

Mitra Sharafi on her studies at McGill and career as a legal historian



I am a legal historian of South Asia at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where I am a Professor at the Law School. I teach contract law to first-year law students. I also teach undergraduate Legal Studies and History courses on Legal Pluralism and the History of Forensic Science. Part of the reason why I became a scholar is because of my wonderful undergraduate studies at the Department of History and Classical Studies, McGill University. After my History B.A., I went on to receive a law degree at Cambridge and then another at Oxford (the U.K. equivalent of a J.D. and LL.M.), followed by a Ph.D. in History at Princeton. My B.A. studies (1992-96) were some of the most intellectually rewarding of all. I am delighted to share some of the ways that McGill History has shaped me as a scholar and a teacher.

One of the great things about B.A. studies is that there is a lot of freedom to choose one's courses. My winning formula was to find the most inspiring teachers and take every course they offered. Before graduate school, I spent most of my time reading and writing as a result, I did

not know how to skim. I used to put in extensive hours at McLennan-Redpath Library. In my later years, I had been given a carrel there. It helped a lot to have my own space in a corner of the library. My professors at McGill made me write many long research papers, which I now see as an act of generosity. I will never forget the many sprints down Milton Street to get my papers time-stamped at the History department's office before it closed!

My female mentors at McGill's History department exposed me to various attributes of scholarly life. During a particular summer term, Prof. Elizabeth Elbourne gave me my first job as a research assistant. She had photocopies of the handwritten journals of an English missionary in 19th-century South Africa. My work was to decode the handwriting and transcribe the text. This provided me with a brilliant exposure of what it was like to work with primary documents obtained from an archive on the other side of the world.

Prof. Faith Wallis was also a very important mentor to me. I took all of her courses and learned a lot about medieval European medical history (especially urine analysis!). My senior thesis was on the history of the book. Every Friday, Prof. Wallis would spend an hour or two guiding me through McGill Rare Books' collection of medieval codices. That was an experience I will never forget, given the age and beauty of that collection. Now that I am a Professor, I can say that this was an astonishing investment of time and energy by Prof. Wallis! I was very lucky. I wrote a senior thesis on Medieval Codicology, and also put on an exhibit in the lobby of the library.

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McGill

Chair's Greeting



As I write, during the summer of 2021, we are still affected by Covid, doing our level best to recharge batteries tested by months of online teaching and learning, restricted movement, and social distancing. We monitor vaccination rates, especially among 16 to 29-year-olds, and contemplate the return to campus with a mix of apprehension and relief. There have been silver linings in the academic world—among them opportunities to give talks to new audiences, or hear speakers online from different parts of the globe. Some have found more quiet time to think and write. For many more, there have been strains of one sort or another; some have contended, directly or indirectly, with serious illness and even the death of loved ones. Those with school-aged children have been closest to the “front lines,” experiencing the day-to-day anxieties about infections. As we pin our hopes on widespread vaccination and a gradual return to university life we once took for granted, I hope that we will continue to cultivate the solidarity that has allowed us to come through these months as well as we have. Our outgoing Chair, Jason Opal, epitomized this concern for others, and brings the same virtues to his research projects. We await his book on pandemics with great curiosity, and wish him well also with his work on Barbados, the “first black slave society.”

Given the circumstances, it is all the more remarkable to read within these pages about what colleagues and students, past

and present, in the Department of History and Classical Studies have been up to. A credit-card size papyrus that casually alludes to Jesus’s wife; New York City illuminated by the work of Cape Breton miners; digital mapping of Madagascar...I thank our energetic, outgoing Outreach director, Lorenz Lüthi for gathering so many good stories, and generously editing another issue of *Chronos*. Thanks also to Twisha Singh, for steady work on layout in the midst of her own Covid trials and losses.

In other news, Professor Allan Greer will be retiring from the Department at the end of this summer. Characteristically, the very last course he taught was a brand new, experimental one on the deep history of Canada, beginning with the formation of the land itself. His students have helped launch him into retirement with head buzzing, and plans to visit archeological sites from the Arctic, to the West Coast, and to Newfoundland and Labrador.

There are departures, but there is also renewal. We are delighted to be conducting searches for two new colleagues this year. Fundraising for an endowed Chair in German history was generously launched by Professor Emeritus Peter Hoffmann. We are now in a position to fill the Chair that bears his name, and are eager to see what the most promising scholars in the field are working on today. We will also be hiring in African History, complementing our offerings in Middle-Eastern, South African, Indian Ocean, and African diaspora history.

I invite you to read on to learn more about what colleagues and students have been up over the last year.

Catherine Desbarats

Mitra Sharafi *continued*

My research is now on British India during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, an area adjacent to Prof. Elbourne’s teaching and research in that we are looking at different parts of the British empire. It was a great pleasure to be part of the same workshop at Queen’s University with her a few years ago!

Although I do not work on medieval Europe, Prof. Wallis’s influence planted seeds in many ways. My current book project, *Fear of the False: Forensic Science in Colonial India*, examines the intersection of law, science, and medicine in South Asian history. I am returning to many themes from Prof. Faith Wallis’s courses, including the history of medicine, science, expert knowledge, and the professions.

I am beginning an article project on the history of law books. I went to Rare Books School several summers ago and took a marvelous course on rare law books at the Yale Law Library. The University of Wisconsin Law Library is now collecting rare law treatises from colonial India that I intend to use for my study. Prof. Wallis’s guidance sparked an interest in me in the history of the book. I’m excited to return to it a quarter century after our Friday afternoons at McGill Rare Books.

For my senior thesis project, I learned about the medieval and classical memory arts. I now use concepts from medieval memory arts to come up with visual mnemonic devices in contract law. Law is usually taught textually, not visually. But there is a new movement, coming out of Stanford’s Legal Design Lab, to visually represent legal information. This new media influence has come together with the medieval memory arts in my Contracts I classroom.

It was a real pleasure to spend four years living in the heart of Montreal. One of my greatest pandemic baking achievements has been to try to recreate Montreal bagels at home, thanks to Dessert Person by Claire Saffitz. She is another graduate of the McGill History department (see *Chronos* #6.2020).

Incidentally, I met my husband, Jean-Luc Thiffeault, at UW–Madison when we both started teaching here in 2007. He grew up in Montreal and we overlapped as undergraduates at McGill, although we never met. I probably passed him on the street while sprinting to the History department on a deadline day!

Congratulations!

Faculty

Professor **David Wright** was inducted as a Fellow to the Royal Society of Canada. Professor **Griet Vankeerberghen** received two SSHRC grants (Insight and Connection) as co-applicant with Professor **Raja Sengupta** (Geography) for her research on “Enhancing Animated Web Maps of Historical Change through Temporal Topology and the Visualization of Uncertainty” and for a conference entitled “Enhanced Interactive Web Mapping of Chinese History for the Western Han Period.” Professor **Jeremy Tai** won a SSHRC Insight Development Grant for a project entitled “Racial Capitalism and Social Difference in Modern China.” Professor **Judith Szapor** won the *The Judith B. and Burton P. Resnick Invitational Scholar for the Study of Anti-Semitism fellowship* for her research project “Antisemitism, Gender, Mobility: The Impact of the Numerus Clausus in Hungary, 1920-1948” at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. Professor Heidi Wendt won the Arts Distinction in Research Award at McGill for 2021.

Professor **Allan Greer** was awarded the 2020 J. B. Tyrell Historical Medal from the Royal Society of Canada for his outstanding work in the history of Canada, and Professor **Lorenz Lüthi** won the 2021 Excellence Award of the Chinese Historians of the United States (CHUS) for his 2020 book *Cold Wars: Asia, the Middle East, Europe*.

Dr. **Melissa N. Shaw**, currently a post-doc but incoming as professor in 2022, has received the 2021-21 Ph.D. dissertation prize of Queens University for her dissertation on “Blackness and British ‘Fair Play’: Burgeoning Black Social Activism in Ontario and Grassroots Responses to the Canadian Color Line, 1919-1939.” Dr. **Philip Gooding**, currently a post-doc at the IOWC, received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant for his project “Climate History and Human-Environment Interaction in Equatorial Eastern Africa, c.1780-1900.”

