# UC BERKELEY DEPARTMENT of

## WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER





#### **STUDENTS DIG HISTORY**

Berkeley History students participated in an archaeological dig in Sicily this summer with former history lecturer Randall Souza (now Assistant Professor at Seattle University). From Left: Randall Souza, Elizabeth Wueste, Aaron Brown, Bethany Lynch, and Brigi Glass. Photo courtesy of Bethany Lynch.

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# Dear Friends of Berkeley History,

As November is about to give way to December here in Berkeley, the sun is shining brightly and lawn-mowers are rumbling across the verdant lawns visible from the chair's office in Dwinelle Hall. Winter does a pretty good imitation of summer in these parts. But there's nothing imitation about the work the History Department has been doing recently. We are the real deal, as you will abundantly see from this newsletter. We've been a veritable beehive of activity on all fronts.

This fall, two new faculty members joined the department. Associate Professor Bruce Hall, a specialist in African History, came here from Duke University to help us build our strength in a vital and growing field. Associate Professor Vanes-

sa Ogle, specializing in Late Modern Europe, arrived from the University of Pennsylvania, and will continue her work connecting the history of modern Europe to global processes, such as the world of international finance. At the moment, we're in the midst of a lively search for a new colleague in the history of the Middle East and the Arab World. All these and more are indications of the dynamism of the department's faculty.

What more, you ask? Well, just see the following pages for all the new books and articles, the conferences organized and keynote addresses delivered, and the new course offerings here at Berkeley that our faculty have been busy creating. I myself am looking forward to teaching two new courses this spring with my colleagues. Jonathan Sheehan and I are presenting a new undergraduate lecture course on "Religion and the Making of the Modern West," challenging and probing the meaning of every word in its title (well, maybe not "the" and "of"). Beth Berry and I will host a graduate seminar on "Early Modern Worlds," spanning the globe from Japan to America to examine the

transitional centuries when the world's peoples, who had generally been dispersing across the planet from the time homo sapiens emerged in Africa, began to come back together again and to develop a truly global community.

But these are only drops in our very large bucket of innovative ways in which members of our de-

partment are endeavoring to explain the past to the present. Many of our graduate students, in addition to traveling to the world's archives for dissertation research and developing their teaching portfolios here in Berkeley, have been involved in a fascinating new initiative sponsored by the American Historical Association to promote awareness of the broad-

er career paths beyond the academy that many historians pursue. Not long ago the department sponsored a symposium featuring a group of our own Ph.D. recipients now deeply engaged in careers in business, high-tech, non-profit organizations, and secondary teaching, displaying the array of fields in which expert knowledge, research skills, careful writing and forceful speaking are key assets for success. The world needs people with strong historical sensibilities and the skills of humanists, and we remain committed to providing this training.

Our undergraduates seem to know this already, and put it on display in events like the 101 Circus, where they show off the hard-won results of their senior thesis research. Enrollment in our undergraduate courses is up, and interest in History from across campus remains very strong, as the department provides courses that fulfill requirements for majors in many other departments and colleges. And of course our department's administrative staff plays a key role in this as well, getting the courses launched and students



Although there's change and innovation in every part of our program, there's continuity in the things that matter most: our collective devotion to producing the finest historical scholarship and teaching history as a collaborative effort among faculty and students.

in their seats, supplying them with research funding, expert guidance, and a good deal of old fashioned moral support. For those of you associated with the graduate program over the past three or four decades, you'll want to know that Mabel Lee retired after an illustrious career in guiding graduate students through our program, and she's been ably succeeded by Todd Kuebler (and resident dog Appapotamus).

Although there's change and innovation in every part of our program, there's continuity in the things that matter most: our collective devotion to producing the finest historical scholarship and teaching history as a collaborative effort among faculty and students. For that, the support of our wide community of alumni and friends has always been a crucial element, and it's my hope that this fine tradition will continue. At the end of this newsletter, you'll find a description of the ways to contribute to Friends of Cal History, and the many ways your donations provide direct assistance to our students. Thanks for your support, and Go Bears!

— Mark Peterson, Department Chair



**GENDER & WOMEN'S HISTORY:** In 2017, Professors Sandra Eder and Stephanie Jones-Rogers started offering a new three-course focus on gender and women's history. The course sequence consists of Jones-Rogers's "The History of Women in the United States before 1900" (136A), Eder's "Gender and Sexuality in Twentieth-Century US History" (136B), and Jones-Rogers' course on "Defiant Women: Gender, Power and Violence in American History" (136C). All three 136 courses (A, B, C) fulfill the American Cultures requirement and the Historical Studies (HS) breadth requirement, paying attention to a spectrum of gendered experiences and acknowledging the importance of race, ethnicity, and class in shaping the lives of different groups of women and men in America. The three-course sequence is supplemented by a set of rotating pro-seminars on race and gender and on gender, medicine, and science.

THE HISTORY OF FASCISM: This course, taught by Professor John Connelly, will survey all aspects of fascist movements, from intellectual origins in 19th century bourgeois Europe and World War I, through the extreme experience of WWII, and the question why fascist movements seized power in certain states but not others. Students will study how fascist regimes, once in power, cultivated popular support and legitimacy; how they developed their own systems of economics, aesthetics, science, and race; how these regimes shaped the everyday lives of their subjects; and how they radicalized with the onset of war. The course concludes by moving closer to the present and asking what of fascism remains in our contemporary world, as memory and practice.

#### COURSES IN DEVELOPMENT

Calculating Americans Professor Caitlin Rosenthal

US-Mexico Borderlands Professor Brian DeLay

The Human Contexts & Ethics of Data Science Professor Cathryn Carson

Photo: WikiMedia Commons Public Domain

## NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

#### BRUCE S. HALL, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR (AFRICA)

The Department of History is delighted to welcome Professor Bruce S. Hall. Professor Hall earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2005. He is a specialist in Islam, slavery, and race.

His first book, A *History of Race in Muslim West Africa*, 1600-1960 (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011) was the 2012 co-winner of the Martin A. Klein prize, awarded for

the most distinguished work of scholarship on African History published in English. The book is an intellectual history of race and race relations in the Niger Bend region of Northern Mali. Professor Hall is widely published in peer-reviewed, edited books and journals including the *Review of Afri*can Political Economy, Journal of African Studies, and the International Journal of African Historical Studies.

