



24th Annual Milton Plesur Graduate History Conference

Saturday, March 7, 2015

University at Buffalo | O'Brian Hall, First Floor Lobby | 8:00am-5:30pm

Panel Session 1

8:30-9:40am

Room 209 – Trans-Oceanic European Colonialism

Chair: Dr. Hal Langfur, University at Buffalo

Lance Boos, Buffalo State University: "His Own Ungovernable Passions: Kieft's War and Dutch Indian Policy in the Atlantic World, 1638-45"

Steven Munoz, University at Buffalo: "The Nation of Sangleyes: Commercial Citizenship and Organized Resistance of Chinese-Philippine Merchants in 16th – 17th Century Spanish Lexicon"

Phillip Guingona, University at Buffalo: "The Ghost of Limahong Returns Home: The Failed Foundation of a Hokkien Promised Land, 1920-34"

Room 210 – East Meets West: Comparative and National Religion

Chair: Dr. Erik Seeman, University at Buffalo

Elisabeth Davis, University at Buffalo: "Authoritative Letters: Jeanne de Chantal and Feminine Authority in the Early Modern Catholic Church"

Maximilian Smith, York University: "Afflicted with Religious Frenzy: Religion and Social Order in a Nineteenth-Century Insane Asylum"

Carl Lew, Duquesne University: "The Value of Natural Philosophy in Traditional China"

Room 212 – Sexual Identities and Politics

Chair: Dr. Susan Cahn, University at Buffalo

Jake Newsome, University at Buffalo: "Migrating Memories: Transatlantic Commemoration of the Nazis' Homosexual Victims in West Germany and the United States"

Averill Earls, University at Buffalo: "A House for Immoral Purposes: Urban Space and Same-Sex Desire in Ireland"

Elisabeth George, University at Buffalo: "'Consensual Kissing is Not Sodomy': The Policing of Homo/sexuality and the Defense of *The Normal Heart* in Southwest Missouri"

Room 214 – Cultural Contests in North America

Chair: Dr. Jason Young, University at Buffalo

Elizabeth Masarik, University at Buffalo: "Inhabiting a Socio-Spatial Dialectic: The Landscape of Progressive Era Maternalism"

Daniel Wallace, University at Buffalo: "On the Other Side of the Tracks: Railroad Segregation in the Era of Jim Crow"

Bridget Pumm, University at Buffalo: "The Problem of Swine in Early Colonial New England: The Introduction of New Animals and the Culmination of King Philip's War"

Room 209 – Twentieth-Century Urban History

Chair: Dr. David Herzberg, University at Buffalo

Anthony Sole, University at Buffalo: “Black Tar/White Powder: Race, Class, Gender, and Herion in New York and San Francisco, 1966-77”

John Marsland, University at Buffalo: “Kick It ‘till It Breaks: The Socio-Cultural Revolution of Britain’s Angry Brigade”

Sarina Johnston, Duquesne University: “Unstable Spheres: Suffragists and Antis Traverse the Home and Public Arenas in Twentieth-Century Pittsburgh”

Room 210 – Memorializing and Collecting: History Through Objects, Images, and Architecture

Chair: Dr. Patrick McDevitt, University at Buffalo

Ina Markova, University of New Orleans: “Representing the Nazi Past in Austria After 1945: Iconic Pictures, Visual Tropes, and Pictorial Discourses”

Hannah Sigurdson, University at Buffalo: “Let Nature Be Your Teacher: Regional Natural History Collecting in 17th, 18th, and 19th Britain”

Robert Harris, University of Guelph: “The Annales School and the ‘Cultural Turn’: The Use of Culture As A Historical Paradigm”

Room 212 – Medical History

Chair: Dr. James Bono, University at Buffalo

Sarah Handley-Cousins, University at Buffalo: “His Hands are Hard and Indicate an Ability to Work: Contested Definitions of Disability in the Civil War Pension System”

Rachel Carpenter, University at Buffalo: “Philly Fever: Colonial Commerce and Yellow Fever in the Early American City of Brotherly Love”

Guy Sechrist, Villanova University: “Medical Historiography: From ‘Applied’ to New Medical Patient History”

Room 214 – Hedonistic Histories: Food, Rationing, and Consumption

Chair: Dr. Tamara Thornton, University at Buffalo

Thomas Buttaccio, University at Buffalo: “Modernity is Served: The Banquet and the Culinary Bridge to Modernity”

Laurie Drake, University of Toronto: “Toxic Relationships: The Production and Supply of Food to Le Vernet Concentration Camp, 1940-41”