Ph.D. Students

Dr. **Yusuf Karabacak** (Ph.D. 2020) received the McGill Arts Insights Dissertation Award in the Humanities/Social Sciences for his dissertation “Local Patriots and Ecumenical Ottomans: The Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople in the Ottoman Configuration of Power, 1768-1828”. Dr. **Geoffrey Wallace** (Ph.D. 2020) won the 2020 American Society for Environmental History’s Rachel Carson Dissertation Prize for his dissertation “History and Geography of Beeswax Extraction in the Northern Maya Lowlands, 1540-1700.” Dr. **Stephan Pigeon** (Ph.D. 2020) received a two-year SSHRC Post-doctoral Fellowship, which he will spend at Dalhousie University. Dr. **Pigeon** also received honourable mentions for the Margaret A. Blanchard Dissertation Prize (American Journalism Historians Association) and the Sally Mitchell Dissertation Prize (Research Society for Victorian Periodicals). Dr. **M. Max Hamon** (Ph.D. 2018) was awarded the 2020 Prix de l’Assemblée nationale du Québec for his 2020 book *The Audacity of His Enterprise*; his book was also a finalist for the Quebec Writers Federation Non-fiction Book prize.

Erica Bowler (PhD2) won the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS) Doctoral Award for her dissertation project “An Ex-Brothel Keeper’s Faith and Social Work: An Exploration of 19th-century Human Rights and Children’s Health”. Three Ph.D. students received SSHRC doctoral

grants: **Esther Guillen** (PhD4) for her dissertation project “Hail O Philosopher: Problematizing the Reception of the Gospel of Matthew in Justin Martyr’s Ancient Mediterranean World”, **Michael LaMonica** (PhD5) for his dissertation project “Adjudicating Maritime Empire: The French Colonial Admiralty Courts of North America and the West Indies, 1717-1792”, and **Russell Arbic** (incoming Ph.D.) for his dissertation project “At the Limits of Empire: Auxiliary Forces in the American Revolution’s Southern Theatre”.

Li Parrent (PhD5) won the McGill’s Wolfe Graduate Fellowship for the academic year 2021-22, and the 2021 Einar and Eva Lund Haugen Scholarship from the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study. **Twisha Singh** (PhD5) was awarded the Wolfe Chair in Scientific and Technological Literacy Fellowship for the year 2021-2022, and the Youth Excellence Award 2021 of the International Human Rights Organization (India) for her research on gender and theatre history in colonial and post-colonial contexts. **Dimitris Machlouta** (PhD2) received a Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation Fellowship for Excellence in Graduate Education 2021-2022, the Cotsen Traveling Fellowship for Research in Greece 2021-2022, and the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal Scholarship 2020-2021. **Michael LaMonica** (PhD5) won the H. Anthony Hampson Award from the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada.

Undergraduate Students

Ffion Hughes (B.A. 2020) received a Rhodes Scholarship to go to Oxford University for an MPhil in History of Medicine. **Christiane-Marie Cantwell** (B.A. 2020) was awarded the Faculty of Arts 2021 Moysse Travelling Scholarship, which she will use to go to Cambridge University for an MA in Classics and Archaeology. **Emma Davidson** (B.A. 2020) won a 2020 award of the Undergraduate Essay Prize competition of the North American Conference on British Studies for her essay “The Medieval English Ghost and Disease: An Analysis of the Twelfth-Century Revenant.” **Athina Khalid** (B.A. 2020) received the 2020-21 William-Weintraub Prize for her short film “La ville paralysée.”

The History stream of the department has given scholarships, awards and prizes to the following students: **Hana Bobrow-Strain** (Charlton Cameron Scholarship); **Julian Miller** and **Félix Gariépy** (Maurice and Sara Greenblatt Memorial Scholarships); **Aniket Sen** (Historical Society’s Prize); **Dalton Liggett** (Madeline Hodgson Prize in History); **Alison Dringenberg** (Senator Lazarus Phillips Scholarship in History); and **Eyitayo Kunle-Oladosu** (Guy Champagne Award).

The Classics stream of the department has awarded scholarships, awards and prizes to the following students: **Robert Hinrichsen** (Charles Alexander Scholarship); **Taryn Power** (Dr. James Barclay Scholarship); **Felix Gariépy**, **Cindy Zeng**, and **Marie Christine Levesque** (Sir Edward Beatty Memorial Scholarships in Classics); **Nakajima Keisuke** (Henry Chapman Medal); **Na An**, **Anita Martin**, **Pierina Gonzalez Cautela**, **Madison Laxer**, **Zoe Louchet**, **Alisa Chernis**, **Sara Rahajason**, and **Shaam Beed** (Paul F. McCullagh Prizes in Ancient Greek and Latin); **Diontay Wolfries** and **Daisy Bonsall** (Peterson Memorial Scholarships in Classics); **Alicia Goganian** (Michael Silverthorne Book Prize); and **Charlène Frigon-Beaupré** (Barbara Scott Scholarship).

What a great year! Congratulations to all!

“New Wine in Old Wineskins:” Early Christianity as the History of Religion in the Roman Empire

By Heidi Wendt

In 2012, a papyrus fragment roughly the size of a credit card (1.6 in x 3.1 in) sparked a rife debate among ancient historians about matters ranging from authenticity to celibacy to the shadows that personal identity casts on scholarly research. The text was introduced to the academy and broader public by Professor Karen King, the first woman appointed as Harvard Divinity School’s Hollis Professor of Divinity. King had learnt of the fragment when an anonymous private owner contacted her to study the text. Allegedly, he had purchased it from another collector as part of a cache of papyri first acquired in the 1960s; otherwise, much about its provenance was unknown. After consulting with two renowned papyrologists, King determined that the fragment was from a fourth-century Coptic copy of an original manuscript likely composed in Greek in the late second century CE.

Thus far, nothing seemed amiss: full versions of even the New Testament gospels are preserved no earlier than the fourth century, although papyrus fragments of varying size and fidelity are dated earlier. The controversy surrounding *this* fragment had far more to do with a combination of standard questions about the authenticity of any putatively ancient artifact and one phrase in its scanty contents. It included on the recto a broken exchange, “The disciples said to Jesus, ...deny. Mary is (not?) worthy of it. ...Jesus said to them, “My wife...she is able to be my disciple...”

For all the scholarly dissension and public hullabaloo it instigated, the so-called Gospel of Jesus’s Wife was a fairly unremarkable text. King was clear that its historical value, if any, lay not in some tradition it preserved about Jesus, but in what it revealed about how later Christians imagined him. The apparent claim he had a wife was of a piece with contemporaneous writings that cast him as a divine being who watched mockingly as either his human avatar or a decoy was crucified in his stead. What interested King as she began to investigate the matter was how little attention early Christian writers paid to Jesus’s marital status. The earliest known author to address it explicitly—Clement of Alexandria, who likewise dates to the late second century—reports that some Christians justified their own commitment to virginal celibacy on the grounds that Jesus was unmarried. Other writers who invoke Jesus’s marital status blend metaphor with historical argument: he cannot have married because he was spiritually wedded to the Church. Ultimately, the prevailing certitude about Jesus’s celibacy would have far more to do with much later institutional practices it justified.

Subsequent analysis and details that have emerged about the fragment’s owner tilt in favor of it being a forgery. But it is no less valuable as a retrospective on what it means to approach earliest Christianity as a critical historian rather than as a theologian, although these two prerogatives often go hand-in-hand. Despite King’s repeated insistence that the text was, if authentic, of no relevance to the quest for the historical Jesus, many bristled at her suggestions all the

same. Serious challenges to its antiquity hung on the intricacies of Coptic grammar or radiocarbon dating, but several scholars questioned her motivations



Gospel of Jesus’s Wife, *recto*

in gendered, ad hominem terms: King’s “feminist agenda” led her to affirm precisely what she wanted to see. This kind of criticism was not only beside the point, but maybe also more revealing of what those who levied it were anxious to protect. If there was a lesson to be taken away from the Jesus’s Wife affair it was the value of a question King drilled into her own students: “What is ‘the evidence’ evidence of?” Or, as I understand her, an ancient source only becomes “evidence” in relation to a clear sense of what it might illuminate.

One challenge facing historians of pre-Constantinian Christianity—the period from the life of the historical Jesus to the legitimation of a particular concept or tradition of “Christianity” by a fourth-century Roman emperor—is that the principal archive informing this history is largely fixed. Apart from occasional discoveries, any new pieces of the puzzle are few and far between. And even when such sources surface, there is no consensus regarding whether or how they contribute to reconstructions of earliest Christianity, especially in the first two centuries, when what it meant to be a Christian was largely up for grabs. All the more so in light of the theological prerogatives that have guided much of this historical research.

