

Lafayette College History Department Newsletter - 2020



What Have We Been Up To?

INDS 184 : South Africa's Past and Present

In January 2020, Professor Christopher Lee led a trip to South Africa where students studied the history of the nation, the rise and fall of Apartheid, and the legacy it left behind. In addition to in-the-classroom learning, Professor Lee planned coinciding excursions to locations such as Robben Island, the Voortrekker Monument, and the Cape of Good Hope.



Dr. Andrew Fagal ('07) Visits Lafayette

On March 4, 2020, Dr. Andrew Fagal, who graduated from Lafayette in 2007 with a dual degree in History and Economics, visited Professor DC Jackson's seminar on the history of American technology. His talk centered on the history of early industry in the United States and the connections between the federal government and private enterprise. He also discussed his recently published article, "The Mills of Liberty: Foreign Capital, Government Contracts, and the Establishment of DuPont, 1790–1820," with the class.



COVID Era Connections

While the spread of COVID-19 may have prevented the History Department from enjoying bagels and coffee together, having in-person classes, and hosting study hours in our beloved third-floor lounge, we still found ways to stay in touch and learn! From virtual major mixers to a fall semester trivia night, the department was able to stay in touch with our students during quarantine and have fun while doing it! Additionally, thanks to the efforts of our wonderful faculty, all students enrolled in History Department courses during Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 were still able to receive an enriching experience in spite of the pandemic.

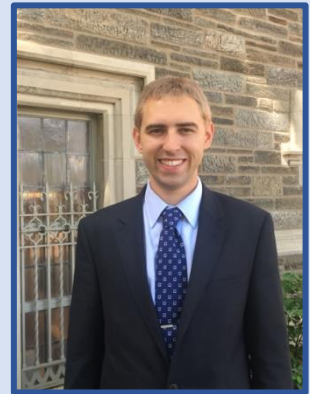
The Lafayette College History Department hosts...

VIRTUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

WITH UP TO \$100 WORTH OF PRIZES TO
BE WON! JOIN US FOR YOUR CHANCE TO
WIN A GIFT CARD! 1ST PLACE PRIZE =
\$50 E-GIFTCARD

Alumni Activities

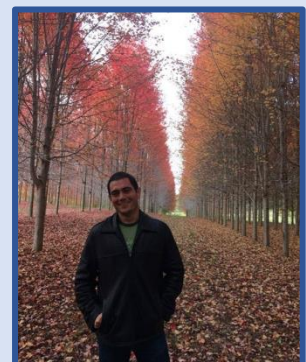
Tyler Bamford '12 received his doctoral degree in history from Temple University in 2019. During his time at Lafayette, he took a broad range of courses that included history, art history, German, and Chinese. Tyler spent three years as an EXCEL Scholar for Professor Donald L. Miller helping research his book, *Supreme City: How Jazz Age Manhattan Gave Birth to Modern America*. Tyler also contributed to HBO and History Channel documentaries on World War II and completed an honors thesis on Sino-American relations during World War II under the guidance of Professor Paul D. Barclay. While studying at Temple, Tyler enjoyed teaching undergraduate courses on U.S. military culture, World War II, and the rise of totalitarianism in Europe. His dissertation examined the relationship between the U.S. and British armies between World War I and World War II. His research and studies have been supported by the Army Heritage Center Foundation, the Society for Military History, ABC-Clio, and the Beinecke Scholarship Program. Upon completing his PhD, Tyler received the Leventhal Research Fellowship at The National World War II Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana.



Geoffrey Gresh '02 is an Associate Professor of International Relations at National Defense University in Washington, DC. He is a proud double major in History and French from Lafayette where he wrote his honors thesis on the late 19th century bankruptcy of the Ottoman Empire with Professors Fix, Weiner, and Peleg. He remains deeply indebted to and appreciative of the Lafayette history department. After Lafayette, Geoffrey was awarded a Presidential Scholarship at the American University in Cairo, Egypt and a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship to Istanbul, Turkey. He received a Ph.D. in International Relations and MALD from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Most recently, Geoffrey was named as a U.S.-Japan Foundation Leadership Fellow, an Associate Member of the Corbett Centre for Maritime Policy Studies at King's College in London, and as a term member to the Council on Foreign Relations. He is the author of *Gulf Security and the U.S. Military: Regime Survival and the Politics of Basing* (Stanford University Press) and the forthcoming *To Rule Eurasia's Waves: The New Great Power Competition at Sea* (Yale University Press). Geoffrey's research has also appeared in the *World Affairs Journal*, *Foreign Policy*, and several first-tier specialist journals.



