968. This year, in addition to his teaching responsibilities in Courses 4 and 21H, he 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.

Malick W. Ghachem, associate professor without tenure, is also a senior scholar at the University of Maine Law School. In fall 2015, he was a fellow at the Newhouse Center for the Humanities at Wellesley College, where he continued work on his current book-length project, 'In the Name of the Colony': The Fall of the Indies Company and the Rise of Plantation Slavery in Haiti, 1720-1725. He authored articles related to this work in collections published by the University of Virginia Press and Stanford University Press. His piece "Black Histories Matter," co-written with MIT anthropology professor Erica Caple James, appeared in the September 2015 newsletter of the American Historical Association. He currently serves on the executive board of the American Society for Legal History.

Eric Goldberg, associate professor of history, spent the 2015–2016 year on a research fellowship at the School of Historical Studies of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, NJ. While there, he made substantial progress on 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 conference of medievalists at Leeds University in England in July 2015 and another in the fall on "Hunting in the Frankish World" at the Institute for Advanced Study.

Assistant Professor Caley Horan completed her first year on the MIT faculty. She has received a prestigious fellowship for next year from the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton University, where she will be completing her first book manuscript, tentatively titled *Actuarial Age: Insurance and American Culture in the Post-WWII United States*. This work is under contract with the University of Chicago Press.

Christopher Leighton, associate professor without tenure, holds the Class of 1948 Career Development Chair. He is nearing completion of a book manuscript tentatively titled *The Revolutionary Rich: Political Capital in the People's Republic of China*.

Anne McCants, professor of history, continues her tenure as the editor of *Social Science History*. She currently serves as the vice president (and president elect) of the International Economic History Congress, which will hold its 2018 annual meeting at MIT. She is also the vice president of the American Economic History Association. This year she spoke on aspects of her research (medieval gothic cathedrals, the 19th-century Portuguese rural economy), and on topics in social science history more generally, in venues as varied as Singapore; Kyoto, Japan, Montevideo, Uruguay; Valencia, Spain; and

Boone, NC. On campus, she chaired the Institute's Committee on the Undergraduate Program, directed the Concourse first-year learning community, and served as head of house at the Burton-Connor dormitory.

Hiromu Nagahara, associate professor without tenure, holds the Cecil and Ida Green Career Development Chair. His first book, *Tokyo Boogie-Woogie: Japan's Pop Era and Its Discontents*, will be published next year by Harvard University Press.

Tanalís Padilla, associate professor of history, completed her first year on the MIT faculty. 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 Spanish translation of this work was published in fall 2015. She is currently completing a history of the radicalization and politicization of Mexico's rural normal schools. During the past year, she gave talks on this new project in Mexico City; Cuernavaca, Mexico; and New York City. She also maintains an active media presence in Mexico, where she is frequently interviewed on radio and television about recent Mexican history and current affairs. She is an op-ed writer for *La Jornada*, a respected Mexico City daily newspaper.

Jeffrey Ravel, professor of history, began a three-year term as head of the History faculty. In May 2016, he co-organized a three-day international conference at MIT and Harvard devoted to the *Comédie-Française Registers Project*, an international digital humanities initiative he has co-directed for eight years. Collaborating with the MIT Museum, he secured a substantial grant from the National Park Service to digitize 4,000 items in the museum's Hart Nautical Collections and make them available to scholars and students online. The Boston-Area French History Group, which Professor Ravel organizes, continued its monthly meetings to discuss works in progress by local scholars. He continued to serve as faculty lead on MIT's efforts to assist Nepal in the wake of the 2015 earthquake there; in spring 2016, this initiative shipped 5,000 water testing kits to Nepal to assess water quality in remote rural areas.

Harriet Ritvo, Arthur J. Conner Professor of History, advises doctoral candidates in the HASTS program as well as at Harvard and other top research institutions. She continues as 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*. This spring she organized "Call of the Wild," a workshop at MIT funded by the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) and co-organized with an Oxford University colleague. The gathering was the first of two exchanges between the two universities. During the past year, Professor Ritvo spoke at Columbia University, Arizona State University, and various universities in the United Kingdom.

