

History Section

In the 2016–2017 academic year, the MIT History faculty 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 graduate students in the History, Anthropology and Science, Technology and Society (HASTS) doctoral program. 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, associate professor of history without tenure, continued work on her next book-length project, tentatively titled *India's First Partition: Burma and India in the 1930s*. She gave talks in India and at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. She was on leave in the spring term.

William Broadhead, associate professor of history with tenure, currently holds a MacVicar Faculty Fellowship and the Levitan Award for Excellence in Teaching. Professor Broadhead led 20 students on the Independent Activities Period (IAP) Program in Ancient and Medieval Greece with History lecturer Steve Ostrow. This was the second time they have taken a group of undergraduates to Greece during IAP. Professor Broadhead is finishing his book, *Hegemony and Mobility in Roman Italy, 4th–1st Centuries BC*.

Christopher Capozzola, associate professor of history with tenure, continued to serve as a distinguished lecturer of the Organization of American Historians. He continued his work on the advisory group for the United States History Advanced Placement exam for the College Board Advanced Placement Examinations. In summer 2017 he co-directed a two-week National Endowment for the Humanities seminar designed to enhance the teaching of United States history in the nation's high schools. 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 second year of a two-year term as secretary of the MIT Faculty. He chaired Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart's Post-Election Working Group, established after the 2016 US presidential election.

John Dower, Ford International Professor of History Emeritus, published *The Violent American Century: War and Terror Since World War II*. Commenting on this work, Chilean writer and intellectual Ariel Dorfman wrote in the *New York Times* that the book “has a chance to affect at a massive level our understanding of the world we live in, the one that America has shaped but has been unable to dominate.”

Lerna Ekmekçioğlu, associate professor of history and women's and gender studies without tenure, holds the McMillan-Stewart Career Development Chair in Women in the Middle

East and North Africa. She continued to lecture on her 2016 book, *Recovering Armenia*, in the United States and elsewhere, including several lectures in Yerevan, Armenia. She continues to serve on the executive committee of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association, where she fosters dialogue between historians of Turkey, Armenia, and the Ottoman Empire. She and Melissa Bilal, a visiting scholar in the History Section in spring 2017, made significant progress on their new book project and website, *Armenian Feminisms*.

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 of history without tenure, is also a senior scholar at the University of Maine Law School. 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*. A French translation of his prize-winning book *The Old Regime and the Haitian Revolution* is currently in progress, with an expected publication date in 2018. He serves on the executive board of the American Society for Legal History. The MIT Corporation has approved his promotion to the rank of associate professor with tenure, effective 1 July 2017.

Eric Goldberg, associate professor of history with tenure, has completed his book typescript *In the Manner of the Franks: Hunting, Kingship, and Nobility in Early Medieval Europe*. He will soon sign a publication contract with a major university press. He is organizing the annual meeting of the New England Medieval Conference, which will take place at MIT in fall 2017.

Caley Horan, assistant professor of history, spent the year as a fellow at the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton University, where she continued revisions to her first book typescript, 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 of history without tenure, holds the Class of 1948 Career Development Chair. He lectured on post-revolutionary Chinese history in Singapore and St. Petersburg this past year. He is nearing completion of a book manuscript tentatively titled *Revolutionary Rich: Political Fortune and Red Capitalism in China, 1949–79*.

Anne McCants, professor of history, continues her tenure as the editor of *Social Science History*. She currently serves as the president of the International Economic History Congress, which will hold its 2018 annual meeting at MIT. On campus, she directed the Concourse first-year learning community and served as head of house at the Burton-Connor dormitory. She was the chair of the Subcommittee on the HASS Requirement in fall 2016, and is the co-director of the recently established Beaver Press print shop.

Hiromu Nagahara, associate professor of history without tenure, holds the Cecil and Ida Green Career Development Chair. His first book, *Tokyo Boogie-Woogie: Japan's Pop*

Era and Its Discontents, was published this past April by Harvard University Press. He is currently at work on his second book project, tentatively titled *Rokumeikan Reconsidered: Modern Japan's Cosmopolitan Elite and the Global Politics of Play*.

Tanalís Padilla, associate professor of history with tenure, is currently completing a history of the radicalization and politicization of Mexico's rural normal schools, tentatively titled *Unintended Lessons of Revolution: Teachers and the Mexican Countryside, 1940–1980*. She continues to be invited frequently to speak on Mexican politics and history in both Mexico and the United States. She is an op-ed writer for *La Jornada*, a respected Mexico City daily newspaper. In fall 2017 she will be a fellow at the Newhouse Center for the Humanities at Wellesley College.

