

## Spring 2021 Newsletter

Dear alumni and friends,

This past year has tested us in many ways, and more than in recent memory revealed the relevance of History for our students. The Department is proud to have contributed historical perspectives on current debates, while remaining dynamic in our scholarship, teaching, and public outreach during this critical juncture. Below are some highlights from this most unusual year. Thank you for staying engaged with us!

Be safe and well,

**Paul Gootenberg, PhD**

Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of History



## Welcome President McInnis



The Department of History is thrilled to welcome Stony Brook President Maurie McInnis as a Full Professor in the Department. President McInnis's most recent work is [\*Educated in Tyranny: Slavery at Thomas Jefferson's University\*](#) (2019) and

she has published widely in art history, cultural history of the South, and slavery.

## Mohamad Ballan Receives Mellon Fellowship

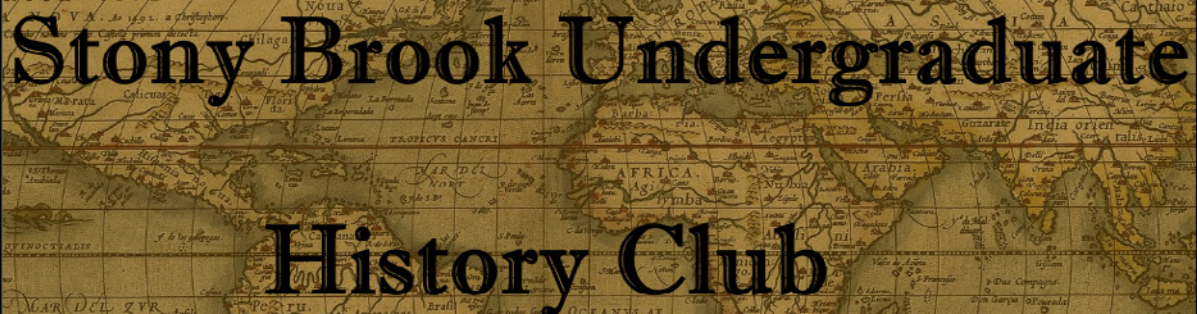


Congratulations to Assistant Professor [Mohamad Ballan](#), who was awarded a prestigious Mellon Fellowship to be in residency during 2021-22 at the Medieval Institute at the University of Notre Dame. There he will work on completing

his book, *Lord of the Pen and Sword*, which examines the phenomenon of the "scholar-statesman" in Islamic Spain and North Africa.

## Public History

Department of History faculty remain actively engaged in the public realm across a multitude of topics. A sampling of this engagement includes [historical perspectives on the pandemic](#) (Nancy Tomes), reflection on the [Supreme Court and environmental law](#) (Chris Sellers), perspectives on the [history of drugs](#) (Paul Gootenberg), a [Medievalist's take on conspiracy theories](#) (Sara Lipton), and talking [popular culture & Netflix](#) (Shobana Shankar).



# Stony Brook Undergraduate History Club

## History Club

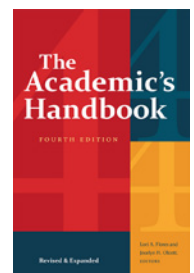
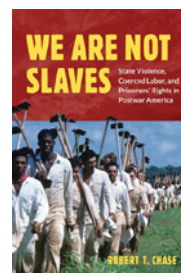
In spite of the pandemic, the [History Club](#) has done *amazing* things this year! In addition to the two public roundtable discussions, “Democracy in the Aftermath of the 2020 Election” and “After Trump: End of American Exceptionalism?”; club discussions focused on primary documents; and a Trivia Night, they also successfully launched a new digital journal, [Stony Brook Undergraduate History Journal](#). This year, this new journal published six original articles by undergraduates, an interview with Professor Joshua Teplitsky, and an opinion piece by Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Eric Zolov.