Professor Hall is working on a second book that focuses on the history of nineteenth-century enslaved commercial agents who operated on their masters' behalf in the Ghadames (Libya) and Timbuktu (Mali) circuit. Tentatively entitled *Bonds of* 

*Trade: Slavery and Commerce in the 19th Century Circum-Saharan World*, the manuscript is based on extensive archives of (more than 1000) Arabic letters written between the slave merchants and their masters. We look forward to the publication of this study.

#### VANESSA OGLE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR (LATE MODERN EUROPE)

We are pleased to announce that Vanessa Ogle, a historian of European international relations and political economy, joined the department this fall. Vanessa hails from Northern Germany and has studied in Berlin, at the Sorbonne, and at Harvard (PhD, 2011). While in Paris she became fascinated with how techniques of time management spread from France across the globe from the late 19th century, and from this emerged a much acclaimed book, The Global Management of Time, which won the American Historical Association's 2016 George Louis Beer Prize for the best book in European international history. In the book she studies the introduction of territorial mean times, daylight saving times, calendar reforms in Germany, France, and Britain, but also colonial India and the former Ottoman world, as well as North America, Latin America, Africa, and Australasia. Vanessa is teaching a graduate course on capitalism in the spring, while researching a new project, *Archipelago Capitalism: A History of the Offshore World*, on the emergence of tax havens from the late 19th century, in-

cluding unregulated offshore financial currency markets, foreign trade zones, flags of convenience, and more positively, the attempts of international organizations to counter tax evasion, and with it the emergence of a new class of experts concerned with tax avoidance.

# GENE ADAM BRUCKER Shepard Professor of History Emeritus

Gene Brucker, the Shepard Professor of History Emeritus at UC Berkeley, who is credited with launching a new approach to the Florentine Renaissance, died on July 9 while in hospice care in Emeryville, California. He was 92.

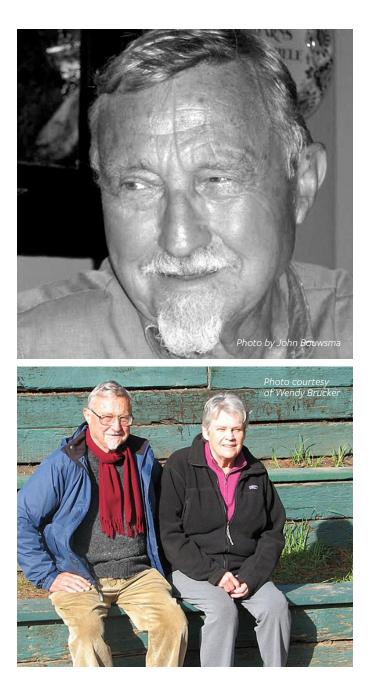
While previous scholars had largely relied on chronicles, historical narratives and literary works, Brucker explored the day-to-day affairs of Florence and the Florentines. He drew heavily on the city's almost unparalleled archives containing the deliberations of city magistrates, notarial copies of testaments and property transactions, records of religious institutions, judicial proceedings, diplomatic correspondence, and the private letters, journals and tax declarations of fourteenth- and fifteenth-century Florence citizens.

"Documents that others might have passed over as routine or dry-as-dust Brucker mined with an unerring eye for discovery and the utter concentration demanded by vast series of documents, the mere contemplation of which would have struck terror in other hearts," said colleague Randolph Starn, a UC Berkeley history professor emeritus.

In two major books, *Florentine Society and Politics*, 1343-1378 (Princeton University Press, 1962) and *The Civic World of Renaissance Florence* (Princeton University Press, 1977) Brucker wrote what remains the most detailed account of how late medieval Florence, a commercial city divided by factional and class strife, became the political, economic and cultural powerhouse of the Renaissance.

<u>— Kathleen Maclay, UC Berkley Media Relations</u>

#### READ THE FULL OBITUARY BY WILLIAM CONNELL & RANDOLPH STARN AT HISTORY.BERKELEY.EDU

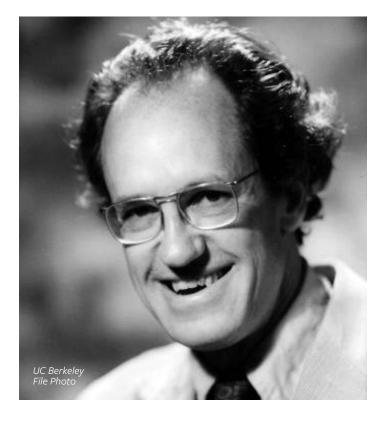


# DAVID N. KEIGHTLEY Professor of History Emeritus

David Keightley died peacefully in his sleep, age 84, in the early morning of Thursday, February 23, 2017: lucid, sociable, and engaged until the last. He was a scholar of towering erudition, one of the first western historians to master the oracle bone inscriptions and archaeological remains that are the primary sources for the history of Bronze Age China. More important, he was a scholar of great imagination and range who made his recalcitrant sources—largely short divinatory texts—speak to the great questions of his field and the human sciences more generally.

The titles of Keightley's books and articles bear witness to his intellectual ambition: Shang theology and the making of Chinese political culture; burial customs and social organization; time, space and community.<sup>1</sup> Crucially, Keightley was always as curious about every detail of the materiality of his sources as he was about their disclosures. While on leave at Cambridge University, he spent considerable time in a materials engineering lab trying to produce the sorts of cracks in the scapulas of animals that the diviners he studied would have used in their work.

In 1986, age 54, Keightley won a MacArthur "genius" award. He used some of the prize money to buy, for what was then an extravagant sum, a red, handcrafted, steel-frame, Italian road bike, which he rode until he was forced by declining health to give up his great passion for bicycling. As a young man in the late 1940s, he had ridden the grueling 600 km Paris-Brest event. As a more mature bicyclist, he began on June 14, 1985 to lead a group of Berkeley friends on weekly local rides, on annual 100-km and more regional rallies, and on a ten-day trip to France, which includ-



ed the June 5, 1992 conquest of the summit of Mt. Ventoux (the last several kilometers of which were in a blinding snowstorm). It was an event Keightley commemorated every year. His personal biking log spans more than half a century; his record of the rides of the group he led notes mileages and conversations for more than twenty years. Keightley's department web page picture shows him wearing a blue and gold Berkeley jersey.

— Thomas Laqueur

<sup>1.</sup> Keightley's masterpieces are *Sources of Shang History* (UC Press, 1978) and *The Ancestral Landscape* (UC Berkeley Institute of East Asia Studies, 2000).