Joseph Humnicky, University at Buffalo: “Tidewater Tobacco: An Examination of Commodity Culture from Colonialism to Independence”

Faculty Roundtable 1

11:15am-12:15pm

Room 112 – Digital Humanities

Last year, the National Endowment for the Humanities spent \$2 million on digital projects, while Google awarded \$1 million to professors doing digital humanities research. This funding represented a larger trend to save the humanities by incorporating them in the digital turn. However, doubts circulate about DH's capacity to rehabilitate the humanities, triggering questions about the original purpose of digital humanities. This interdisciplinary roundtable intends for scholars to share their thoughts on the digital turn in the humanities. What does DH mean for the college classroom? Where might DH take various fields in the future? Is DH the answer to the humanities crisis?

Tong Lam, Department of Historical Studies, University of Toronto

Jonathan Dewald, Department of History, University at Buffalo

Jennifer Gaynor, Department of History, University at Buffalo

Alex Reid, Department of English, University at Buffalo

Lunch

12:30-1:15pm

Flag Room - 215 Student Union

Keynote Address

1:30-2:45pm

“Landscapes of Distress: Urban Space As Evidence, Images, and Allegories in Post-Socialist China”

Conference Keynote Address

1:30-2:45PM

O'Brian Hall 112

Dr. Tong Lam

Associate Professor of History

University of Toronto

Spectacular skylines have often been seen as the ultimate symbol of China's economic success in the past three decades. Yet, along with China's breathtaking designer architectures, there comes also modern ruins such as urban slums and unoccupied new cities. This lecture uses a half-destroyed urban slum as an example to discuss how local residents and state authorities mobilized cultural and institutional resources from the imperial and socialist eras in their violent confrontation amid the post-socialist politics of urban renewal. Post-socialist China, in other words, is a departure from as well as a continuation of its recent past. Moreover, instead of viewing such urban ruins as static structures and their images as “ruin porn,” the talk will focus on the process of ruination and consider these ruins as the debris of history. As well, this talk will address the methodological issue of merging scholarship with visual art, and having them to illuminate one another.



Panel Session 3

3:00-4:10pm

Room 209 – *Negotiating Identities: Race, Ethnicity, Religion, and Gender*

Chair: Dr. Ndubueze Mbah, University at Buffalo

Shayna Devlin, University of Guelph: “Scotland in the Early Fourteenth Century: National Identity, Ethnicity, and Transnational Alliances”

Jessica T., University at Buffalo: “The Vicissitudes of Heavenly Bodies: An Exploration of Evolving Female Iconography during Periods of Religious Transition in Ireland and central Mexico”

Jonathan Lower, University at Buffalo: “Masks of Dialogue: African American Blues Protest Songs”

Room 210 – *The Cold War*

Chair: Dr. David Devereaux, Canisius College

Lauren Wehner, University at Buffalo: “Cold War Ideology or Corporate Profit?: The Motivation behind Hollywood’s Movietime U.S.A. Tours, 1951-52”

Sean Jamadar, University of Hawaii: “The Great American Paradox: Drugs and Capitalism”

Timothy O’Toole, University at Buffalo: “The East-West Cold War Divide: How the Imagined Became Reality”

Room 212 – *Twentieth-Century International Relations*

Chair: Dr. Kristin Stapleton, University at Buffalo

Aisa Purak, College at Brockport: “Muslim Immigrants in Rochester: Case Study of Bosnians”

Matthew Rockefeller, College at Brockport: “Afghanistan: America’s Predictable Long War”

Kirsten Hildonen, Ohio State University: “Performing Identity Under Occupation: Promoting a Rural Serbian Identity in Urban Belgrade during WWII”

Faculty Roundtable 2

4:20-5:20pm

Room 112 – *Historical Anniversaries*

The 2014-2015 academic year marks several important historical anniversaries, especially for the United States. Fifty years ago, the Selma to Montgomery marches and the Voting Rights Act suggested a crescendo of the American Civil Rights movement. World War I hostilities commenced a century ago, while 2015 promises the sesquicentennial celebration of the end of the American Civil War. History takes a leading role this year as some of its most debated topics become popularly-celebrated national legacies.

This historical roundtable intends for historians to share their thoughts on historical anniversaries. How are these events celebrated now? How have their meanings for Americans changed over time? Do their popular and historical meanings overlap or contradict one another? What do they mean for the humanities?

Patricia Mazón, Department of History, University at Buffalo

Angela Diaz, History and Political Science Department, Daemen College

Victoria Wolcott, Department of History, University at Buffalo

Sasha Pack, Department of History, University at Buffalo