James Homsey '03 received his doctoral degree in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in December 2017. James is a socio-political historian of modern Japan with training in the premodern and modern history of Japan, China, and the broader Asia-Pacific region. He is currently on the academic job market and plans to pursue a career in academia. James first developed an interest in the history and culture of the Asia-Pacific region thanks to his advisor at Lafayette, Paul Barclay. Inspired by Barclay's classes, James set off to Nagoya, Japan in 2005 to teach English. What he expected to be a year-long adventure turned into a four year experience. After developing his Japanese language abilities, James decided to apply to graduate school in 2009 to study Japanese history. He landed in

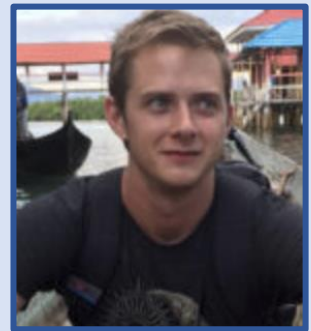


Madison, Wisconsin under the guidance of Louise Young, and has never looked back. James has returned to Japan several times since, including as a Fulbright Fellow, and now considers the country a second home. He says that his experience at Lafayette instilled in him a curiosity and ambition that have fueled him along the path of his young academic career. He will be sure to keep us posted regarding where his journey takes him next.

Kamini Masood '19 has been teaching history at a high school in her hometown of Lahore, Pakistan. She is also currently engaged in a Persian program to learn how to read manuscripts before graduate school. Although she came to Lafayette as an IA major, she “switched to History early on and the department has been incredibly supportive in every way both during my time at Lafayette and as I look to apply to graduate programs now.” In her graduating year, Kamini won the department’s best thesis award for her study “Within the ‘Chaadar’ and Chaardivari’: Haseena Moin, General Zia-ul-Haq, and New Histories of Pakistan,” under the direction of Professor Rachel Goshgarian. Kamini was also recipient of the Class of 1910 Award for achievement as a history major. In February 2020, Kamini was accepted into Columbia University’s PhD program for history, she was also named as the Richard Hofstadter Fellow.



Ian Morse '17 is a journalist of natural resources currently in Seattle, WA, on the unceded, traditional lands of the Duwamish people. After graduating with a history and mathematics-economics double major in 2017, Ian turned down an offer to continue studying at a top-tier institution and chose to teach English in rural Indonesia through Fulbright. He stayed to report for Mongabay, Al Jazeera, The Washington Post, The New York Times and others on natural disaster and extractive businesses in rural Indonesia, the world’s top producer of palm oil and nickel ore. After almost three years there, he moved to Seattle and continues to investigate topics in Indonesia, report on science and the environment, and maintain a newsletter on the dirty mining behind clean energy, called *Green Rocks*. He attended high school in Germany, studied abroad in Istanbul, Turkey and Cambridge, England, and speaks Indonesian and German. While at Lafayette, he was a finalist for the George Wharton Pepper Prize, won the history department’s Class of 1910 award, and was the managing editor for the Lafayette student paper.



Ted Ruthizer '69 graduated with honors in history and considers Lafayette to have had one of the strongest undergraduate history departments in the country. Ted went on to Columbia Law School, '72, and to a long career as a prominent immigration lawyer and law professor at Columbia. He retired at the end of 2019 as a partner and head of the business immigration group of his 400 lawyer law firm, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel, based in its New York office. He also taught an advanced seminar on immigration law and policy at Columbia Law School for 20 years. He served as president and later as general counsel of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the national bar association for immigration lawyers and teachers. While at Lafayette, Ted was a McKelvy Scholar for two years and considered that experience life changing. As a history major, Ted was particularly influenced by Professors Richard Welch and Jacob Cooke, both of whom were not only first rate scholars, but also wonderful teachers of history. Professor Welch used to have students come to dinner at his house, a tradition that Ted continued while a professor at Columbia Law School. Ted returned to



Lafayette a few years ago to deliver a lecture to students and faculty on immigration policy and to speak to McKelvy Scholars.