# FACULTY UPDATES

MARGARET LAVINIA ANDERSON participated in a conference in Zürich on *The Levant in the Shadow of World War I: Unhealed Wounds, Perpetuated Patterns,* in preparation for a book that she has co-edited with Hans-Lukas Kieser entitled *End of the Ottomans: The Genocide of 1915 and The Politics of Turkish Nation-alism.* It is scheduled to be published by I.B. Tauris in 2018. In November 2018, she delivered the

annual Gerald D. and Norma Feldman Memorial lecture in Berkeley: "Ambassador Morgenthau's Story: Henry Morgenthau, the Armenian Genocide, and the Problem of Humanitarian Intervention."

**ANDREW BARSHAY** has drafted the three opening chapters of a new study, *The People's Legs and Feet: The National Railways and Postwar Japan*. This book takes up the question of how Japanese society remade itself in the wake of catastrophic defeat. Through the prism of the national railways, Barshay explores the history of postwar Japan from the ground up, telling the story of how Japan's vast

rail network, accident ridden and in tatters at the end of the war, was able within less than two decades to engineer the development of the Shinkansen (or Bullet Train) and spark an international renaissance of rail—and yet at the same time experience organizational failure, passenger disaffection, and final breakup in the mid 1980s. This book is his first attempt to write postwar history as such. **THOMAS BRADY** has two pieces in a soon-to-bepublished Festschrift for Professor Emerita Susan Karant-Nunn (Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies at the University of Arizona, Tucson): "The Constitutional Treaty of a German City: Strasbourg, 1482" and, with Katherine G. Brady, "Taking Control of Village Religion: Wendelstein in Franconia, 1524." • On October 31, he gave

> a talk, "From Missouri to the Holy Roman Empire and Beyond," at the opening of a rare book exhibit at the University of Oregon. The exhibit includes some real gems and was called "Word Made Print: Reformation and the History of the Book." This event was not only celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses, but it was also marking the anniversary of Tom's arrival in Oregon 50 years ago. • Students and other visitors from Europe and China continue to come to Berkeley to consult Tom, which gives him great pleasure. He also is moving forward on a collection of unpublished lectures and papers.

During 2017-2018, **MARK BRILLIANT** will be launching two new courses: "California, the West, and the World," and "Wall Street and Main Street," which will be offered through American Studies and Legal Studies. When he's not busy with his duties as Vice Chair of Curriculum for the Department of History and Director of the Program in American Studies,



Image: University of Oregon Libraries



**Left:** *Improvised Continent* by Professor Emeritus Richard Cándida Smith (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017). **Right:** Cathryn Carson (far right) participates in a panel discussion, "The Landscape of Digital Humanities," at the Berkeley Digital Humanities Faire in April 2017.

he is working on his next book tentatively entitled, *From School Bus to Google Bus: A New Economy, A New Politics, and the Rise of a New Gilded Age.* It examines the relationship between the new (post-industrial, high technology) economy and the new (post-New Deal, post-Great Society, bipartisan neoliberal) politics from the late 1960s through the late 1980s and how they contributed to the rise of the New (or Second) Gilded Age, as it would come to be known.

**RICHARD CÁNDIDA SMITH** is very happy that the University of Pennsylvania Press has released his book *Improvised Continent: Pan-Americanism and Cultural Exchange*. The book looks at cultural interaction between the United States and other American countries since the beginning of the 20th century, with the focus on the careers inside the United States of several prominent Latin American writers and artists like Gabriela Mistral, Diego Rivera, Candido Portinari, Érico Veríssimo, Victoria Ocampo, and Carlos Fuentes, to show how they challenged U.S. citizens about their place in the world and about the kind of global relations the country's interests could allow. For more information, go to <u>upenn.edu/pennpress</u>. A new book project is percolating, but he has become an active participant in Trans@tlantic Cultures, a project organized by historians from Brazil and France with funding from the European Union and the government of Brazil, to provide a digital platform for articles exploring and debating different topics in trans-Atlantic cultural and intellectual history 1700 to now. Scholars from Europe, Africa, and all parts of the western hemisphere are participating. The first articles go online in mid-2018, with more to come for the next several years, along with a variety of resources and links. All articles will be in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

**CATHRYN CARSON** is running Berkeley's Data Science Education Program (her second year in this role). She is also supporting the development of the new Division of Data Sciences. She thinks of this work as applied history—using her skills as a historian to project from the past and understand the present in order to help shape the future. She is designing a new course on the Human Contexts and Ethics of Data Science, taught with a historian's mindset.



**Top:** Professor John Connelly delivered the keynote address on Christian-Jewish relations at the annual Powell-Heller Conference on Holocaust studies at Pacific Lutheran University. **Bottom:** After delivering a lecture entitled "The Texas Gun Frontier and the Travails of Mexican History," Professor Brian DeLay (left) participated in a discussion at West Texas A&M University in October.

MARGARET CHOWNING'S article "Culture Wars in the Trenches? Public Schools and Catholic Education (1867-1897)" will appear in the Hispanic American Historical Review in November 2017. She is serving as Vice Chair of the University of California Press editorial board this year and will chair the board in 2018–19. She is on leave in 2017–18 and will finish her long-awaited (by her and her family) book tentatively titled Women, the Catholic Church, and Mexican Politics, 1750-1953, by the end of the summer. In one of the more curious professional events of her career, she will be attending a conference in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, next summer, organized around her book Rebellious Nuns: The Troubled History of a Mexican Convent, 1754-1863. The conference will include a scripted reenactment of the rebellion in the convent, written by one of the ex-pat Americans living in San Miguel and acted out by others. She still has hope for a movie contract, but baby steps.

**JOHN CONNELLY** gave a keynote address on Christian-Jewish relations at the annual Powell-Heller Conference on Holocaust studies at Pacific Lutheran University. He will also be speaking at meetings of the Association for Jewish Studies and American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. In April, he had <u>a piece in *The Nation* on the threats</u> to the Central European University by the Hungarian <u>Government</u>. And in response to interest among our students, he is offering a new course on the history of fascism, from the 19th century to the present.

