

## Chair's Bulletin

December 2008

### News and Notables

**Rick Bell** presented four papers in November. He delivered a talk titled "Bellywounds: Suicide and the Gallows in Early America" to two audiences at Cambridge University - one at Robinson College, the other at Fitzwilliam College. He also delivered a paper titled "Alarming Progress: Suicide and the Newspaper Exchange System in Early America" to the Cambridge University American History Seminar on 17 November and to a symposium on public opinion, the press and journalists in the 18th century, convened at the Université Paris-Diderot on November 28.

**Antoine Borrut** presented a paper entitled "La circulation de l'information historique entre les sources arabo-musulmanes et syriaques: l'exemple d'Elie de Nisibe et ses sources" at the international conference "L'historiographie syriaque" held in Paris, November 14, 2008. This conference was part of the scientific program "De l'Antiquité Tardive à l'Islam" and was sponsored by several institutions including the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), the Collège de France and the University of Paris - La Sorbonne. The proceedings will be published in 2009 by Geuthner in the serie "Etudes syriaques".

**Michael David-Fox** gave a paper, "Maxim Gorky at Solovki and Bolshevo" for a panel on "Justifying Violence in Russia and the Soviet Union" at the American Association for Advancement of Slavic Studies annual convention in Philadelphia in November, 2008. He also participated in a roundtable discussion on new approaches to the Russian intelligentsia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

**Art Eckstein** gave an invited public lecture at Tulane University in New Orleans, "Creating the Roman Juggernaut: How Rome Broke from the City-State Pack", as well as a graduate seminar on "Structural Realism in International Relations". At the CHS book launch, he was the commentator on Jon Sumida's presentation of his new book *Decoding Clausewitz*.

**David Freund's** first monograph, *Colored Property: State Policy and White Racial Politics in Suburban America*, has received another prize. In addition to the Ellis Hawley award, the book will receive the Urban History Association's 2007 Kenneth Jackson Award for the best book in North American urban history. The award will be made at the AHA in January where he will also participate in a panel on "The Federal Transformation of the Urban Economy, 1933-60," presenting a paper, "Money Matters: State Policy and Economic Growth in Post-War America" that will introduce material from his new book project on the mythologies surrounding free market economics, wealth, and poverty in the modern United States.

**David Grimsted** presented his paper, "Democratic Labor, 1790-1860: 'Wrongs to Be Redressed, Rights to Be Maintained'" at a faculty work in progress on December 1, 2008.

In mid-October, **Jeffrey Herf** completed and submitted his book manuscript on Nazi propaganda in the Middle East during World War II and the Holocaust. It is under contract with Yale University Press. His article, "An Age of Murder: Ideology and Terror in Germany," appears in the current issue of the quarterly journal *Telos* (No. 144 (Fall 2008), pp. 8-38). He has delivered the following papers: "Nazi Germany's Arabic Language Propaganda Campaign During World War II and the Holocaust: Old Themes, New Archival Findings," on a panel he organized on "Germany's Efforts to Influence the Arab and Muslim World Before and During the Nazi Period," at the 31st Annual Meeting of the German Studies Association, October 4, 2008 St.

Paul, MN, October 2-8, 2008; "Displacement, Abstraction and Historical Specificity: Comments on the Frankfurt School's Critical Theory," at the interdisciplinary conference on "The Weimar Moment: Liberalism, Political Theology and Law," Sponsored by the Law School, Department of History and the Lubar Institute for the Study of the Abrahamic Religions, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 24-26, 2008; and "Against the Innocence of the Moment: 1968 and the Terrorist Aftermath in West Germany," delivered on November 6 at the Conference on "Promises of 1968: Crisis, Illusion, and Utopia," November 6-7, The Romanian Embassy and the Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, D.C. On November 7, 2008, he lectured on "Nazi Propaganda During World War II and the Holocaust in Germany and the Middle East" to an audience of high school teachers at the 17th annual Arkansas Holocaust Education Conference in Springdale, Arkansas.

**Hilary Jones** attended the 51st African Studies Association Meeting in Chicago, Nov. 13-16, 2008. She organized and moderated a round table discussion called "Exploring Africa's Atlantic Connections: Teaching African Diaspora." Her review of Alexander Keese, "Living with Ambiguity: Integration of an African Elite in French and Portuguese Africa (1930-1961) has just appeared in vol. 41, n.2 of the International Journal of African Historical Studies.