How, then, does the historian of early Christianity forge fresh avenues of inquiry while hindered by both a dearth of new evidence and a historiography deeply entrenched in confessional investments? Scholarship of the last decades has looked increasingly to evidence from the Greco-Roman ecosystem of early Christians, identifying strong affinities between their writings and classical intellectual and literary culture. My own work contributes to these efforts while also attempting to invert the methodological perspective that often frames them. If much of this comparative work gazes upon the Greco-Roman world from a position *within* the Christian sources, I seek to stand outside the latter, viewing these material artifacts and the interests, practices, and dynamics to which they speak as unexceptional evidence for wider transformations occurring in the religious landscape of the Roman Empire. To rephrase in terms of King’s dictum, the evidence of early Christianity is not so much evidence for early Christianity, as it is for less visible phenomena in which Christians played some yet-to-be-determined part.

My first book, *At the Temple Gates: The Religion of Freelance Experts in the Roman Empire* (Oxford: 2016), did so by isolating as a discrete and influential form of Greco-

Roman religion, the activities of self-proclaimed or “freelance” specialists in assorted traditions of divine wisdom, rites, divinatory technologies, and other religious paraphernalia, including texts. For reasons that will likely resonate for historians of other imperial contexts—more expansive networks of connectivity; large-scale population displacement, both voluntary and involuntary; heightened and often quite intimate cultural heterogeneity—many of these figures appeared exotic to Roman audiences and traded on that exoticism to cater to a growing interest in the distinctive religious customs of new provincial regions or peoples, including Judea and its resident as well as diaspora “Judeans” (Jews). Most evidence for freelance experts survives in writings that satirize or otherwise caricature and diminish their activities from a normative elite perspective, with one important exception: the New Testament letters of the apostle Paul are an invaluable firsthand witness to the range of tactics that one such expert, an initiator of non-Judeans into the transformative mysteries of the Judean god and his Christ, adopted to persuade audiences both of his own legitimacy and also of their dire need for the very religious services he brokered. Read in this way, his letters corroborate and flesh out other aspects of the freelance expert phenomenon, including its highly competitive character, its internal status hierarchies, and Roman legislative efforts to manage its growing influence.

The rise of would-be specialists coincided with another key development beginning in the late Roman republic, a tendency among rising elites such as Cicero and Varro to underwrite other pretensions to authority through literary composition. This strategy owed much to the centrality of writing in Rome’s imperial bureaucracy but also benefitted from improved mechanisms for literate exchange such as a proliferation of public and private libraries and a thriving book industry. Hence writing or interpreting books, foremost those concerning matters of religion, became a venue for pursuing status and prestige, particularly for writers lacking other indices of social distinction.



Resurrection of Lazarus, Catacombs of Via Latina, Rome, 4C CE

These developments produced a climate wherein expertise was fashioned increasingly along textual lines and that accrued value to religious offerings rooted in books. My present research focuses on the “intellectualizing” religious experts—authors who engaged in conspicuous displays of literate knowledge—and the various methods of textual engagement they employed to assert their own authority while justifying or naturalizing their teachings and practices with rivals in view. These methods include everything from interpreting “ancient,” “foreign” religious texts to composing novel writings that mask their actual date and authorship through anonymity or pseudonymity and by placing lessons for the present in the mouths of authoritative figures from the near or mythic past.

A surprising number of writings thus utilized by intellectualizing experts are known to us, either as extant or fragmentary documents or in fleeting references to confiscations, book burnings, or the abundance of such literatures in circulation under the empire. They include writings attributed to Hermes, Orpheus, or Pythagoras; collections of Sibylline, Chaldean, and Judean (biblical) oracles; manuals for calculating horoscopes, casting lots, and interpreting dreams; and assorted “magical” spells. While this list captures a range of aptitude and accompanying social formations—how-to guides for individual practitioners, teacher–student relationships, scholastic initiation circles, and so on—all items bolstered the ambitions of aspiring religious experts and were indispensable to their practices. Mapping early Christian writings, including gospel literature, onto this literary matrix raises very different questions. Rather than mining gospels for relics of the historical Jesus, we might instead ask how this or that presentation of him furthered the aims of or otherwise appealed to competing authorities and audiences who embraced it. This approach also carries the advantage of setting the “fourfold gospel” (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)—a literary concept and scheme of authorship itself unattested before the late second century—on equal footing with gospels that did not make it into the New Testament canon when its contexts eventually settled.

The Gospel of Jesus’s Wife may have been a red herring, but my research suggests a more tantalizing prospect: that a well-worn yet fuller body of evidence might be harnessed to as many fresh questions and conceptualizations of early Christian diversity as that meager fragment was momentarily made to bear. The New Testament and other extant gospels may be evidence less for the historical Jesus (or not at all), than for Christian variations on the diverse intellectualizing forms of religion that proliferated, especially in the cities of the high Roman Empire.

Heidi Wendt is an Associate Professor jointly appointed in the Department of History and Classical Studies and in the School of Religious Studies at McGill University. She published her first monograph, *At the Temple Gates: The Religion of Freelance Experts in the Roman Empire*, which examines evidence for the rise of self-authorized experts in specialized religious skills, rites, and wisdom under the Roman Empire, in 2016 with Oxford University Press.



Dr. Noelani Arista

We are delighted to introduce our readers to our distinguished new colleague, Dr. Noelani Arista (Kānaka Maoli). Her trajectory epitomizes some of the most exciting work in the humanities today: moving seamlessly

between the past and the present, she studies and also protects Hawaiian customary knowledge, legalities, and governance. She does so through traditional historical excavations in written records from the past and through conversation with knowledge keepers. She conveys her scholarship through traditional written modes but has taken the lead in building digital repositories of cultural knowledge that are respectful of Hawaiʻian sovereignty. She is a sought-after speaker, able to converse across fields of linguists, computer scientists, and historians. She is a member of the Indigenous Protocol and Artificial Intelligence Working Group.

Noe Arista's scholarship focuses more specifically on Pre-Hawaiian Kingdom and nineteenth-century Hawaiian and U.S. history. She is particularly interested in questions of Hawaiian governance and law, historiography, Hawaiian conceptions of history, as well as the many forms taken by colonialism, including missionization. Her work integrates customary knowledge and cultural and intellectual history to illuminate topics such as Indigenous (data) sovereignty, Indigenous legality, and the movement of Indigenous language archives into digital mediums extending kānaka maoli traditional methods of organizing knowledge into the 21st century. Her book *The Kingdom and the Republic: Sovereign Hawaii and the Early United States* investigates Hawaii's transition from kapu (sacred oral pronouncement) to written and published law in the early nineteenth century. Arista's book was the winner of the 2020 Best First Book Prize in Native American and Indigenous Studies from the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association. Currently, Noe Arista advocates for the continuance of Hawaiian culture and knowledge systems through ethically engineered open-source digital

mediums. She co-authored the award-winning essay "Making Kin with the Machines" on indigenous AI, published by MIT Press in 2020, and was a co-organizer of the Indigenous AI workshop held in Hawaii in 2019.

Noe Arista comes to McGill in the wake of the 2017 Provost's "Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Education," which in turn followed the broader Canadian exercise in Truth and Reconciliation. Both processes led to specific calls for action. McGill has committed to hiring more Indigenous scholars, to incorporating more forms of Indigenous knowledge, to attracting more and more Indigenous students, and perhaps above all, to making the campus a more hospitable place for Indigenous professors, staff, and students, where all might thrive. It is a commitment that implicates each of us. We are honoured to have an energetic, forward-thinking historian such as Noelani Arista help walk us through these much-needed institutional changes.

Noe Arista begins her important role as leader and builder at McGill University just as we recognize the very first day of National Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2021. This day in turn comes after a wrenching summer. The unmarked graves of more than 1,200 Indigenous children were found on the sites of residential schools. As all the evidence suggests, and as Indigenous families have known for decades, [there are thousands more yet to be found across the country](#). Our students and the public at large expect us as scholars to help tell these stories in our classrooms and beyond. In ongoing conversations with Noe Arista, and her [Indigenous colleagues at McGill](#), we hope to do just that.

The Final Report of McGill's own Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Education can be found [here](#). For information on National Truth and Reconciliation Week (September 27-Oct.1), as well as all of the TRC reports produced, please visit the website of the [National Commission on Truth and Reconciliation](#). For a report on the history of Indigenous students at McGill, written by Professor Suzanne Morton, please visit [McGill's History with Indigenous Peoples](#).