**BRIAN DELAY** spent the past year teaching and working on his book manuscript, *Shoot the State: Guns, Freedom, and Domination in the Americas,* 1774-1934. He also recorded a spoken essay titled "Gotham's Gun Baron" for BBC Radio 3, and gave invited talks at Temple University; the Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung in Bielefeld, Germany; NYU; West Texas A&M; and the Western History Association conference. A panel he organized for the 2017 meeting of the Organization of American Historians on the history of the American arms trade was pro-





Left: Professor Susanna Elm served as the Heidi Fitz-Niggli University Professor at the University of Zürich for Spring 2017. Photo by Fabio Schönholzer, University of Zürich

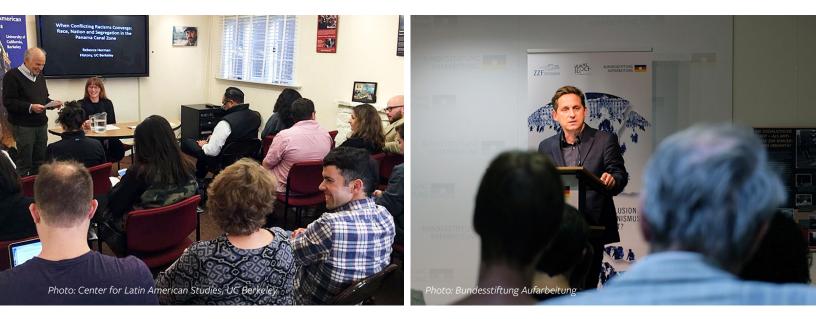
**Right:** Professor Margaret Chowning's article, "Culture Wars in the Trenches? Public Schools and Catholic Education (1867-1897)," appears in the November 2017 issue of the *Hispanic American Historical Review.* 

filed in *Perspectives: The Newsmagazine of the American Historical Association.* This October, he had the good fortune to spend two weeks as a visiting scholar at the University of Melbourne (and to do some birdwatching on the side). Following the massacre in Las Vegas, he published an essay on taxpayers and government support for the gun business in the online magazine *The Conversation.* He is on leave for the 2017-2018 academic year and writing, thanks to a grant from the ACLS.

SUSANNA ELM spent Spring 2017 as Hedi Fitz-Niggli University Professor at the University of Zurich, where she was associated with the Faculty of Theology, housed in the Grossmuenster, Zwingli's church in the center of the old town. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know colleagues and students, both graduate and undergraduate, not only in Theology but also in Classics and Ancient History, through the three courses she taught. Since it was her brief to represent women in academia, she also participated in a number of panels and interviews, and gave several public lectures in Zürich, Basel, Bern, but also in Oxford, Exeter, Rome, Boulder, and Berlin, where she also participated in a panel discussion on asceticism for a general audience. • During that period, she prepared and submitted for publication by Mohr Siebeck, together with her host Professor Silke-Petra Bergjan, a volume entitled *The Many Faces of Antioch*, which contains 17 contributions from an international conference on the topic which took place in Kappel near Zürich in 2014.

As a Russian historian, **VICTORIA FREDE** has been participating in conferences commemorating the centenary of the October 1917 revolution. One of these was a graduate student conference, organized by a doctoral candidate at Berkeley's history department, Yana Skorobogatov. Graduate students from across the country convened to consider the consequences of the events of 1917 for Russian, Soviet, and world history. In October, Frede also presented on the Russian Revolution at a conference held at the Colegio Nacional of Mexico in Mexico City on the Russian revolutionary movement and its relevance to understanding the revolutionary centenary in Mexico.

**PAULA FASS'S** most recent book, *The End of American Childhood: A History of Parenting from Life on the Frontier to the Managed Child* (Princeton University Press) is now available in paperback. She has also been involved in the opening of the German Historical Institute's new western branch in Berkeley.



Left: In November, Professor Rebecca Herman delivered a lecture hosted by the Berkeley Center for Latin American Studies: "When Conflicting Racisms Converge: Race, Nation and Segregation." Right: In June, Professor Stefan-Ludwig Hoffmann delivered a lecture in Berlin hosted by Bundesstiftung Aufarbeitung: "Beyond Empires? Anti-colonialism, communism and human rights."

**ERICH GRUEN** still hops planes to go to conferences or lectures (but only when he is asked to speak and somebody else is paying the bill). Such visits in the past year included San Antonio (at the Society for Biblical Literature), Princeton University, and Florida State University, plus a couple of gigs at home (one at Cal, one at GTU). Recent articles have kept him busy: "The Last Generation of the Roman Republic Revisited" (a retrospective on a book he published more than forty years ago), "Paul and Jewish Ethnicity," "Christians as a 'Third Race': Is Ethnicity an Issue?" and "Josephus' Image of the Parthians." His proudest achievement, however, is that the number of PhDs awarded to students on whose dissertation committees he has served hit the 100 mark in Spring 2017. Longevity does pay some dividends. And there are still four others who have not yet finished.

**DAVID HENKIN** is exploiting rare moments of quiet to revise a book manuscript on the history of the modern week. He has published a series of shorter pieces on that and other topics. This January, he will begin teaching a new version of the U.S. immigration history course developed by the late Jon Gjerde. **REBECCA HERMAN** completed a fruitful trip to the Cuban Foreign Ministry Archives in the spring to conduct final research for her manuscript, currently titled *The Americas at War*. Her work on the Brazilian labor justice system will be published in a volume by the Editora Unicamp in Brazil in 2018. Over the past year, she has presented her research in São Paulo, New Orleans, and Berkeley. She recently met with K-12 teachers from the Oakland Unified School District to offer historical context for understanding Central American immigration. She is currently participating in an affordable course content pilot program and developing a new course on Latin America and the United States.

**STEFAN-LUDWIG HOFFMANN** received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2017 and will be a Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg/Institute for Advanced Studies Berlin in 2017–2018. Last academic year, he published several essays, including "Human Rights and History" in *Past and Present*, which provoked responses by Samuel Moyn and Lynn Hunt, as well as a lively discussion at a seminar with Moyn at Moses Hall last October, organized by our graduate students. He also delivered talks at Harvard, Yale, and NYU, and he organized a panel at the German Studies Association conference in San Diego on the historian and theorist Reinhart Koselleck, whose work he is currently co-editing and co-translating for Stanford University Press.

Professor Emeritus **DAVID HOLLINGER** recently published his seventh book, *Protestants Abroad: How Missionaries Tried to Change the World but Changed America* (Princeton University Press).