## Digital History Initiatives

Several Digital History initiatives were launched during this most unusual year, including [Crisis & Catharsis](#) (graduate student journal that evolved from a course by Professor Elizabeth Newman), [Mexican Restaurants of New York City](#) (database created by Professor Lori Flores and graduate students Fernando Amador and Ximena López Carillo), [En Crudo](#) (podcast hosted by graduate student, Matías Hermosilla), and the [Stony Brook Undergraduate History Journal](#) (under the direction of undergraduate History Major, Joshua Berkowitz). Check out these amazing projects!

## New Book Publications

Our faculty continue to be prolific in their research publications. Among the books published this year are *We Are Not Slaves: State Violence, Coerced Labor, and Prisoners’ Rights in Postwar America* (UNC) by Associate Professor [Robert Chase](#), *The Last Good Neighbor: Mexico in the Global Sixties* (Duke) by Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies [Eric Zolov](#), and *The Academic’s Handbook* (Duke), co-edited by Associate Professor [Lori Flores](#).





# Programming

Among the many events hosted by the Department of History via Zoom this past year include "Career Options for History Majors: A Conversation with Recent Alumni" (thank you Andrea Giannini '14 and Khondker Hossain '17 for participating!), "Virtual Colloquium" (featuring current dissertation research by our graduate students), "Long Island Migrant Labor Camps" (book talk with author Mark Torres), and "How Do We Decide: Monuments in the Era of Black Lives Matter" (roundtable conversation).

## Career Options for History Majors

### A Conversation with Recent Alumni



**Andrea Giannini (2014)**  
Publishing Editor,  
Cambridge University  
Press

**Khondker S. Hossain (2017)**  
Law Student and Assistant  
Secretary, Greater-Waterbury  
NAACP

Moderated by Professors Shobana Shankar and Eric Zolov

### Thursday, February 25, 4:00 pm



## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



### "How Do We Decide? Monuments in the Era of Black Lives Matter"

How do we strike a balance between tearing monuments down and leaving them up? Join us for a roundtable discussion focusing on the role of monuments in our national identity. Which monuments should come down? Which should stay up? What kind of alternative possibilities can we envision for calling out controversial figures who nevertheless remain integral to the American story? How do we decide?

**Wednesday, October 28, 2020**  
**1:00 pm – 2:20 pm**  
[Registration via Zoom](#)

#### Panelists:

**Robert Chase**, Associate Professor, Department of History  
**Zebulon Miletsky**, Associate Professor, Department of Africana Studies  
**Donna Rilling**, Associate Professor, Department of History  
**Peter Salins**, Professor, Department of Political Science

#### Moderated by:

**Eric Zolov**, Professor, Department of History


#### Welcome Remarks:

**Nicole S. Sampson**, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and SUNY Distinguished Professor of Chemistry

Presented by the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of History and the Alumni Association


## History Department Virtual Colloquium 2021

Jose Miguel Munive Vargas presents "Teaching for a 'more hygienic civilization': Rural Schools and the Fight Against Epidemics in Peruvian Central Andes, 1940-1962"



Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-1:30

Zinnia Capo-Valdivia presents "Educating Vices Away: México, 1889-1915"



Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00-2:30

## We Appreciate Your Support

This year, [Giving Day](#) will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. We hope you will support us during this exciting, 24-hours of online giving! We depend on the support of our alumni and friends provide financial support for undergraduate research in history.

Whether in senior seminars, individual honors projects, directed studies or simply advanced coursework, every year quite a few majors find it desirable, even essential, to travel to out-of-town collections (archives, museums, repositories, etc.) as a part of their research projects. This, of course, is what historians do – what we must do and love to do – constantly in our own research. When a student approaches one of us and announces they wish to look at original materials in a collection, we rejoice. We would like you to rejoice along with us! [Click here](#) to support this important initiative on Giving Day!

If you are interested in learning more about how you can support our students and Departmental initiatives, please feel free to contact [Chris Scarpati](#), Director of Development, at 631.632.1202.

Thank you for your support!