New Post-Docs

Julie Babin completed her Ph.D. in the Department of Geography at Laval University with Dr. Frédéric Lasserre. Her research interests include Arctic geopolitics, science diplomacy, Asian Arctic policies and Japan's foreign policy. Julie Babin's doctoral work, *Stretching the Icecap: Japan's Engagement and Policy in the Arctic*, examines the strategies developed by Japan to support its interests in the Arctic region. As the Arctic ice melts, non-bordering states underline their interests and concerns for this region, raising interesting questions about the role of emerging actors that have or are perceived to have an interest in the polar regions. Japan's Arctic strategy builds on its research and innovation expertise to strengthen economic and diplomatic cooperation with the Arctic states, especially with Russia.



Starting in the Fall of 2021, Julie Babin will join the Indian Ocean World Center (IOWC), a research initiative promoting the study of the Indian Ocean world, as a Post-Doctoral fellow. Collaborating with a dynamic and multi-disciplinary group of scholars, she will be investigating the impact of climate change in the Arctic for Asian states from a socio-economic perspective, taking into account governmental and business public policies. Given the development of an Arctic Ocean caused by climate change, Asian states must address climate migration, security in maritime transport and navigation, border issues, conservation of the environment, or the promotion of international coordination and cooperation. Global warming in the Arctic region is already having an impact on the rainfall regime in Asia, the movement of winds and sandstorms, the release of gas and the salinity of marine currents.

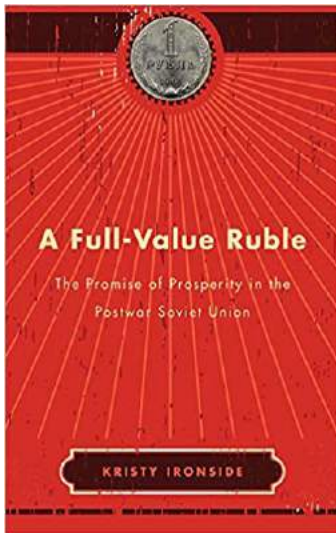


Natalie Nikkole Cornett joins the Department of History and Classical Studies as a FRQSC-funded post-doctoral fellow working under the supervision of Prof. James Krapfl. Her postdoctoral project, *Róza's World: Rosa Luxemburg, Partitioned Poland, and Socialist Internationalism (1893-1919)* explores the world of fin-de-siècle Europe and International Socialism from the perspective of one of its most complex figures, Rosa Luxemburg, or by her Polish name, Róża Luksemburg. The project will cover the period from when she first co-founded an Internationalist Socialist Party in the Russian Empire, to her death in 1919. This study will move beyond the limitations of biographical understandings of Luxemburg and use this female revolutionary as a lens through which to view larger questions of the period, such as emancipatory politics, nationalism and women's rights. Cornett recently presented her work on this project at the International Council for Central and East European Studies conference in August 2021.

Cornett's post-doctoral project builds on themes explored in her dissertation, *The Politics of Love: The "Enthusiasts" and Feminism in Nineteenth-Century Poland*, in which she examined the women's movement in nineteenth-century Poland, when that country was under Russian, Prussian and Austrian imperial rule. Using letters, diaries, police files, and published works from across Europe, Cornett described how a mid-century group of educated women called the 'Enthusiasts' (*Entuzjastki*) advocated for women's independence and social equality while fighting for Poland's national liberation. Cornett completed her doctoral work at Brandeis University and has received funding for the project from the Mellon Foundation, the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, and the Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry.

While at McGill, Cornett will continue researching her new post-doctoral project in addition to editing a special issue on gender and history for *The Polish Review* and preparing her dissertation manuscript for publication.

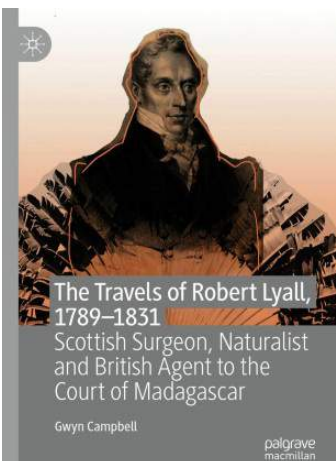
NEW BOOKS



Kristy Ironside, *A Full-Value Ruble: The Promise of Prosperity in the Postwar Soviet Union*

In spite of Karl Marx's proclamation that money would become obsolete under Communism, the ruble remained a key feature of Soviet life.

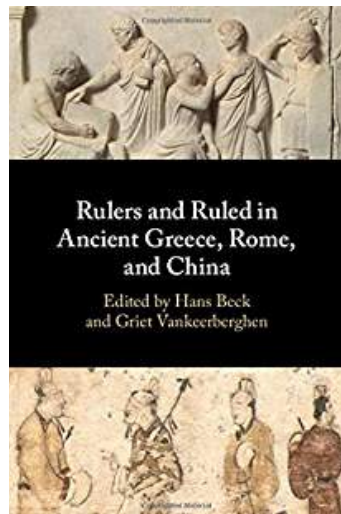
[More info](#)



Gwyn Campbell, *The Travels of Robert Lyall, 1789-1831: Scottish Surgeon, Naturalist and British Agent to the Court of Madagascar*

The Travels of Robert Lyall explores his life as surgeon, botanist, voyager, and British Agent to the court of Madagascar.

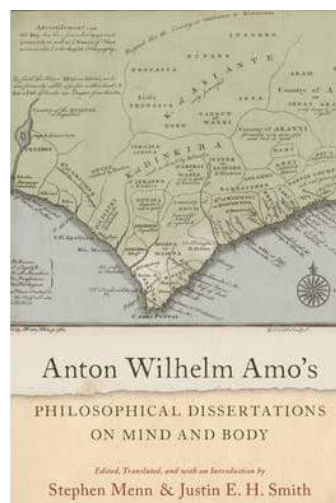
[More info](#)



Griet Vankeerberghen, and Hans Beck, eds., *Rulers and Ruled in Ancient Greece, Rome, and China*

Situated on opposite flanks of Eurasia, ancient Mediterranean and Han-Chinese societies had no grounded knowledge about one another, yet they display many cultural similarities.

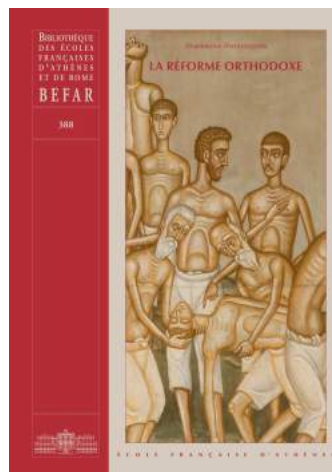
[More info](#)



Stephen Menn and Justin E. H. Smith, eds., *Anton Wilhelm Amo's Philosophical Dissertations on Mind and Body*

This accurate translation and full discussion of Amo's immediate intellectual context provides the institutional context of early modern dissertations and disputations, and of the early modern debates about mind and body, causation, and representation.

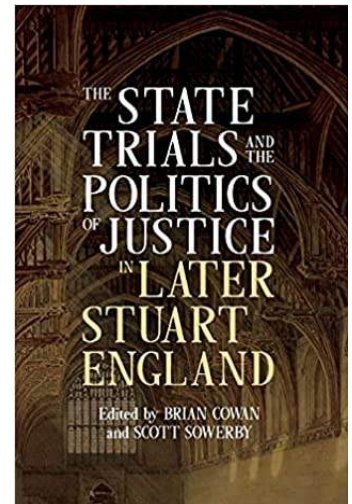
[More info](#)



Anastassios Anastassiadis, *La Réforme orthodoxe*

The book provides the first account of the century-long process of the conservative renovation of the Greek Orthodox Church, a process that saw the passage to a modern religion, religious innovation and social activism come to rhyme with intolerance in both religious and political fields.

[More info](#)



Brian Cowan and Scott Sowerby, eds., *The State Trials and the Politics of Justice in Later Stuart England*

The book discusses the 'state trial' as a legal process, a public spectacle, and a point of political conflict - a key part of how constitutional monarchy became constitutional.