George “Mason” Thomson ’16 is studying law at the University of Virginia. In addition to pursuing his newly acquired passion for the study of torts, Mason recently passed a test to become a Certified Application Counselor. He can now help the Charlottesville community make informed decisions about their health insurance through the Legal Aid Justice Center during open enrollment. Mason also reports that, despite the heavy workload, UVA is known for being a “fun” law school. He is currently a first baseman on his section’s softball team, to give one example of the fun to be had between bouts of study and volunteer work. At Lafayette, Mason completed an honors thesis in History and German under the direction of Bob Weiner, Margarete Lamb- Faffelberger, and DC Jackson, on the topic of German repatriation after the defeat in World War II. He says that “Identifying, understanding, and empathizing with different perspectives during my study of history has been invaluable for my experience at law school, there is no shortage of arguments to be read, and the skills I obtained in undergrad help me effectively synthesize these debates as I prepare for my exams.”



A Message To Alum :

If you are an alumnus of the Lafayette College History Department, then we need your help! We would love you to send us information on what you have been doing since graduation, in order to help and inspire our current students. We are trying to compile as much useful information about our graduates as possible, so please get in touch! Additionally, if you have any work experience or internship opportunities which you can offer to our current students then please let us know. We are currently trying to shift the history major to incorporate an extracurricular opportunity, so would love to be able to offer students opportunities that come straight from our very own alumni! Please email our Department Head, Paul Barclay, at barclayp@lafayette.edu!

Phi Alpha Theta

This semester we inducted twenty-six new members into Lafayette's Beta Xi chapter of the National History Honors Society - Phi Alpha Theta. In order to be invited to the society, students must have taken at least three history courses at Lafayette and meet the national honors society's standard for GPA. In non-COVID times, members are invited to Phi Alpha Theta workshops and field trips. Phi Alpha Theta also sponsors scholarships, conferences, and other opportunities for its members.

Julia Beckett
Jules Bernstein
Rachel Bram
Julia Cassidy
Katie Gear
Eric Gourdon
Yuri Guanowsky
Duncan Harding
Julia Hoffman

Tim Hugo
Ren Makino
Stefano Mancini
Alison Maxwell
Robert Maxwell
Molly Morris
Ryan Motto
Anna Nollan
Connor O'Neill

Natasha Otton
Elizabeth Penn
Ilias Pihlas
Olivia Sharp
Tristan Smith
Angelique Taveras
Jillian Updegraff
Hannah Winslow

This year, the History Department welcomed Class of 2010 alum, **Christy Fic** to speak at the virtual Phi Alpha Theta Induction Ceremony. Fic currently serves as the Archivist & Special Collections Librarian at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania, where she also holds a position as an Associate Professor. After graduating from Lafayette, Fic attended the University of Pittsburgh where she received her Master's in Library and Information Science with a specialization in archives, preservation, and records management. She then earned a second Master's in Applied History from Shippensburg University. At the ceremony, Fic gave a presentation about the recent work she did on the preservation and design of the Cumberland Valley Railroad Museum at the Shippensburg Station in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The centerpiece of the museum is a restored 1956 boxcar, which contains a variety of historical railroad artifacts.



May 6, 2020 Virtual Honors and Awards Ceremony

Congratulations to our graduating history majors from the Class of 2020!

Philip Arnett, Rachel Bram, Emily Codispoti, Courtney Cohen, Graham Davidson, Alexandra DeSantis, Gwendolyn Ellis, Errol Flynn, Rochelle Greenridge, Duncan Harding, Madeline Hoffman, Maxwell Kushner, Mackenzie Lawlor, Robert Maxwell, Jack Mueller, Shea Neuner, Ilias Pihas, Matthew Schoenfeld, Gabrielle Tropp, Kristie Valentin, Ruhao Wen.

AWARDS & HONORS

Rachel Bram was awarded the **Colonel Wilson B. Powell '32 Award** for the best history seminar paper. Her winning paper was titled “Abolitionist and Non-Abolitionist Newspapers on the Caning of Charles Sumner,” which she wrote for Professor Deborah Rosen’s course on Abolitionist and Civil Rights Movements in Early American History.

Gabby Tropp, Rachel Bram, and Gwendolyn Ellis were awarded the **Class of 1910 Prize**, which is awarded by the History Department to seniors who have excelled in the study of history or in an allied field of humanities and who, in the determination of the department, manifest the greatest promise for responsible civic leadership and public service.