**Paul Landau** has been anthologized (without advance permission, btw) in *Visual Sense: A Culture Reader* (ed. Elizabeth Edwards, Kaushik Bhaumik), Berg Press/Macmillan, 2008. His essay is "The Image of Christ in the Kalahari," from the journal *Representations* (1994). It can be found here: <http://us.macmillan.com/visualsense>. The forthcoming: Cambridge Univ. Press's web page offers "July 09" as the publication date for *The Cambridge History of South Africa*. This volume, devoted to the period before 1870 (not before 1800 as the title states), has been in the works for seven years. Paul's chapter, is titled "Transformations in Consciousness." It is at: <http://www.cambridge.org/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9780521517942>

**Sonya Michel** has been named a Fulbright Senior Specialist, and she will be presenting a series of lectures on "Gender and War in American Society" at the University of Munich from January 6-23, 2009. She will also be speaking about prospects for social policy at an international symposium on "Barack Obama's America" at the University of Padua on January 14-15, 2009.

**Erika Milam** organized a workshop at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin entitled "Animal Cultures, Human Natures" November 13-15, 2008. Workshop participants sought to analyze the shifting social and scientific relationships of human and animal, self and other, domestic and wild, by investigating the intimate connections humans share with non-human animals.

**David Sartorius** presented "On Becoming Spanish: Afro-Cubans, Empire, and Loyalty" as an invited lecture at Indiana University-Bloomington on October 30, 2008 as part of "The Americas Series: Distinguished Scholars of Race in the Americas," sponsored by the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies and the Program in American Studies. On November 11, 2008 he delivered comments on a paper by Martha Jones (Michigan) at the meeting of our department's African American Political Culture Working Group. And he attended the African Studies Association's annual meeting in Chicago to participate on the "Exploring Africa's Atlantic Connections: Teaching African Diaspora" roundtable on November 16, 2008.

**David Sicilia** delivered a talk titled "International Expositions and Technology Transfer in Late Nineteenth Century Europe and the United States" at the Workshop on Trans-Pacific

Entrepreneurial Leadership in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries at Portland State University.

**Jon Sumida** presented at his book launch for *Decoding Clausewitz: A New Approach to "On War"* which was followed by Art Eckstein's commentary.

**Peter Wien** attended a conference on "Writing the history of Iraq: Historiographical and Political Challenges" at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of the University of Geneva in Switzerland. He presented a paper on "The 'Movement' of 1941 as a Turning Point in Modern Iraqi History: Generational Change and Public Memory." Friday, December 5, 2008 he will participate in the symposium on "Books, Libraries, and Modern War" at McKeldin Library. His paper will be on "Books and Historical Memory in Iraq: From Dictatorship to Occupation."

**Shane Dillingham** and **Reid Gustafson** organized the Fourth Annual Graduate Student Conference on Latin America and the Caribbean. The conference took place on October 30th and October 31st. The UMD History Department and the UMD Latin American Studies Center sponsored the successful event in which twenty-three graduate students (ten from UMD and thirteen from other schools) presented papers. Dr. Carlos de la Torre, Chair of Political Science, FLASCO-Ecuador and Fellow at the Wilson Center, gave a talk entitled, "Latin American Populism: The Foe or the Essence of Democracy?"

**Stefan Papaioannou** presented a paper entitled "Balkan Violence? An Analysis of Conflict in Macedonia during the Era of the Balkan Wars and World War I," on November 21, 2008 at the National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Philadelphia. His paper was part of a panel, "The Politics of Violence in Macedonia", organized by **James Frusetta** (Ph.D., 2006, UMD).

### **Upcoming Events**

On Monday, December 8, 2008, the APT committee will meet to vote on the Report from the Law and Society search committee. Please make sure to attend!

Friday, December 12, 2008 is the last day of Fall 2008 semester classes. Finals will take place beginning Monday, December 15, 2008 through Saturday, December 20, 2008. University Commencement will be on Saturday, December 20, 2008 at the Comcast Center.

The department will hold its annual Christmas Party on December 19, 2008 in the Merrill Room (Key 2120) beginning at 12:30PM.

Sunday, December 21, 2008 beginning at 4PM is the Department of History Commencement for Fall 2008 graduates. Faculty should begin assembling at Colony Ballroom, Stamp Student Union no later than 3:30PM. More information is forthcoming.

Winter Break begins December 25, 2008. The Department offices will remain closed through Sunday, January 4, 2009 and will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2009.

Winter classes begin January 5, 2009. If you are teaching a winter class, please be sure all copies needed are completed before December 25, 2008 as the department office will not be fully staffed.