STEPHANIE JONES-ROGERS is completing the final revisions to her book manuscript, which is under advance contract with Yale University Press. She is currently on a year-long research leave during which she is completing portions of two book-length projects, "Women, American Slavery, and the Law" and "Seaborne: African Captivity, Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Belonging in the British Atlantic." She has been awarded post-doctoral fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ford Foundation, and the Woodrow Wilson Foundation in support of this new work. She also published her second article, "'[S]he could...spare one ample breast for the profit of her owner': White Mothers and Enslaved Wet Nurses' Invisible Labor in American Slave Markets," in the April 2017 issue of Slavery and Abolition.

**GEOFFREY KOZIOL** has been kept busy presenting papers at workshops and conferences in Glasgow, Berlin, and The Huntingdon Library. His new book, *The Peace of God*, will appear next year with the Medieval Institute and ARC Humanities Press, along with an article on medieval attitudes towards peace forthcoming in *A Cultural History of Peace in the Medieval Age* (Bloomsbury). He learned a lot co-teaching a comparative history course last spring with Nicolas Tackett on medieval China and Europe. He's currently writing a series of articles on the transformation of history-writing after the fall of the Carolingian empire.



**Top:** Professor Stepanhie Jones-Rogers is currently completing final revisions on her manuscript, *Mistresses of the Market: White Women and the Economy of American Slavery*. Pictured here, Jones-Rogers delivers a lecture at Free Speech Movement Café in 2015. **Bottom:** Professor Thomas Laqueur, pictured here at Amherst College, is visiting nine campuses in 2017–2018 as a Phi Beta Kappa lecturer.



**Left:** An aerial view of Alaska from Professor Rebecca McLennan's research trip to the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea. **Right:** Professor Yuri Slezkine delivered the keynote address, "Bolshevism as Russia's Failed Reformation," at the Third Annual Conference of the Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies in June 2017.

**TOM LAQUEUR** is visiting nine campuses across the country for two days each as a Phi Beta Kappa lecturer for 2017–18. So far: NC State Raleigh, Virginia Tech, Bowdoin, and Amherst. Next: University of Cincinnati and Miami of Ohio. He lectures from a menu of topics ranging from death to dogs to the history of humanitarianism and meets with students and faculty for classes and informal discussions.

**REBECCA MCLENNAN** headed to the Bering Sea and NOAA's St Paul research station, in the Pribilof Islands, to do historical research on Alaska's lucrative fur seal industry and U.S. legal efforts to claim exclusive jurisdiction over the Bering and its biota in the late 19th century. These claims, which were eventually litigated by American attorneys at the Paris Arbitration Tribunal of 1892-93, are the subject of her forthcoming book on nonhuman animals and the law (*The Wild Life of Law*). *Becoming America*, the textbook she coauthored with colleague David Henkin in 2014, continued to bring the authors' unique, Berkeley's-eye view to college students in over 20 states, including New York, Arkansas, Texas, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Florida. **MICHAEL NYLAN** is working on two commissioned translations: the first, for Norton, on the Sunzi bingfa (The Art of War), and the second, for Oxford, on the Documents classic, one of the Five "Confucian" Classics. The Sunzi bingfa translation, with appended essays, is being produced, under her editorial direction, by a graduate student working group, whose members will also contribute essays on the history of the text. Work on the Documents classic is leading to a book tentatively entitled *The Politics of the Common Good in Early China*. Meanwhile, her latest book, for Zone (a division of MIT Press), is in press and due out in the spring; it is entitled *The Chinese Pleasure Book*.

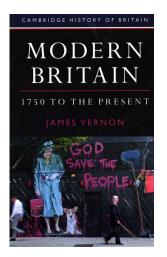
**PETER SAHLINS** published his new book, *1668: The Year of the Animal in France* (New York: Zone Books, 2017), fifteen years in the making, that explores an "animal moment" under Louis XIV and in the shadow of Descartes' new mechanistic philosophy, a moment when animals and their symbolic representations—in art, in medicine, in natural history, in philosophy, and in literature—helped transform the French state and culture. He is at work on a biography of the young Louis XIII of France, tentatively titled: *The Bird King: Louis XIII, his Physician, and his Animals,* which he expects to take many years.

**ETHAN SHAGAN** finished his book, modestly titled *A History of Modern Belief*, which should be out from Princeton University Press late in 2018. He's been on the road a huge amount, trying out bits of the book on audiences all over the world, which included a trip to Taiwan(!), the AHA convention in Denver, the annual Edmondson Lectures at Baylor University, and the plenary addresses at both the American Society for Church History Conference and the North American Conference on British Studies.

With his new book, *The House of Government*, out in three foreign languages, with four more in press, **YURI SLEZKINE** has begun work on the Russian original. At the same time, he has been speaking to a wide variety of skeptical audiences. He wore the wrong tie at a dinner in Blenheim Palace hosted by His Grace the Duke of Marlborough and would have asked a clever question at a private dinner in Sochi had President Putin (of the Russian Federation) not left the room before the main course was served.

JAMES VERNON is always busy flying around the world, delivering papers, accepting awards and prizes, and generally being the very important historian he is. In the real world he taught a new lecture class on the Global History of Soccer and published a textbook volume in

the new Cambridge History of Britain series. *Modern Britain*, 1750 to the Present, is a new and improved version of his long-standing upper division lecture class 151C. He has begun work on a new book about Heathrow airport as a way of thinking about the global history of neoliberal Britain. Most of the time he would rather be sailing.



# ALUMNI NOTES

#### SUBMIT AN ALUMNI NOTE: HISTORY.BERKELEY.EDU/ALUMNI

JEFFREY M. BALE (PHD '94) is a Professor in the Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies Program at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. He recently published a book in two volumes: <u>The Darkest Sides of Politics, I: Postwar Fascism, Covert Operations, and Terrorism</u>; and <u>The Darkest Sides of</u> <u>Politics, II: State Terrorism, 'Weapons of</u> <u>Mass Destruction,' Religious Extremism,</u> and Organized Crime (Routledge, 2017).

ANDREW CAPISTRANO (BA '11) lived in Tokyo for five years after graduating. He is now a PhD candidate in International History at the London School of Economics. He is continuing a line of research from his undergrad thesis on East Asia's international order in the early 20th century.

**RENE QUINTANA (BA '01)** has been selected to serve on a national roundtable in Washington, DC under the US Department of Justice to address sex and human trafficking. Participants in the roundtable discussion will include the Department of Urban Development, Department of Justice, Department of Social Services, and the Hispanic organization Manos Unidos, Inc.