The award for **Best Thesis of 2019 - 2020** was awarded jointly to **Rachel Bram** for “Unsanctioned Slave Revolts of the Civil War: How Enslaved People Destroyed Slavery and Emancipated Themselves” (advised by Jeremy Zallen) and **Gabby Tropp** for “Man, Myth, and Legend: El Cid in the Expression of Spanish Nationalism” (advised by Paul Barclay)



Honorable Mentions for thesis work include Courtney Cohen, Gwen Ellis, Errol Flynn, Mackenzie Lawlor, Ren Makino, Robert Maxwell, Matt Schoenfeld, and Amy Wen.

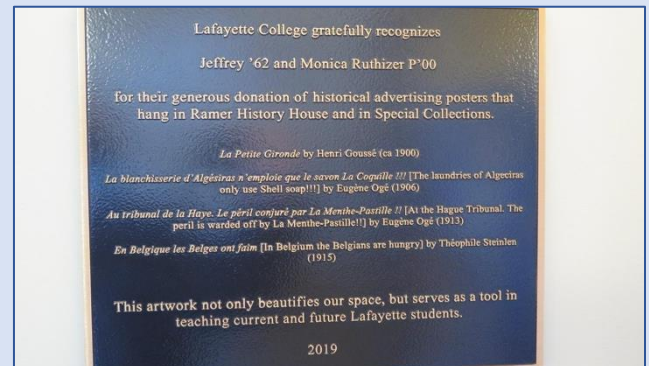
The **Phi Alpha Theta Beta Xi Chapter Prize for Best Introductory Seminar Paper** was awarded to **Katie Frost** for her work entitled “Suffrage Restrictions in the Jim Crow Era and the Hypocrisy of the North” written for Professor Jeremy Zallen’s course on Race and Ethnicity in America 1500 to Present.

The **Diane Windham Shaw Prize for Excellence in Historical Methods** was awarded jointly to **Katie Gear** and **Stefano Mancini** for superior performance in History 206: The Politics and Practice of History.

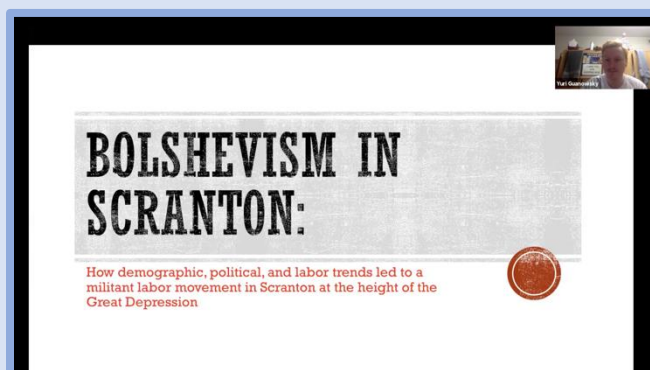
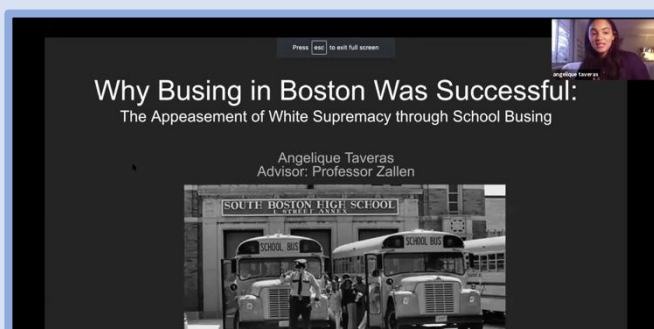
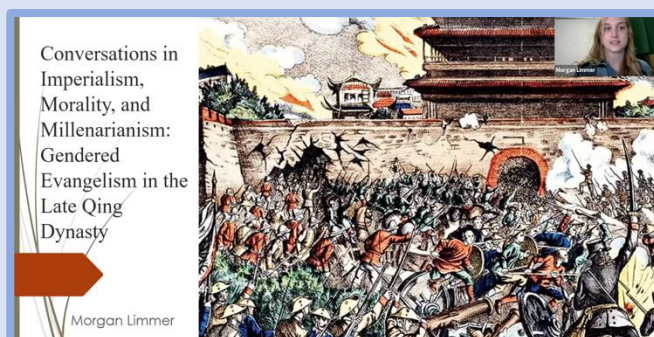
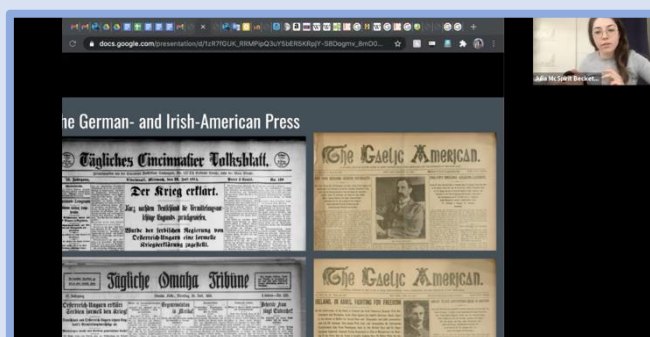
A Message of Gratitude