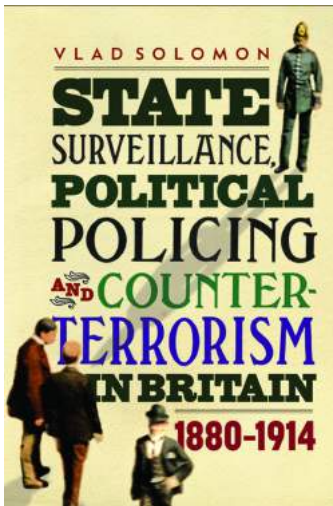
[More info](#)



Hussam R. Ahmed, *The Last Nahdawi: Taha Hussein and Institution Building in Egypt*

Taha Hussein (1889–1973), one of Egypt's most iconic figures, was central to key social and political developments in Egypt during the parliamentary period between 1922 and 1952.

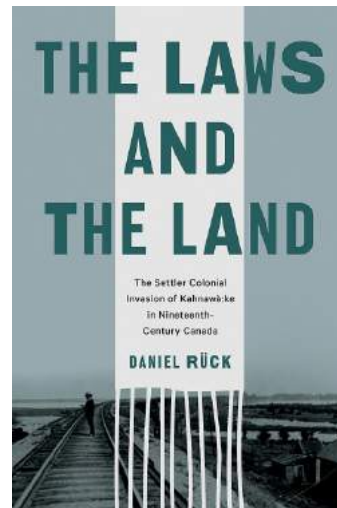
[More info](#)



Vlad Solomon, *State Surveillance, Political Policing and Counter-Terrorism in Britain: 1880-1914*

Based on newly declassified documents, *State Surveillance* weaves together separate narrative threads which converge to paint a complex picture of the institutional innovations and personal rivalries that produced Britain's first national political police.

[More info](#)



As the settler state of Canada expanded into Indigenous lands, settlers dispossessed Indigenous nations and undermined their sovereignty. One site of invasion was Kahnawà:ke, part of the Kanien'kehá:ka nation and Rotinonhsionni confederacy.

[More info](#)

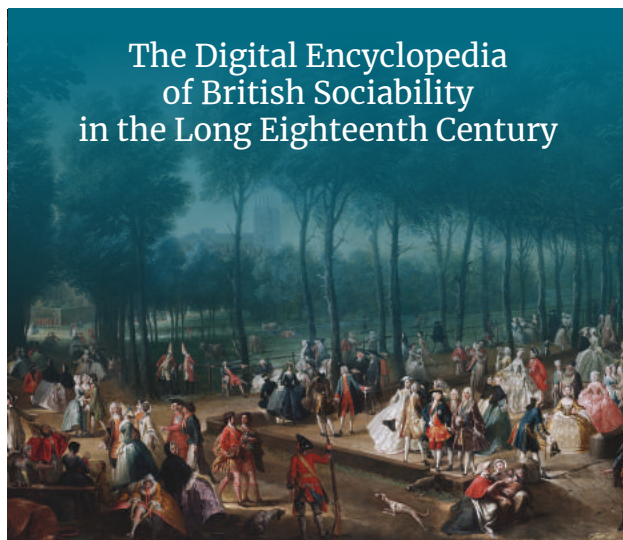
Daniel Rück, *The Laws and the Land: The Settler Colonial Invasion of Kahnawà:ke in Nineteenth-Century Canada*

Co-edited by Brian Cowan, DIGIT.EN.S

(the Digital Encyclopedia of British Sociability in the Long Eighteenth Century) is now on-line.

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The Digital Encyclopedia of British Sociability in the Long Eighteenth Century



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 823862

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Echoes from the Country of Coal

By Don Nerbas

At Dominion Beach Provincial Park, the retreating Atlantic tide reveals elongated black streaks on the wet sand, formed of small bits of coal that are constantly churned up and washed away with the ocean's tide. It is a reminder that the area once occupied a central place in Cape Breton Island's "country of coal," part of a mining district along the eastern coast of the island. Dominion Beach is a sandbar that begins at the village of Dominion and runs, nearly a mile, to a narrow channel that divides the rocky point of the sandbar from the shoreline at the other end of the bay, forming an entry to the harbour at Lingan. The coal-fuelled power plant at Lingan has been a fixture of the coastal scene since it was built in the 1970s within the context of the oil crisis. As one nears Lingan, the plant grows in size and its hum becomes audible. Careful observers might also notice bricks here and there on the beach, which become more and more frequent along the way. By the end of the sandbar, across from Lingan's harbour, the ground is littered with rubble. Here, a local resident recently came upon a brick made in a nineteenth-century Glasgow brickworks. For me, someone who has been working on the nineteenth-century history of Cape Breton's coal trade, the discovery is interesting and certainly linked to the site's connection 150 years ago to a ballast wharf. It offers an occasion to reflect upon industrialism's ongoing reconfiguration of landscape and space.

The historical context that brought this Scottish-made brick to Cape Breton has long since disappeared. The Lingan generating station that stands today is situated on the site of an old mine, opened by the General Mining Association (GMA) in 1854; over the next three decades the mine produced coal, which was shipped from Lingan Harbour. This was a decisive period in Cape Breton's coal trade. When mining operations at Lingan commenced, the London directors of the GMA still held a provincial coal monopoly received from King George IV nearly three decades earlier to satisfy the creditors of his brother, the Duke of York. In 1857-58, the London directors acquiesced to the gathering strength of mid-Victorian liberalism by agreeing to relinquish the monopoly. They found

fresh opportunity in the new era of competition. The Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 had opened the northeastern seaboard of the United States to Nova Scotia coal, and during the 1860s the American Civil War intensified demand. While the GMA's principal mining operations at Sydney Mines continued to produce coal for a diffuse colonial market, Lingan was different. By the early 1860s nearly 90 per cent of its total output was destined for New York City, most of which went to two Manhattan gas-light companies. Lingan was one among several mines that were rapidly developed along the coast, south of Sydney Harbour, largely in response to the demand for coal of the urban markets of New England and New York City. A whole new industrial environment was made from the coal boom of the 1860s, based upon thickening linkages with expanding urban markets.

More and more labourers were drawn to the mines as well. Robert Drummond, a grocer's son from Greenock, Scotland, arrived in Lingan around this time. Here, he acquired his first experience in a coal mine and was paired with an experienced coal cutter in a narrow, gassy room. The summer shipping season at Lingan was particularly taxing. Summoned to riddle and pitch coal into three-ton wagons in the "grilling sun" for no more than 90 cents a day, Drummond plainly assessed the experience: "It was brutal and the remuneration was even more beastly." When work became infrequent, he moved along to the "Roost pit" nearby at Little Glace Bay, down the coast from Lingan. An interview on the mine manager's front porch secured a job for Drummond. But most of the new labour that fuelled the expansion of the mines arrived from the nearby countryside, mainly Highland Scots whose grandparents or parents had migrated to Cape Breton earlier in the century. As a consequence, they became the single largest group in the coal country and decisively shaped the character and politics of the new mining villages. Ongoing expansion of coal production, however, was suddenly uncertain after the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty in 1866. By the late 1870s, the mining district was in crisis, and Drummond had already left Cape Breton for the coalfields of mainland Nova Scotia.

The coal trade was dramatically recast during the 1880s. Following the 1878 Dominion election, the John A. Macdonald Conservatives implemented a program that included tariff protection, the fast completion of the transcontinental railway, and the promotion of western settlement. It was called the National Policy, and Macdonald had campaigned on it. A program of intensified settler colonialism and industrialization, it was a Canadian example of a broader international trend towards the encasement of capital within bounded "national" territories, governed by increasingly interventionist states. The mid-Victorian Atlantic world that gave rise to the initial spate of coal mining at Lingan was eclipsed during the National Policy era. The Cape Breton coal trade was rehabilitated under a protective tariff. In two years, from 1879 to 1881, coal shipments from Cape Breton nearly doubled to exceed 500,000 tons. Montreal was by far the most



Brick discovered by Amanda McNeil at Dominion Beach. The same type of brick was also found at Pictou, Nova Scotia, which in the nineteenth century served as a port for the GMA's mining operations there. (See <https://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk/allan-and-mann-brick-found-on-cape-breton-island-canada/> and <https://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk/allan-mann-govan-patent-glasgow-brick-found-in-pictou-nova-scotia-canada/>)