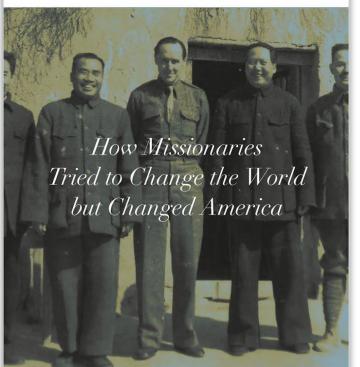
#### BOOK REVIEW | HOLLINGER

Image: the territorial conquest of the territorial conquest of North America and to eschew far-flung entanglements. "Go not abroad in search of monsters to destroy," John Quincy Adams told those Protestants who clamored upon the Monroe administration to aid Greek Christians struggling to free themselves from Ottoman rule.

Fervent Christians ignored the Secretary of State's memo. Animated by the Second Great Awakening, the nation's leading Protestant denominations had already combined forces to create the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in 1910. Over the century, the ABCFM and other organizations dispatched thousands of missionaries worldwide-to China and Japan, to the Ottoman Empire, and Africa and to minister to Indians in North America. Animated by their own unshakable commitments to Protestantism and the American style of government, missionaries functioned as the advance agents for an aggrandizing, expansionary republic that would soon bid for global mastery. Missionaries functioned as the thin end of an American imperial spear. Cast in this guise, the missionary evangelist has become a familiar trope, a kind of historiographical stock character.

David Hollinger's *Protestants Abroad* tells an original, unsettling, and revelatory story that upends long-settled assumptions about Protestant missionaries and their place in the broad history of U.S. global engagement. To achieve his striking and revisionist conclusions, Hollinger flips the historiographical script. He shifts the focus from the 19th century, when missionaries functioned as the advance guard for secular power, to the 20th century. He recasts missionaries as the counselors of prudent restraint, and he rejects the old view of missionaries as inveterate cultural chauvinists. Instead of being proto-imperialists,

# PROTESTANTS ABROAD



# DAVID A. HOLLINGER

#### PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2017 REVIEW BY DANIEL SARGENT

Hollinger explains, twentieth-century Protestants missionaries were often sympathetic to non-Western cultures and peoples, and they struggled, often against the odds, to nudge secular U.S. foreign policy towards accommodation with the colonized world's yearnings for dignity and freedom.

Hollinger defines his terms with precision. His "Protestants Abroad" do not comprise the entire American Protestant milieu. Rather, Hollinger focuses on those theological liberals clustered in the "mainline" denominations, which include the Congregationalist, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and American Baptist churches. These liberals created

#### BOOK REVIEW | HOLLINGER

"ecumenical" frameworks such as the International Missionary Council (IMC) of 1910 and led inter-denominational organizations such as the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). Hollinger's liberal Protestants battled with theological conservatives, or fundamentalists, who focused, laser-like, on the salvation of individual souls. The ecumenicals began in the early 20th century to prioritize secular uplift over proselytization. Even worse, for the fundamentalists, liberals began to characterize Christianity as one of many paths towards the divine, insisting that other faith traditions should be treated with equal respect. The vital schism between liberals and evangelicals, which reverberates to the present and today divides American politics as much as it divides American Christianity, functions as the point of departure for Hollinger's assessment of the ecumenical influence on American global engagement.

Saudi Arabia. John S. Davies, another missionary son, represented the United States in Yenan, Mao Zedong's wartime capital. Ecumenical missionaries, Hollinger explains, were also academic pioneers. The burgeoning of university-based area studies scholarship on East Asia and the Middle East after World War Two owed a great deal to the influence and expertise of missionary-connected Americans.

For all their prominence, David Hollinger concludes, ecumenical Protestants most often failed to avert the serial missteps and errors that afflicted post-1945 U.S. foreign policy. The missionary-connected warned against embroiling U.S. power with French neocolonial interests in Indochina, but they could not prevent the Vietnam War. Such outcomes indicate the incapacity of deep and learned expertise to restrain the myopic blunders of secular power—a stark verdict on the missionary-connected that might also chasten

# *Protestants Abroad* explains how sustained and deep engagement with foreign societies led liberal missionaries towards sincere respect for non-Western cultures.

Focusing on ecumenical missionaries and their secular kin-a group Hollinger calls "missionary-connected"-Protestants Abroad explains how sustained and deep engagement with foreign societies led liberal missionaries towards sincere respect for non-Western cultures. Representatives of the type include Pearl Buck, the missionary daughter who introduced Americans to the bleak predicament of rural China and won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1938, and John Hersey, the missionary son and journalist whose bleak reportage from the fronts of the Second World War forced Americans to grapple with the Holocaust, the atomic bomb, and their country's own, fraught place in global affairs. The missionary-connected also performed direct public service. William Eddy, a missionary son, translated between Franklin D. Roosevelt and King Ibn Saud in 1945, then functioned as U.S. ambassador to

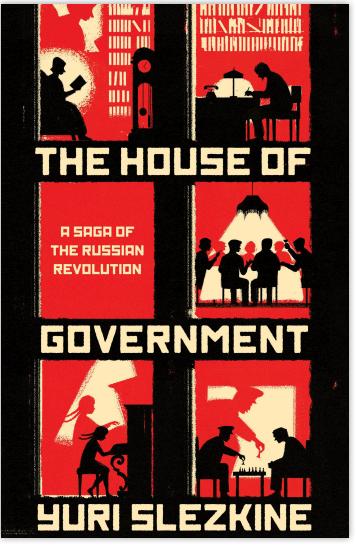
secular academics. Yet Hollinger is too wise a historian to permit his narrative arc towards unalloyed failure. Rather, his great achievement in an empathetic and visionary book is to explain how liberal Protestantism came in the 20th century to serve the cause of secular social reform. Missionary-connected Americans in the 20th century chafed against power, as their nineteenth-century forebears had done, but this time, Hollinger explains, their agenda was progressive and ecumenical, not chauvinistic and evangelical. The missionary-connected proved especially effective advocates for liberal reform within the United States, where they played key roles in social movements, especially the crusade for civil rights. For all the frustrations of missionary engagement in the travails of American global power, the missionary spear of the 19th century became a Protestant boomerang.