Emma J. Teng, who has a dual appointment in History and Global Studies and Languages (GSL), served as head of GSL in 2015–2016. Professor Teng is also a MacVicar Faculty Fellow. She serves on the board of the Association for Asian Studies and the North American Taiwan Studies Association and is a faculty advisor for the Harvard-Yenching Institute. She has published several articles on Taiwanese history, East Asian current

affairs, and mixed-race families. Lecture venues during the past year included Harvard University, Boston University, as well as locations in Seattle, San Francisco, and Miami.

Craig Steven Wilder, professor of history, was on leave during 2015–2016 after a three-year term as head of History. He pursued research on two new projects: the history of the ghetto and the social, economic, and moral implications of slavery and slave trading for the early Catholic Church in North America. He continues as a senior fellow with the Bard Prison Initiative. Professor Wilder is also advising faculty and community organizations in Wisconsin and the United Kingdom on delivering higher education to incarcerated people.

Elizabeth Wood, professor of history, is co-director of the MISTI-Russia Program. She also has a secondary appointment in Global Studies and Languages. 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. She serves as associate editor for *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* and sits on the editorial boards of two other journals devoted to Russian and Eastern European history. Her co-authored volume, *Roots of Russia's War in Ukraine*, was published by the Woodrow Wilson Center Press and Columbia University Press in early 2016. She continues work on a book-length project concerning the gendered politics of Vladimir Putin's rule in Russia.

### 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 548, distributed across 39 courses, during the past academic year. The section currently supports three majors, 19 minors, and 59 concentrators. There were nine entries for this year's Bruce Mazlish, Pauline Maier, and John Dower undergraduate essay prizes. The winners were Dongfang Tian Mi ("Agriculture in the 2nd Century BC"), Kevin Castro ("No Bird Soars in a Calm"), and Julian Fuchs ("Hungary, 1956").

Three members of the History faculty are currently MacVicar Faculty Teaching Fellows: Professors Broadhead, McCants, and Teng. This year Professors McCants and Ravel taught a new seminar, 21H.343 *Making Books in the Renaissance and Today*, that focused on the cultural history of early modern Europe by studying the early production and dissemination of printed books. Working with Ken Stone '72, the director of the Hobby Shop, students built a facsimile of the Gutenberg printing press first designed in the 1450s and used it to print their own posters and broadsheets. This printing press will be available for future class exercises in all of the disciplines within the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. Students in the class also spent extended time in the MIT Libraries' Rare Books Collection and the MIT Museum studying printed books, maps, and engravings from the 1450 to 1700 period.

History ran a range of IAP offerings designed to enhance the learning experiences and broaden the intellectual perspectives of our undergraduate students. As noted above, 20

MIT students participated in the History IAP trip to Italy, led by Professors Broadhead and Ostrow. Back in Boston, Professors Capozzola, McCants, and Nagahara led guided tours of the American, European, and Japanese collections at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Professor McCants and Margo Colett reprised their popular course on campus, “The Distaff Arts: Medieval Clothing Technology.”

The section’s two lecture series, on environmental and agricultural history and world history, bring scholars from around the globe and attract a broad audience from the Boston region. These series provide an extraordinary opportunity for our faculty and HASTS graduate students to engage in discussions with leading scholars doing transformative research. The History section also played a key role in organizing a prestigious Phi Beta Kappa visiting scholar lecture and campus visit in April by Professor Mae Ngai, a Columbia University historian of United States immigration.

Finally, in response to discussions on campus and in dialogue with the MIT Black Students Union, the History faculty posted a statement on its website affirming its commitment to diversity, inclusion, and community well-being at MIT. In 2016–2017, History will appoint a community and equity officer to assist the section head in improving issues of equity and diversity within the unit.

**Jeffrey S. Ravel**  
**Section Head**  
**Professor of History**