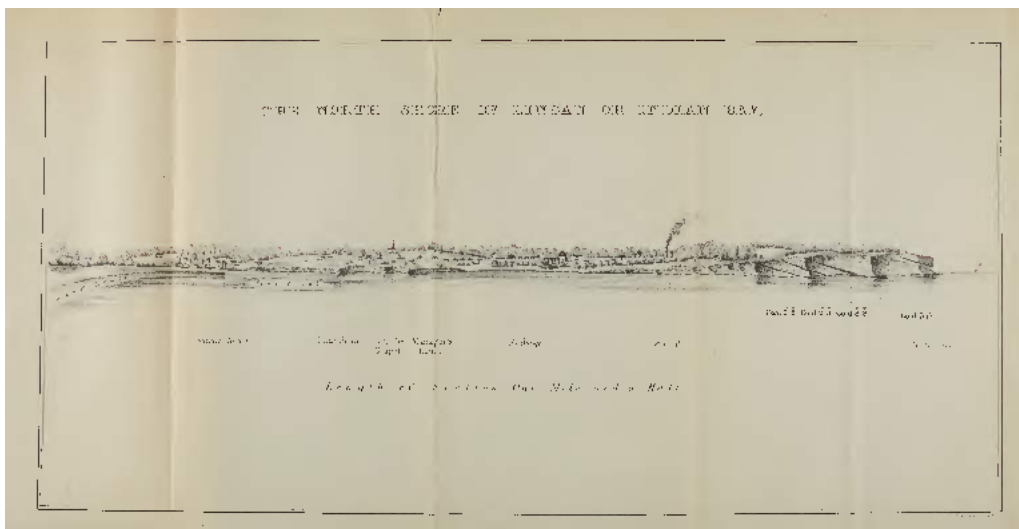
important market for this growing output and emerged as the dominant metropole of Cape Breton's Sydney coalfield.

Robert Drummond returned to Cape Breton once again, this time as a leader of the newly established Provincial Workmen's Association (PWA) and the editor of its paper, the *Trades Journal*. The PWA had developed out of a successful strike at Springhill in 1879, from which Drummond – a bank boss, fired for his public criticism of the coal company – had emerged as a leader of the miners. Within the context of an expanding coal trade, Drummond's efforts to organize mine workers into the PWA was a dramatic success. By the end of summer in 1881 the PWA had signed up nearly 1,300 Cape Breton members.

However, there were signs of trouble at Lingan before the end of the year. The mine manager there, Donald Lynk, announced in December that all workmen would be required to sign non-union pledges. A strike ensued in March 1882. The

volunteers sought to apprehend men connected to the “Lingan riot” at Little Glace Bay during a nighttime raid. But when the Chief Constable roughly handled an older man, the mining village was roused, and the constable placed in jail. This botched exercise did not receive much mention in the press, though it suggested the strength of local opinion and capacity for collective action. On 17 April, the GMA requested to meet with members of the local PWA lodge at Lingan after refusing to do so for over a year. The agreement that was signed the following week was understood by local observers and the PWA as a victory for the union. Labour historians have been unconvinced by these claims of victory, though a broader view of the diverse forms of popular agency may merit a different judgement.

The mine at Lingan was closed by the mid-1880s. Profits there had already diminished by the time of the



A view of Lingan, c. 1871, from Richard Brown, *The Coal Fields and Coal Trade of the Island of Cape Breton* (London: Sampson Low, Marston, Low,

GMA's efforts to unite the coal operators against the PWA largely failed. The directors of the Glace Bay Mining Company, having signed a contract to deliver 30,000 tons of coal to Montreal, decided they were better served by cooperating with the PWA. The GMA imported nearly 40 miners from Scotland to work at Lingan. However, when they arrived at their destination in early May, they joined the PWA and were offered work at Little Glace Bay; “those scoundrels of Colliers from Scotland,” complained Richard Brown, a GMA director in London. Nonetheless before the end of January 1883, mining at Lingan had been resumed with non-union labourers.

On 19 March 1883, a group of around 70 miners arrived at Lingan from the surrounding collieries to reclaim control of the mining village. An urgent telegram was later sent to Halifax from the GMA's Lingan office: “The rioters have charge of the place.” The telegram's dramatic recounting of events – an engineer and blacksmith “badly kicked,” men dragged from houses and beaten after nightfall, and women and children in “a state of terror” – was reprinted in the *New York Times* under the title “LAWLESS COAL MINERS.” Just over a week later, a contingent of constables and militia

strike, and the GMA was preparing to shift production to Low Point and shipping facilities at Victoria Wharf. Behind the belligerent mine manager at Lingan was a strategic calculation: that it was better to fight the PWA at Lingan than at Sydney Mines. It is a history of capital's making and remaking of the built environment that has played itself out on a grand scale in Cape Breton as elsewhere. With the formation of the Dominion Coal Company in 1893, the mining area on the south side of Sydney Harbour was consolidated under a single corporation which established the infrastructure of the mining towns that persist to this day, though mining itself has finished in Cape Breton. At Dominion Beach, the ruins of an even earlier spate of industrialism may be viewed at our feet, artefacts of the long history of the country of coal.

Don Nerbas is Associate Professor and St. Andrew's Society/McEuen Scholarship Foundation Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies in the Department of History and Classical Studies, and a McGill Institute for the Study of Canada Research Fellow. His current work explores the history of Cape Breton coal during the long nineteenth century.

Digitizing the Indian Ocean World: GIS Datasets for Historical-Environmental Analyses

By Kareem Hammami

The SSHRC funded, IOWC-based partnership “Appraising Risk, Past and Present: Interrogating Historical Data to Enhance Understanding of Environmental Crises in the Indian Ocean World” is exploring new ways to combine historical statistics and cartographic data in order to elucidate the historical relationship between human and environmental variables and how this can inform current climate change policy.

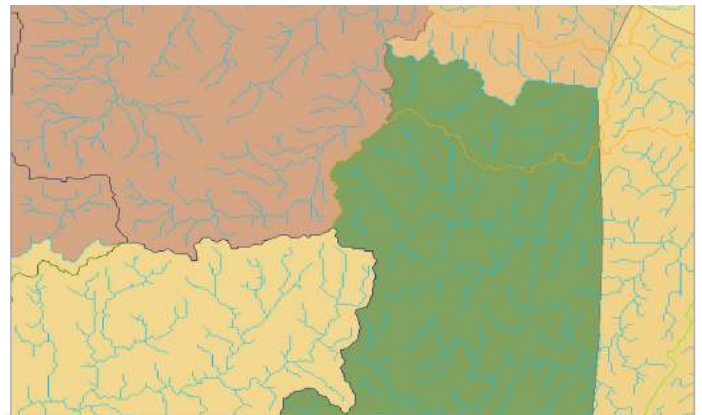
To achieve this, we are integrating archival and online historical data into an IOWC database and digital Geographic Information System (GIS) for analysis. Of critical importance is the digitisation of historical maps to create “shapefiles” into which we integrate spatial information collected from censuses, weather stations, newspapers, and other sources. Most recently, we have been producing a comprehensive set of maps of 18th and early 19th century Madagascar into which we are integrating data on population, disease, precipitation, migration, conflict, etc. in order to relate and compare various stressors and subsequent changes to key information. We start this process with digitized maps ranging from sketches to complex political and military charts, across municipal, regional, and national scales. These maps must first be shaped and transformed to fit the physical reality that they seek to represent, then integrated with other information in order to produce accurate borders. Many of these boundaries followed natural features such as rivers (relatively stable at the scale we are looking at) and mountain ridges/watersheds. Also, the maps are often accompanied by information detailing the specific features that define borders. Thus, we may mine modern datasets (produced right here at McGill) for these natural features to produce an accurate representation of what the boundaries may have looked like and how they have evolved.

We begin by shaping the 2D image onto our GIS platform, where specific points on the paper map, such as city positions, river intersections, islands, peninsulas, and mountain peaks, are matched with their real life positions to bend and stretch the map to look more like reality. Once the map is shaped through this process (known as “Georectification”), boundaries of individual areas are defined, either by following the existing rivers or ridges that our



French Colonial Administrative map of Madagascar around the beginning of the 19th-century.

modern datasets provide, or, in the worst-case scenario, hand drawn lines on the Georectified map. Alternatively, we have been able to automate much of this process when the source maps possess clearly defined and well contrasting boundaries, although this involves the elimination of extraneous information that may confuse the software used (for details see our website). While the creation of digital shapefiles from analog maps is not new, the integration of physical geography datasets is a novel method of creating accurate historical maps.



Detail of ethnographic map of 19th-century Madagascar, along with hydrographic data used to define boundaries.