The history department heartily thanks Jeffrey '62 and Monica Ruthizer P'00 for the beautiful and historically illuminating artwork that now graces the study rooms and hallways of the Ramer History House. Another framed poster has been cataloged in Skillman Library Special Collections for classroom and research use. Jeff graduated with a degree in history and went on to earn a Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School. He began his legal career, first as an attorney for the federal government, and then joined ABC in 1968 for the start of his 40-year career in the broadcasting industry. His career also included senior labor relations positions at NBC and RKO. Ruthizer retired as senior vice president of labor relations from the Walt Disney Company in 2009.

Looking back, Ruthizer feels his Lafayette experience greatly contributed to his success, both in his career and personal life. In fact, his connection to Lafayette has remained so strong that he has served as class president for nearly 25 years, in addition to other leadership roles including serving on the Lafayette Leadership Council and various alumni committees. "There were many professors, fraternity brothers, classmates, alumni, and friends who impacted me in my life and growth that I feel it is important to honor their memory," says Ruthizer.



CURRENT THESIS CANDIDATES



Julia Beckett –

Advised by Professor Sanborn

Meagan Deacon –

Advised by Professor Sequin

Yuri Guanowski –

Advised by Professor Zallen

Morgan Limmer –

Advised by Professor Barclay

Angelique Taveras –

Advised by Professor Zallen

Hannah Winslow –

Advised by Professor Goshgarian

On February 15th, 2021, current thesis candidates virtually presented their progress on their research and writing to faculty within the History Department.

Faculty

Department Head Paul Barclay directed four honors theses, three in history and one in Asian Studies, by members of the class of 2020 (Gabby Tropp, Ruhao Wen, Mackenzie Lawlor, and Ren Makino). He also won the Lafayette College Advisor of the Year Award for 2020. Barclay delivered guest lectures at Harvard, Georgetown, and Tsinghua (in Beijing) Universities, and published an article-length entry "Japanese Empire in Taiwan" in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History*. The expanded and updated Chinese-language version of his book *Outcasts of Empire* was published by Taiwan National University Press this year, in addition to book chapters based on new research in the volumes *Visualizing Fascism* (Duke University Press) and the *Musha Incident Reader* (Rye Field Press).

Louisa Foroughi joined the department in fall 2020 as assistant professor of medieval and early modern European history. She specializes in the social and cultural history of the peasantry in late medieval England and completed her dissertation at Fordham University in May. She taught two new courses this fall, "Race and Material Culture in Early Modern Europe" and "The History of Medieval Europe," and will offer two more in the spring, "Magic + Miracles: Medieval Religion" and "Renaissance to Revolution: Early Modern Europe." This spring she will present her research virtually at the Medieval Social and Economy History Seminar at the University of Cambridge and at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI.

Donald Jackson's essay "TVA and The Price of Progress: Elia Kazan's *Wild River* (1960)" is to appear in the compendium *American Energy Cinema* to be published by the University of West Virginia Press later this year. This book will include essays by 17 energy historians, each looking at a different American film in which energy and its uses (or abuses) are a central theme. Elia Kazan was an Academy Award winning director whose 1960 film *Wild River* dramatizes the effect of a large hydroelectric dam—which will help bring electricity to the rural South—upon a family forced to move out of their ancestral home because of impending inundation by a large reservoir. Jackson's essay examines how the film relates to both Kazan's evolution as a director and to growing concerns in the post-World War II era about the environmental impact of large energy systems. Jackson's book *Heavy Ground: William Mulholland and the St. Francis Dam Disaster* (co-authored with the late UCLA Professor Norris Hundley) is now available in a paperback and Kindle edition published by the University of Nevada Press; *Heavy Ground* won the 1917 Sally Hacker Prize from the Society for the History of Technology for displaying "exceptional scholarship" while reaching for readers "beyond the academy."