#### BOOK REVIEW | SLEZKINE

he publication of Yuri Slezkine's *House of Government* must be one of the great events of 2017. Appearing just in time for the centenary of the October 1917 Revolution, it has taken the world by storm, reviewed in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Nation*, *The London Review of Books*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Financial Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, to name only one handful. Translations in Dutch and French have already appeared, with more to follow.

Subtitled A Saga of the Russian Revolution, this book has been hailed for combining the historical with the literary. It conjures the great hopes, thoughts, beliefs, visions, delusions, doubts, and despair of the Bolsheviks who set out to transform the Russian Empire into a communist utopia. Readers are invited to experience the sights, odors, and sounds, the whispers and shouts, the humming of record plays and the eerie silence that marked and impinged upon life in the highest echelons of state power. Analytically, the book makes a powerful argument that will remain controversial: the Bolsheviks are best understood as a millenarian sect of fellow believers who viewed the current order as irredeemable, destined to collapse in a sea of blood while giving birth to a new kingdom. As they awaited and indeed ceaselessly labored to bring to fruition the Real Day to Come, each formed personal commitments and attachments to one another, to wives, husbands, and children, wishing for a legacy that came to rival their future hopes. By creating an intimate picture of the Communist party as a group, Slezkine displays the dilemmas that men and women confronted as they inaugurated the revolutionary apocalypse and saw it through the Day of Judgment. The judgments were manifold, and they became, as they remain, intensely personal.

Located the banks of the Moscow River, the House of Government was a massive apartment complex, inhabited by leading Communist Party members, artis-



#### PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2017 REVIEWED BY VICTORIA FREDE

tic elites, and celebrated models of proletarian labor beginning in 1931. The building, erected on a swamp, serves as a metaphor for the grand reclamation that its constructors envisioned for the Soviet Union as a whole. Each apartment was to become a reward for the primary inhabitant's service to the cause of redeeming and remaking a corrupt society in the image of the new Soviet man. The rewards, however, became their own punishment, as it transpired that the builders of Socialism in one State were all too ready to rest on their laurels, affording a more comfortable, less

#### BOOK REVIEW | SLEZKINE



The House of Government, also know as the House on the Embankment, under construction in Moscow in 1931.

uncompromising life to their offspring. This was the moment the devil arrived to demand his end of the bargain. Ensconced in their apartments, each inhabitant listened for the knock on the door as the security police came to claim them—or their neighbors—in the dead of night. Some inhabitants would afford haven to their neighbors' sons and daughters. Others turned them away. Under interrogation, more than a few would confess and denounce their neighbors. Others remained silent. Both sets would be imprisoned, sent into exile, or simply shot, with only a remnant spared. Death was not the end of the revolution, however. Rather, it was the dream of restoration, of a wholesome home and hearth, which transformed the Promethean ambitions of the first generation into forgetfulness. Their children read Pushkin, shrugging at Marx, and moved on.

Twenty years of hard labor went into this book, as reflected in the exceedingly long list of midwives, the graduate student research assistants credited in the acknowledgments. May their names resound in the annals of history for ever more! While Slezkine's survival of this trial may be credited to the ministrations of the wife and son, who fed, clothed, and otherwise sustained him, they failed to lull him into a perditious sense of contentment. The toil, which is visible in Slezkine's meticulous attention to detail and the coherence of the analysis, is masked by the prose, which remains characteristically playful and elegant throughout.

#### BOOK REVIEW | TACKETT

he idea of China as a nation—embodied in a people, shaped by a shared culture, and protected by defined borders—was a product of the Song dynasty and its bureaucratic imagination. So argues Nicolas Tackett in this ambitious new work. Origins makes its appearance virtually in the wake of Tackett's prize-winning first book (2014), which recorded the cataclysmic demise of China's aristocracy as an essential precondition for the emergence of meritocracy: the most enduring legacy of China's imperial system. Drawing on a wealth of Song printed texts (another of that era's gifts to history), archaeological remains, and a large secondary literature in Chinese, English, French, and Japanese, Tackett aspires in Origins to present a "total history" in the French mode. Accounting for the origins of China as a nation would seem to demand nothing less.

The origin of Origins, Tackett explains, lay in a decade of intermittent research on the frontier relations between Northern Song China, the Khitan Liao empire, and the Tangut Xia kingdom. As a result of these interactions, Tackett argues, court officials of the Northern Song (960-1127), began to conceive of "China" and its place in the world in new ways. For them, Song China was part of something larger than a dynasty, something with a continuous and transmissible culture and history. Simultaneously, they began to define more precisely the boundaries of this "something" on the basis both of the historical Great Wall and notions of "natural" borders derived from newly developed models of the cosmos. They came to imagine a "sinic space" that was culturally and ecologically homogeneous and inhabited by a population of "Han" Chinese believed to be loyal to the trans-dynastic political entity. It was also at this time that the Northern Song court embarked on a massive project to demarcate—with trenches and tumuli—several of its frontiers. Here, in this pivotal eleventh-century moment, lay the "origins of the Chinese nation."

Origins, in short, tracks a change in worldview

## The ORIGINS of the CHINESE NATION

Song China and the Forging of an East Asian World Order

#### NICOLAS TACKETT



#### CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2017 REVIEWED BY ANDREW BARSHAY

among Song China's sociopolitical elites. In the introduction, Tackett first lays out the historical and theoretical case for considering "pre-modern nationalism" as a qualitative break from, or at least a subsuming of, earlier dynastic or universalist notions of empire and something other than a mere precursor to the "real," or modern, mass variety. Here, the familiar names of Ernest Gellner, Anthony Smith, Peter Sahlins, and especially Benedict Anderson make their appearance. He then identifies the shidafu or "literati" as the group among which Song China's "nation-

#### BOOK REVIEW | TACKETT

al idea" first emerges and locates that emergence in the remarkably durable peace following the epochal Chanyuan Oath of 1005 between the Song court and the Khitan Liao empire. A surprisingly large number of Song's top elite, Tackett finds, were involved in the exchange of diplomatic missions over many years, and spent many hours in the company of their enemy and neighbor. Sharply aware of an earlier dynasty's loss to the Khitan of the so-called Sixteen Prefectures surrounding Beijing, these emissaries became, despite themselves, "cosmopolitans" in a new way. The sociability that formed through diplomatic encounters "humanized Song China's northern neighbors." At the

same time, among this top elite, the Tang notion of a universal empire that drew "others" to its capital like iron filings to a magnet metamorphosed into one of a bounded and sovereign territory whose "people" were the Han. In turn, Tackett continues, the bilateral relations of the Song court with Liao are best understood in the context of the "East Asian world order" in which China stood for the first time among diplomatic equals and regional rivals, particularly those from the steppe lands to the north. That context is vital to the story Tackett tells.