These new historical maps form an excellent basis for research by anyone wishing to conduct historical spatial analysis. One example combines precipitation and cyclone data with population and disease data to observe the impacts of extreme climatic variations on the incidence of water borne diseases such as cholera or malaria. The integration of descriptive geographic texts or itineraries of civil and military expeditions can allow us to expand upon our existing data, and map previously unmapped information.

In the partnership, we aim to produce these historical maps for all Indian Ocean World regions. Such dataset innovations will further allow us to develop historical geography guides for specific areas, complete with shapefiles, temporal gazetteers of location names, and access to IOWC data. By producing national and regional boundaries of all the areas within our purview, we are developing a solid foundation to quickly incorporate incoming data, and to provide a ready platform and the necessary tools for current and future researchers to expand the digital humanities.

Kareem Hammami is a research assistant with the Appraising Risk Partnership based at the Indian Ocean World Centre of McGill University. He is currently completing an undergraduate degree in the Bieler School of Environment, where his interests are the use of Geospatial Science in the exploration of water resources, human livelihoods, and conflict in the Middle East.

From “Paper Museum” to Publication: Our Experience as Research Assistants

By Emilienne Greenfield (PhD 7) and Céline Stantina (PhD 5)

During our time as Ph.D students in the Department of History and Classical Studies here at McGill, we have had the pleasure of spending nearly two years working as Research Assistants on the project “*Undescrib'd: Taylor White's Paper Museum and the work of an Enlightenment Naturalist*”. This was a SSHRC-funded research project, led primarily by Dr. Victoria Dickenson (Adjunct Professor, McGill University Library and Collections), involving a team of librarians, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The goal of the project was to examine the “paper museum” of the British jurist Taylor White (1701-1772), which he assembled from the mid-1730s until 1772. The “paper museum” is constituted primarily of a collection of nearly 1000 portraits of animals, birds, and fish, commissioned by White from some of the most prominent artists of his day. Alongside this collection, White also compiled over 750 manuscript notes (written in both Latin and English), offering original observations and descriptions of the animals in the portraits. This collection, which was never published during White's lifetime, was acquired for McGill University in the year 1927 by Dr. Casey Wood. It is currently held in the Blacker-Wood Collection of McGill Library.

As Research Assistants, our roles were to find out more about Taylor White's scientific activities (especially reconstructing his social and scientific networks to assess where he might have been acquiring specimens), and to translate and transcribe his manuscript notes. The research project continued to grow as we all made increasingly more interesting discoveries about Taylor White and his “paper museum”. We were further invited to take part in an “*après-midi d'étude*” (a series of informal presentations) and to help organise an original exhibition that both showcased the collection and allowed us to present our work on the project to a general audience.* A short piece written by Céline presenting the project and collection also appeared in the September 2020 issue of *Espèces* magazine (No. 37).

Most recently, we were given the wonderful opportunity of publishing original articles in *Notes and Records: The Royal Society Journal of the History of Science*, as part of a special themed issue on Taylor White, with contributions made by all the members of the research team. This whole

* The exhibition unfortunately opened very shortly before the first Covid-19 lockdown; a digital version is available [here](#). High-resolution digital reproductions of the portraits and notes in White's collection can also be found in the McGill Library Archival Collections Catalogue (AtoM) at: <https://archivalcollections.library.mcgill.ca/index.php/taylor-white-collection>.



Long-tailed Green Hummingbird?; Green-headed Carib, Black-capped Hummingbirds m.; Ruby-throated Hummingbird m., Ruby-throated Hummingbird f. [Streamertail, male; Long-tailed Woodnymph, male; Ruby-throated hummingbird, male and female; Green-throated Carib] attributed to George Edwards (1694-1773), watercolour and gouache with pencil on laid paper. Birds framed (item 720), Taylor White Collection: MSG BW002, Blacker-Wood Collection, McGill Library.

process allowed us to gain invaluable experience in learning to write a concise research article, interact with feedback from anonymous reviewers, perform several rounds of edits, and work according to a publisher's timeline. The fact that the subject matter of this project, and in turn, our articles, were not directly related to our own fields of research (respectively, 18th-century trajectories of cetacean natural objects and vernacular maritime knowledge, and 16th-17th century household gardening in France and Britain) made this work all the more enriching and exciting. This also allowed us to expand our knowledge base, and gain important research and writing experience that we can apply later on in our own careers. Publishing an article is an important goal that many students hope to accomplish during their time in the PhD programme — to have our names in print in such a high-ranking journal is definitely a dream come true and still feels quite surreal!

Greenfield, Emilienne. 2021. “The practice of note-taking in Taylor White's natural history collection”. *Notes Rec.* <http://doi.org/10.1098/rsnr.2020.0067>.

Stantina, Céline M. 2021. “Taylor White's ‘paper museum’ (1725-1772): understanding the scientific work of an unpublished naturalist”. *Notes Rec.* <http://doi.org/10.1098/rsnr.2020.0069>.

Congratulations to our new Ph.D.s!

Michael James Davis: “Brothers in Arms: The Le Moyne Family and The Atlantic World, 1685-1745”

Supervisors: Catherine Desbarats and Allan Greer

Fannie Dionne: “Encreur la parole: écrit et oralité dans les dictionnaires jésuites en français et wendat (XVIIe -XVIIIe siècles)”

Supervisor: Catherine Desbarats

Yusuf Karabicak: “Local patriots and ecumenical Ottomans: The Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople in the Ottoman configuration of power, 1768-1828”

Supervisor: Anastassios Anastassiadis

Stephan Robert Pigeon: “Scissors-and-Paste: The labour, law, and practice of circulating journalism in the British newspaper and periodical press, 1842-1911”

Supervisors: Elizabeth Elbourne and Jason Opal

Chandra Giroux: “Plutarch’s Chaironeia: The local horizon of the world empire”

Supervisors: Darian Totten and Hans Beck

Cynthia Tang: “Technological change in ‘ordinary medicine’: the emergence of minimally invasive gallbladder surgery, c. 1970-1992”

Supervisors: Thomas Schlich and George Weisz

History Students’ Association By Dalton Liggett (2020-21 HSA President)

This academic year was an unprecedented one for the community of History students at McGill University. But even in spite of the challenges it brought about, the McGill History Students’ Association could not be more proud of what our community was able to accomplish. In a time when undergraduates were missing in-person connections with their fellow students more than ever, the Association was overjoyed to facilitate new innovative events, initiatives, and more.

From the very onset, after being handed the ropes by the 2019-20 HSA executive team, the incoming membership of the HSA for 2020-21 remained committed to adapting many of the HSA’s yearly offerings to new, COVID-friendly formats that reflected the online nature of McGill life during the pandemic. For example, we adapted our previously in-person Trivia Nights to a new online format, hosted through Zoom, and welcomed dozens of participants. The HSA worked diligently with the Classics Students’ Association (CSA) to host our much-anticipated Halloween and Valentine’s Day lecture series. Our “Love in the Time of” event in February was one of the best attended events, second only to “Haunted Histories” the semester prior, reflecting how eager students were to hear from professors within the department. The HSA would like to particularly extend a vote of thanks to Dr. Philip Gooding, Prof. Andrea Tone, Dr. Rachel Sandwell, and Prof. Brian Lewis for taking the time to deliver their exceptional talks at these events.

Aside from these two annual staples, we were also excited to host a research panel in November attended by Prof. Wendell Adjetey, Prof. Elizabeth Elbourne, and Prof. Lorenz Lüthi. Prof. Adjetey returned for a second event in March on “Race, Religion, and Resistance”, co-hosted with the McGill Office Religious and Spiritual Life. We would like to thank all of these professors, too, for their contributions to

undergraduate History events amidst this challenging year.

Beyond our events roster, the membership of the HSA brainstormed new ways to support students and uplift their voices. For some students who struggled financially amidst job losses, the economic downturn, and challenging quarantine, the HSA provided a number of application-based COVID-relief bursaries. For the first time in many years, we offered peer tutoring for first-year History students. The Association helped to lobby for additional accommodations for students at our Consultative Forum with Prof. Jason Opal and Prof. Suzanne Morton, who worked with the HSA to help shape equitable online learning standards for undergraduates.