Jeffrey Ravel, professor of history, completed his second year as head of the History faculty. Collaborating with the MIT Museum, he continued work on a National Park Service-funded project to digitize 4,400 items in the museum's Hart Nautical Collection, and he served on the museum's advisory board. Working with Professor Anne McCants, he established the Beaver Press print shop in Barker Library. He continued to serve as faculty lead on the MIT-Nepal Initiative. The Boston-Area French History Group, which Professor Ravel organizes, continued its regular meetings to discuss work-in-progress by local scholars of the French past. In AY2018 he will begin a four-year term on the executive steering committee of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

Harriet Ritvo, Arthur J. Conner Professor of History, advises multiple doctoral candidates in the HASTS program and at Harvard University and other top research institutions. She continues as editor of the "Animals, History, Culture Series" at the Johns Hopkins University Press, and co-editor of the "Flows, Migrations, and Exchanges" series at the University of North Carolina Press. This spring she organized the second meeting, in Cambridge, England, of a MISTI-funded (MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives) workshop titled "Call of the Wild." She is currently finishing a book-length project titled *At the Edge of the Wild*, which is under contract with Harvard University Press.

Emma J. Teng, T.T. and Wei Fong Chao Professor of Asian Civilizations, has a dual appointment in History and the Global Studies and Languages Section. She was on leave in AY2017. Professor Teng is one of History's two current MacVicar Faculty Fellows. She serves on the board of the Association for Asian Studies and the North American Taiwan Studies Association, and is a faculty advisor to the Harvard-Yenching Institute. She curated an exhibit in the MIT Libraries' Maihaugen Gallery, *China Comes to Tech, 1877–1931*, which focuses on Chinese national students who studied at MIT in the Institute's early years. The show has received extensive media attention in the People's Republic of China and throughout the Chinese diaspora.

Craig Steven Wilder, Barton L. Weller Professor of History, continues as a senior fellow with the Bard Prison Initiative. Professor Wilder is also advising many educational institutions in the United States that wish to understand better the roles slavery and the slave trade played in their origins and development. In 2016 he advised and appeared in Ken Burns' documentary *Race Man*, which explores the transformative career of baseball player Jackie Robinson. He serves on the board of the Lapidus Center for the History of

Transatlantic Slavery at the Schomburg Center, New York Public Library. His 2013 book *Ebony and Ivy* inspired the Grammy Award-winning artist Esperanza Spalding's song, "Ebony and Ivy" in *Emily's D+Evolution*.

Elizabeth Wood, professor of history, is co-director of the MISTI-Russia Program. She also has a secondary appointment in the Global Studies and Languages Section. 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 May and June 2017 she participated as an expert in a workshop for members of the United States Congress organized in Berlin by the Aspen Institute Congressional Program on the critical theme of "US-Russia Relations: Policy Challenges in a New Era." 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 and advise programs and students in the languages, arts, sciences, and social sciences, and enhance educational programs at the Institute in ways that are far greater than their numbers. The central focus of the faculty remains undergraduate teaching. History undergraduate enrollments totaled 574 students distributed across 44 subjects during the past academic year. The winners for this year's Bruce Mazlish, Pauline Maier, and John Dower undergraduate essay prizes were: Caitlin Fischer, "Imagined Inequality" and 'nothing to do with race whatsoever'; Zachary Hall, "Constructing the Etruscan Clan"; and Isabel Seguin, "Honey Bees are Harmed by Horticulture."

Two members of the History Faculty are currently MacVicar Faculty Teaching Fellows, Will Broadhead and Emma Teng. This year Professors McCants and Ravel, working with the Libraries, established the Beaver Press on the eighth floor of Barker Library. This print shop, featuring a working Gutenberg-facsimile printing press and several varieties of moveable type, is an integral part of subject 21H.343 Making Books in the Renaissance. The Beaver Press also holds open printing hours for members of the MIT community during the semester.

History continued its popular offering "IAP in Ancient Italy and Greece," in January 2017. Led by Professors Broadhead and Ostrow, the group of 20 students visited classical sites in ancient Greece for the second time. History also sponsored a lecture on the history of Chinese business, and workshops at the Beaver Press during IAP.

The Section's two lecture series (on Environmental and Agricultural History and on 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 the HASTS graduate students to engage in discussions with leading scholars doing transformative research. In addition, in AY2017 we launched a new lecture series called "Historians Across the Institute." Colleagues from Courses 3, 4, and 11 working on historically oriented research projects shared their work with us. Our section also hosted the School for Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences' (SHASS) dean's postdoctoral digital humanities fellow, Dr. Douglas O'Brien, who worked with the SHASS Dean's

Digital Humanities Committee, chaired by Jeffrey Ravel, to develop a digital humanities strategy for the School.

In AY2017, History continued to attend to issues of equity and diversity through the appointment of an equity and diversity section advisor who reported to the section head and the History faculty as whole. We also hosted visiting scholars from Turkey and Portugal. In AY2018 we will welcome MLK Visiting Professor Kenda Mutongi, a specialist in Kenyan and East African history at Williams College.

Finally, on a sad note, in AY2017 the History Section organized memorial services to mark the passing of two emeritus colleagues who served multiple decades at the Institute, Bruce Mazlish and Arthur Kaledin. Mazlish was a path-breaking historian who worked in the fields of psycho-history and global history and chaired the Humanities Department at MIT for many years, while Kaledin was a beloved teacher and widely acknowledged expert on the thought of the 19-century French political theorist Alexis de Tocqueville.

Jeffrey S. Ravel
Section Head
Professor of History