

## Chair's Bulletin

### May 2009

#### Notables

Congratulations first of all to **Don Sutherland** whose book, *Muder in Aubagne: Lynching, Law and Justice in the French Revolution* is about to be issued by Cambridge University Press. This is a story of the intersection between the national policy of terror that was launched in early 1793 from Paris and local factional politics in places like Aubagne to produce a wave of populist violence. It makes the important point that the terror was not simply about revolutionary politics at the national level, but was also about local struggles over governance and taxation.

**Rick Bell** co-chaired *Incarceration Nation: Voices from the Early American Gaol*, a major two-day conference that took place at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia on 3-4 April. The conference was the culmination of three years of planning and fund-raising. It was devoted to examining the experience of incarceration in early America and timed to coincide with the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Eastern State Penitentiary in 1829. The conference featured twelve pre-circulated papers exploring different historical and literary contexts for understanding the carceral experience, a panel on historic preservation at ESP, and a roundtable led by three senior scholars. The organizers hope to produce an edited volume in due course.

**Antoine Borrut** presented a paper entitled "Remembering the Umayyads in the Abbasid Era" at the seminar of the Oriental Institute at Oxford University on April the 29th.

**Katherine David-Fox** presented the paper, "Anti-Semitism, Anti-Germanism and Modernity in Bohemia," and chaired a panel entitled "Historical Spaces" at the Midwest Slavic Conference, April 16-18, at The Ohio State University.

**Art Eckstein's** essay "Hellenistic Monarchy in Theory and Practice" appeared in Ryan Balot, ed., *A Companion to Greek and Roman Political Thought* (Oxford, 2009), pp. 247-265. Other contributors to the volume included Paul Cartledge, Robin Osborne and Malcolm Schofield of Cambridge, Kurt Raaflaub and David Constan of Brown, Robert Kaster of Princeton, Josiah Ober of Stanford.

**Jim Gilbert** passed his intensive German course at the Goethe Institut in Berlin. On April 28, he gave a lecture at the University of Erfurt, "The Difference of American Religion," in English.

**Saverio Giovacchini** presented a draft of the second chapter of his book to a meeting of the university's film faculty. The tentative title of the chapter is "The Racial Codes of the Cinema of the West. The International Career of John Kitzmiller". He also led a workshop titled "Historians, the Teaching of History, and the Hollywood Film" for a group of high school teachers working in local schools.

**Julie Greene** thanks her colleagues and especially the Miller Center for the splendid book launch held for *The Canal Builders* on April 24. Special thanks go to Sonya Michel for providing thoughtful comments and to Karin

Roseblatt for moderating. She will discuss the research and writing of *The Canal Builders*, as well as reactions to the book, at two local bookstores in coming weeks: Busboys and Poets (14th St. location) at 4-6 pm on Saturday, May 9; and Politics and Prose on Sunday, May 17, 1-3 pm.

**John Lampe** joined his co-author, Professor Lenard Cohen of Simon Fraser University in Vancouver to present a progress report at the Wilson Center on April 29 concerning their book project for the Wilson Center Press, "Embracing Democracy in the Western Balkans: From Post-Conflict Struggles toward European Integration". Needless to say, there was emphasis on ongoing struggles, although Professor Lampe took some satisfaction in reporting the success of Macedonia's banking sector in a recent IMF stress test.

**Lisa R. Mar** has signed a contract with Oxford University Press, New York, to publish her book manuscript, *Brokering Belonging: Chinese in Canada's Age of Exclusion, 1885-1945*.

**Marlene Mayo**, in early March (2009), was panel chair and discussant at the two-day joint Columbia University/Waseda University symposium, "Censorship, Media and Literary Culture in Japan: From Edo to Postwar." On April 4, she helped to honor the career of Professor Cecilia Segawa Seigle, University of Pennsylvania, at a special symposium, "Early Modern Japanese Women: Wives, Concubines, Courtesans, Nuns." She was reappointed as Associate Member, Seminar on Modern Japan, Columbia University, and continues to serve on the executive board. On April 29, she presided over the 30th anniversary celebration of the naming of the Gordon W. Prange Collection (April 1979), University of Maryland Libraries. Speakers at the overflow event included Japan's Ambassador to the United States; a representative from the National Diet Library of Japan; and Professor Prange's son, Winifred, who earned both his history and master's degree from our Department. The keynote speech, "Starting Over in a Shattered Land," was delivered by documentary filmmaker and National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize winning author, Professor John W. Dower, Ford International Professor of History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Sonya Michel** will present a paper entitled, "Old-Age Security for Women in the Land of Stereotypes," at a conference on "Labour Markets and Welfare States: The Nordic Model in Comparative and Transnational Historical Perspective," at Stockholm University on May 13–15. Michel will also participate in the final roundtable.