In addition, the HSA would like to afford a special acknowledgement to Arielle de Leon and Lis Riveros, who inaugurated the HSA’s first ever student-led podcast series, titled “A Piece of Work”. These podcasts highlighted the ways by which historical research by students at McGill continued even in spite of the pandemic. The ongoing research of Felicity Brassard, Lauren Parison, Mike Davis, Robin Vochelet, Jeffrey Rowe, and Dalton Liggett were all spotlighted. Arielle also worked with *Historical Discourses* Editors-in-Chief Josh Benjamin and Julian Miller, among other editors, to facilitate the launch of *Historical Discourses XXXV*, which further featured the research of many more undergraduates. We hope that “A Piece of Work” and *Historical Discourses* can continue to foster this kind of research in the near future.

On the whole, this year’s HSA members deserve much praise for their perseverance and commitment to furthering student life for History undergraduates. To this end, I would like to give final thanks to Julia Zucchetti (Internal Affairs), Audrey Kaye (Finance), Kennedy McKee-Braide (Events), Ffion Hughes (Academic Affairs), and Arielle de Leon (Communications) for all of their hard work. The HSA also wishes best luck to Shannon Stemper (outgoing VP External) and Lis Riveros (outgoing First Year Representative), who will continue their service next year on the HSA as President and as VP Communications respectively!

Classics Students' Association

By Taryn Power, President 2020-21

This year was certainly a strange one for the Classics Students' Association (CSA). Despite all the ups, downs and restrictions of this virtual year, I could not be more proud of the work that the CSA has put in. We kickstarted the year with the annual Haunted Histories Lecture series which is our collaborative event with the History Students' Association. This series featured some great talks from two of our Classics professors: Dr. Brahm Kleinman spoke on "Scary Specters and Haunted Houses in the Roman Empire," while Dr. Martin Sirois gave his talk on "The Bride's Empty Tomb: Paradoxography and the Origins of the Novel."

Sticking to our spooky theme, in October we also started a reading group to discuss Donna Tartt's novel *The Secret History*, which brought students together to bond over the amusing similarities and major differences between that fictional Classics department and our own — the troubles of falling behind on Greek homework rang true, the real-life Bacchanals did not.

In November, we held an online edition of our famous "Wine and Cheese", making use of the breakout-room function to shuffle students around so that we could all chat and get to know one another within our department. In a way we were all missing, but we tried to make the most of whatever little our situation permitted. We rounded out the semester with one more of these online socials in December, before taking a much-needed break from Zoom over the winter break.

Our second semester began with an event on a serious concern: the presentation of an Open Letter on Improving Anti-Racist Practices in our program, which was drafted by some members of the CSA as well as several other students within the department. The aim of the Open Letter is to focus on improving the experiences of BIPOC students in our Classics program and on opening the discussion on how to broaden and diversify our vision of what "Classics" is and can be. This letter, and the changes that we hope to see as a result of it, will be an ongoing project of the CSA for years to come. However, I am extremely proud of the work that has been begun this year by Classics students.

Due to popular demand, we held another online "Wine

and Cheese" social in February, as well as our "Love In The Time Of..." Valentine's Day Lecture series which is another collaborative event with the HSA. We were extremely happy to have Dr. Lynn Kozak from the Classics faculty speaking on "Homeric Intimacy in Hannibal" and Dr. Naomi Kaloudis speaking on "Romance in Ancient Hellenistic Poetry."

In March, it was time for the biggest event of the year, the Montreal Inter-University Classics Colloquium—an undergraduate conference organized in collaboration with Concordia University and the Université de Montréal. The Colloquium went off without a hitch and featured great work by the students and their research. This included six talks from McGill Students, on topics spanning from Education in Ancient Athens and queerness in Homer to the use of Classics in the works of Civil Rights Activists of the 1960s. We were also treated to a great keynote speech by Dr. Simeon Ehrlich of Concordia University, as well as a graduate students' panel on the perception of the "Other" in antiquity that was moderated by our own Prof. Lynn Kozak.

Finally, it was a fantastic year for both our undergraduate journals. Our creative journal, *Volare*, published its fall issue in November, which featured poems, art, and memes on the theme of "Pharmakon." The spring issue's theme was "Epic" and published, in conjunction with our academic journal *Hirundo*, on April 10, 2021. We had a final online event to celebrate the launch of both these journals, as well as the efforts of

both the editors-in-chief — Sara Rahajason and Daisy Bon-sall — and all the students who worked on or submitted to the journals.

The success of this year was a testament to the hard work and creativity of every member of the CSA, and I couldn't have done any of this without them. Not to forget, the invaluable support of our professors, especially our director Dr. Lynn Kozak, who has been indispensable throughout the process. I cannot wait to see what we will be able to achieve in the coming year. As always, I am extremely glad to be a part of such a wonderful community of students in this program, which remains close-knit and vibrant even if physically we are far apart!



CLASSICS

STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Anastassios Anastassiadis *continued from page 16*

involved. Eight doctoral students from Montreal had an extraordinary opportunity to study these issues in situ with specialists and practitioners (judges, immigration and FRONTEx officials, asylum committee officers, ONG personnel) while the refugee crisis was unfolding in Europe.

My dream is that, hopefully when we will have hired an ancient Greek historian, we will be able to develop a partnership with EFA involving one specific site and a diachronic/transversal research agenda including from an archaeological dig to the study of human mobility to and from Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Audrey Charlton Cameron Scholarship



Audrey Charlton Cameron

We are delighted to announce that a new undergraduate scholarship has been established, thanks to a generous donation from the family of Audrey Charlton Cameron. The scholarship, which will carry her name, is to be awarded annually to an outstanding undergraduate student enrolled in an honours or joint honours programme in the Department of History and Classical Studies. The scholarship will be formally awarded by the Faculty of Arts Scholarship Committee, upon receiving a recommendation from our Department. Audrey Charlton Cameron was born in 1926, and passed away on December 25, 2019. She graduated from the Montreal General Hospital School of Nursing (1890-1972) in 1951. A lover of travel, genealogy, and history, she had a deep affinity for McGill University and Montreal. We are grateful that her family has chosen to honour their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother by supporting historical studies at McGill. It is a fitting tribute to her intellectual curiosity and life-long commitment to the communities she lived in. The first recipient of the Audrey Charlton Cameron Scholarship will be Hana Bobrow-Strain, who will be entering her third year at McGill, as a joint honours student in History and Anthropology. Congratulations, Hana!

Three Years as Directeur d'études at the French School at Athens, 2016-2020

By Anastassios (Tassos) Anastassiadis

Founded in 1846, the Ecole française d'Athènes (EFA) is the oldest French research institution abroad and the first international research institution established in Greece. Along with five other sister schools (Rome, Cairo, Madrid, South-East and East Asia), it functions under the auspices of the Académie des Inscriptions et des Belles Lettres in Paris.

Traditionally tasked to develop Greek archaeology, it has developed into a research hub for Greece, the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean from prehistory to today. EFA runs more than a hundred field missions per year in various international collaborations and with any disciplinary focus from archeo-botany and paleo-epidemiology to the GIS-coupled sociology of migrations and urbanism in the Mediterranean today.

The school hosts 10-14 young postdoctoral fellows with a project necessitating fieldwork in the region. It awards 70-80 doctoral scholarships per year to do fieldwork or study in its unique library, and it welcomes every year 10-15 resident senior scholars from around the world. In a nutshell, it is a great facilitator for research in the Eastern Mediterranean.



I spent three years as one of the two Directeurs d'études (DE) at the school. As surprising as it may sound for an institution with such a breadth of activities, there is no permanent academic personnel attached to it! It is run by three established scholars with academic positions at universities seconded to the EFA for a limited time before returning to their home institution. I would like to add that this was the first time a DE was selected from outside of France, testimony to the EFA's international opening, but also a testimony to the opportunities in the francophone world offered to us in Montreal.

The DE is responsible for the establishment of the EFA's long-term research agenda. By the end of the mandate, the DE has acquired a kaleidoscopic view of research in the Humanities and Social Sciences in this part of the world and a good knowledge of both the recent developments in the field as well as the challenges involved. Using a metaphor, I would say that working as a DE at one of those research hubs is, on a micro scale, like being an astronaut at the International Space Station. It is the epicenter of an international network including teams around the world. The DE are destined to take the acquired know-how back to their own institutions.

On top of the opportunities offered to our undergraduate and graduate students to apply for scholarships, fellowships or internships, become integrated in international research networks and in extraordinary fieldwork projects, I see a number of potential synergies related both to the need for more field-training for students and to our research priorities. For example, in 2016, we co-organized with the Jean Monnet Center (McGill-UdeM) a doctoral seminar in Athens on 'Borders, Migrations and Refugees', which was a life-changing experience for all (*continued on page 15*)