Hafsa Kanjwal is currently on sabbatical for the 2020-2021 academic year to work on her book manuscript *Controlling Kashmir: Client Regimes and the Politics of State-building* (1953-1963). In May 2020, she was awarded the John T. McCartney Excellence in Diversity Education Award at Lafayette College. Her essay "The New Kashmiri

Women: State-led Feminism in Naya Kashmir" was published in the edited volume, *Can you Hear Kashmiri Women Speak? Narratives of Resistance and Resilience*. She remains engaged in public interventions on the ongoing crisis in Kashmir, speaking at the Center for South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies at Tufts University, the Islamophobia Studies Center in Berkeley, CA, the Center for Islam in Global Affairs at the Istanbul Sabahhatin University in Turkey, and other universities and community spaces.

Christopher J. Lee was on sabbatical last year, during which he held research fellowships at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (South Africa) and the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (Scotland). He was also invited to give lectures at universities in Munich, Johannesburg, and Beijing. He completed two books which are forthcoming in 2021, including *Kwame Anthony Appiah, a critical introduction to the ideas and philosophy of the British-Ghanaian intellectual*, and *Culture and Liberation: Exile Writings, 1966-1985*, an anthology of essays by the South African writer and anti-apartheid activist Alex La Guma (1925-1985). Finally, he also co-led a new interim program in South Africa in January for Lafayette students with Prof. William Bissell of the Anthropology and Sociology Department.

Rebekah Pite was thrilled to publish two articles connected to new avenues of research in 2020. Together with research librarian Ana Ramirez Luhrs, she wrote an article that appeared in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History* on doing digital research on food and food history in Latin America. She also published the first article related to her current major research project on the history of the stimulating South American drink called yerba mate in the *Journal of Social History*. There, she analyzed the visual history of gender, nation, and the goodbye mate ritual in 19th and early-20th -century Argentina and Uruguay. Professor Pite dedicated her one-semester Spring 2020 sabbatical to writing her next book, which is provisionally entitled, *Drinking to Belong: How Yerba Mate Shaped South America*. She enjoyed reentering the classroom in Fall 2020 to teach "Food Histories of the Americas" and "Crossing the Americas: Latin American Migrations and Latinos" with a group of highly motivated students.

Joshua Sanborn is continuing to work on a new book on the Cold War, provisionally entitled *Bad Romance: Spies, Scientists, and the Politics of Adventure in the Cold War*, which examines spy communities, scientists, spy fiction, and science fiction in the Soviet Union and the United States during the Cold War. He is also writing journal articles related to this theme, including one on the computerization of the KGB in the 1970s and 1980s. In addition, he and his co-author Annette Timm have nearly finished work on the third edition of their text *Gender, Sex, and the Shaping of Modern Europe: From the French Revolution to the Present Day* (Bloomsbury Press). He is now teaching courses on the Cold War in addition to his other courses on Russian and Soviet History, on "Human Rights and Modern War," and on "Sex in Modern Europe."

Caroline Séguin published an article in French and in English titled "The Moving Contours of Colonial Prostitution (Fort-de-France, Martinique, 1940-1947)" in *Clio*.

Femmes, Genre, Histoire, the French journal leading in the history of women, gender, and sexuality. In the fall she gave a virtual talk on imperial migration, race, and sexual labor between France and Senegal in the interwar period at the Institute of French Studies at New York University. She was also a virtual guest speaker at the University of London, where she discussed historical methodology, specifically how to write a microhistory of historical subjects that typically leave few records behind, taking the example of an infamous French brothel keeper. Even though her attendance at the three conferences she was scheduled to present was cancelled due to the covid-19 global pandemic, she found opportunities to present various chapters of her book in progress at virtual workshops. Dr Séquin is looking forward to resuming international travel in order to complete archival work in France.

Jeremy Zallen's newly published book, *American Lucifers: The Dark History of Artificial Light, 1750-1865* (University of North Carolina Press), was a 2020 finalist for the George Perkins Marsh Prize for best book in environmental history awarded by the American Society for Environmental History, and was the winner of the 2020 Albert J. Beveridge Award in American history for most distinguished book on the history of the United States, Latin America, or Canada, from 1492 to the present, awarded by the American Historical Association. In fall of 2019 he presented a paper related to his next book project titled, “Saltwater Marronage: Making the Pacific into a Fugitive Geography,” at the Western History Association Conference (Las Vegas). He continues giving invited talks on *American Lucifers* and researching the maritime pathways of people escaping US enslavement.