**Grace Palladino** is co-chairing a conference, "Region, Class, and Culture: New Perspectives on the American South," to be held at Rhodes College, Memphis, Tenn., June 11-13. It is being held in honor of **Pete Daniel**, curator at the National Museum of American History, and a Maryland Ph. D.

With support from the Latin American Studies Center and the Miller Center for Historical Studies, **Karin Roseblatt** organized the spring meeting of the Washington Area Seminar on the History of Latin America on March 27 and 28. More than forty faculty and graduate students from around the region attended.

On May 4, **Leslie Rowland** was the featured speaker for the Law Day celebration of the Prince George's County Bar Association. In addition to members of the bar, her audience included high school students who participated over the past year in the Seventh Judicial Circuit's mock trial competition.

**Thomas Zeller** has been offered a fellowship from U-MD's General Research Board for one semester of research leave during 2009/10. He was also invited to serve on the George Perkins Marsh Prize committee for the best book in environmental history, which is sponsored by the American Society for Environmental History. Zeller's co-edited volume *The World Beyond the Windshield* encountered a laudatory review in *Technology and Culture*, which praised "a cohesion that is rare and admirable among scholarly anthologies." Finally, Zeller has published a book chapter entitled "Der verlangsamte Verkehr. Die Herstellung von Landschaft durch Strassen im 20. Jahrhundert" in the anthology *Neue Wege in ein neues Europa: Geschichte und Verkehr im 20. Jahrhundert*, edited by Ralf Roth and Karl Schlögel (Frankfurt/New York: Campus Verlag, 2009.)

**Robert Chiles** (Ph.D., US; advisor, David Sicilia) received an Anna K. and Mary E. Cunningham Research Residency from the New York State Library as well as a Larry J. Hackman Research Residency from the New York State Archives Partnership Trust for his work on Alfred E. Smith.

**Shane Dillingham** (Ph.D., Latin American history; advisor, Mary Kay Vaughan) was awarded a 10 month dissertation research award by the Inter-American Foundation's Grassroots Development Fellowship Program to conduct research in southern Mexico. Shane also received a second Federal Language and Area Studies fellowship to participate in San Diego State University's Summer Intensive Mixtec Language Program in Oaxaca, Mexico.

**Joe Freshette** (Ph.D., Ancient Mediterranean; advisor, Eckstein) gave a paper at the annual meeting of the Society of Military History (2-5 April) entitled "The Archaic Phalanx and the Rise of the Greek Polis Reconsidered."

**Paula Halperin** (Ph.D., Latin America; advisor, Barbara Weinstein) Latin American History, was awarded with the Mary Savage Snouffer Dissertation Fellowship from the College of Arts and Humanities at the University of Maryland, for the year 2009-2010 for her thesis, "Modernization and Visual Economy: Film, Photojournalism and the Public Sphere in Brazil and Argentina, 1955-1980". Her advisor is Professor Barbara Weinstein.

**John Hardin** (Ph.D., US; advisor, Sicilia) won the 2009 Research Fellowship Award from the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, PA. They are the national archives and research center for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Rick Bell won this award in 2004.

The Graduate School has awarded **Katarina Keane** (Ph.D., US; advisor, Leslie Rowland) an Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship.

**Laura Kopp** (HiLS, U.S.; advisor, Leslie Rowland) successfully defended her Master's thesis, "Teaching the Confederacy: Textbooks in the Civil War South," to her committee, comprised of Leslie Rowland, David Grimsted, and Renee Ater, on Friday, April 24th. Upon graduation this May, Laura will continue working in Hornbake Library's Special Collections and as an Archives Technician at the National Mall and Memorial Parks.

**Melissa Kravetz** (Ph.D.; advisor, Jeffrey Herf) is presenting a paper entitled "Conforming Doctors or Pioneering Women? Reconciling Female Physicians' Work in Weimar Marriage Counseling Centers" on April 28, 2009 for the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies in Berlin, Germany. She is also presenting a paper entitled "Promoting Eugenics: Women Doctors and Marriage Counseling in Weimar Germany," on June 4, 2009, for the Women of Science, Women in Science: Figures and Representations, 18th Century to Present Conference in Grenoble, France.

**Stephanie Reichelderfer** (Ph.D., US; advisor, Julie Greene) won a \$600 first prize in for her paper, "Building the 'Cultural Bridge': Filipino, Japanese, and Chinese Student Outreach and Activism in America, 1921-1930" at the 2009 University of Maryland GRID (Graduate Research Interaction Day) Competition in History and Sociology.

**Stephen Scala**, (Ph.D., European; advisor, Jeffrey Herf) will present a paper entitled "East German New Thinking? Transnationalization, Conceptual Change, and Institutional Stasis in GDR Foreign Policy Expertise" in October at the Ninth Annual Aleksanteri Conference "Cold War Interactions Reconsidered" of the Finnish Centre for Russian and Eastern European Studies of the University of Helsinki.