The book can be read, Tackett suggests, as a series of exploratory and explanatory essays, each of which concretizes the emergence of national consciousness from a different perspective, using different sources.

and Liao elites developed, and shows that mutual trust among them tended to dampen sentiments at court for a reconquest of "our" territory in Yan. As Tackett acknowledges, for domestic purposes Song documents persisted in referring to Khitans in derogatory terms. Even so, the sense of an absolute ethnocultural distinction between steppe and plain people—Khitan versus Han—which originated with the Khitan policies for tribal management, came to be shared on both sides of the boundary. Chapter Two takes up military strategy, specifically perimeter defense against nomadic horsemen invading from the north—"the massive campaign to construct linear barriers across

> a vast swathe of the frontier" of a kind that the Tang never contemplated, and that met with some success. With fear of a Khitan invasion receding by the mid-11th century, Tackett points out, the defenses lapsed. In their place, as he shows in Chapter Three, a highly activist court shifted its concern to border demarcation, an enterprise on which it expended vast resources. This was much more than a matter of identifying what seemed to be "natural" barriers: the Song-Liao border, after all, bisected a wide

The organization of the principal chapters is on point, even elegant in its way. Divided into two parts (of three chapters each), the first treats "Political Space," and the second "Cultural Space." The book can be read, Tackett suggests, as a series of exploratory and explanatory essays, each of which concretizes the emergence of national consciousness from a different perspective, using different (if overlapping) sources. Chapter One describes the embassy system and the various ways—shared meals, poetry exchanges, travel together—in which sociability among Song open plain. Along with the surveying, mapping, and marking came an unprecedented "micromanagement" of agricultural projects and state involvement in local land disputes. As Tackett observes, while the Great Wall may have marked the limits of effective military control, it was still one-sided; the imperial sway continued beyond it. But the new inter-state borders were *two-sided*: "the territory of a neighboring state began immediately on the other side."

For Tackett, these instances of border defense and demarcation were both a reflection of contingent conditions in the northeast and a product of a changed

#### BOOK REVIEW | TACKETT

Song political culture, in which the notion of the Zhongguo or "Middle Kingdom" as a bounded territory-indeed the border itself-became an actor in its own right, an organizer of collective thought and action, a definer of national identity. Part Two as a whole is concerned with that culture. Chapter Four explores the conceptual, even cosmic shifts whose effects the earlier chapters have in fact been tracing. It begins with a brisk recap of the universalist notions of the polity, which were grounded in a number of numerological schemas that posited a normative relationship between the empire's geographical extent and the sway of civilization, but "revealed nothing about the nature of the frontier, nor of the lands beyond." For Tackett, some, but emphatically not all, of these earlier conceptual elements gave way by the Song era to what he terms a "novel way of thinking about territory" based on "the geographic extent of historical dynasties and the de facto range of the Han ethnoculture." This newly conceptualized Han ethnoculture was therefore newly bounded and shaped by a shared history. But this in turn begs the central question of "Han-ness": was it culture, or ethnicity, or both? Tackett's solution is to argue that in Song political theory, "culture trumped ethnicity," but that "unspoken sentiments," a sense of belonging "more fundamental than ideology," lay underneath: under the right conditions, such feelings could be translated into irredentism directed northward. Chapter Five makes use of excavated tomb remains to delineate what he sees as a stark divide between Khitan, or steppe, culture and that of the Han. To be sure, he recognizes a border effect whereby some mortuary practices among Liao Chinese began to diverge from those in areas of Song control. But the truly significant gulf, he emphasizes, was that between the North China Plain and the steppe lands to the north of the Yan mountains. Even though the Khitans controlled areas to the south, they recognized these as Chinese and, in accordance with their settled policy of cultural segregation, made no

effort to homogenize them with their own. They were tribal managers, not cultural imperialists. The implications are followed up in Chapter Six, which returns to the primary focus of the book and brings back the "Song cosmopolitans." Official travelers beyond the Yan mountains, Tackett tells us, believed that they had crossed "Heaven's barrier" into a truly alien land. Yes, "northern Hebei differed from Sichuan, the Yellow River Valley, or, perhaps, parts of South China." But the steppe was another matter altogether. Yan, for these travelers, "was a sinic space" where they could feel at home. The border, marked by the Baigou river, was not a cultural divide but a political incitement. Yan's people (here is where sentiment and ideology mix) belonged to "us."

Tackett's conclusion stresses once more the novel conditions of Song: meritocracy, an "imagined community" among shidafu, and enforced political boundaries. We are reminded of the result: a just as novel sense of nation, even of nationalism, born of frontier experience. To be sure, in its own epoch, the story of that nationalism is not a happy one. Song irredentism fed an incautious military policy, leading to the loss of much more territory than it sought to regain, the fall of the dynasty, and foreign rule. So one consequence of Song cosmopolitanism was not just nationalism, but national disaster in the form of the "Mongol tsunami." But Tackett's larger point is that Song nationalism did not have to be modern nationalism, with its base in mass mobilization, in order to be significant. It was an alternative type of nationalism, based on empires in balance. The choice that history forced upon China, therefore, was not between dynastic perennialism and modern nationhood, but between two forms of nationalism, two ideas of nation. Nationalism itself can develop virtually anywhere, so long as human societies aggregate beyond a certain scale. To acknowledge this is to overcome the intellectual imperialism of modernity.

# SAVE THE DATES



#### Graduate Student Research Symposium

Friday, January 26, 2018 | Time To Be Announced 3335 Dwinelle Hall



### History Homecoming

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 | 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Berkeley Alumni House



The 101 Circus: Undergraduate Research Showcase

Wednesday, May 2, 2018 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. 3335 Dwinelle Hall



#### Department of History Commencement Ceremony

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 | 9:30 a.m. Zellerbach Auditorium

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- Conference travel for graduate students who are presenting papers or interviewing for jobs
- Prizes for the best dissertation and undergraduate thesis
- Equipment for the graduate computer lab
- Work-study positions for instructional support
- Graduate space coordinator position

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