



Stony Brook University  
College of Arts and Sciences

## Department of History

Dear History Alumni and Friends,

As I am more than halfway through my one-year term as interim chair, my amazement of the activities and accomplishments of our students and faculty has only grown. Our graduate students bring an incredible life and energy to the Department and do great things after receiving their degrees. Our undergraduates help us maintain a passion for historical inquiry and impress us with their dedication.

You can see this passion on display in the most recent issue of what is becoming a regular feature of the department, [Stony Brook Undergraduate History Journal](#). We continue to publish excellent academic work and engage with the public.

It has been an honor to lead our faculty during a time of transition, and I am proud to be a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Department of History. Our instructional, scholarly, and public activities depend on your generosity, and I want to thank you for your continued support of us.

Sincerely,

Paul Kelton  
Professor and Robert David Lion Gardiner Chair in American History  
Interim Department Chair

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### Meet our Newest Staff Member

If you stop by our Department, you will notice a new face. We are pleased to welcome [Erin Giuliano](#) as our new Business Administrator. Erin takes over management of our Department from Susan Grumet, who retired last October. It was sad to see Susan retire, but we got the chance to celebrate her and her 26 years of service to the University during a lovely dinner at Stony Brook Village last fall.

Many of you may already know Erin, who received her MA in history with us in 2013. She brings substantial experience with her as she has been the business administrator for the Department of Civil Engineering since 2013.

Before then, Erin received her BA in Elementary Education with a minor in Russian Studies from Clemson University, worked as a program officer with the American Councils for International Education, and served as an International Student and Scholar Advisor at Stony Brook. Please join me in welcoming Erin to the Department!

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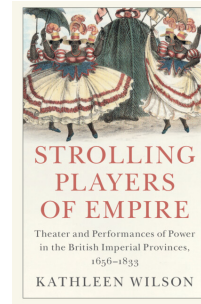
### Faculty Public Media

Several faculty members have been busily engaged with disseminating their work to a broader public:

- **Professor Shobana Shankar**, on research leave this year, was interviewed for the [Writing Africa](#) project, where she spoke about her recent book, *An Uneasy Embrace: Africa, India and the Spectre of Race*; she also contributed a co-authored short article on Uganda for the Wilson Center's [Africa: Year in Review 2022](#).
- **Professor Shirley Lim**, whose book, [Anna May Wong: Performing the Modern](#) (2019), proved to be quite timely with the recent minting of a quarter featuring May Wong, was interviewed for NPR and the BBC.
- **Distinguished Professor Paul Gootenberg**, whose research into the history of drugs has led to several landmark publications, was interviewed by Ethan Nadelmann for the podcast [Psychoactive](#).

## Faculty Publications and Grants

**Distinguished Professor Kathleen Wilson** recently published her fourth monograph, [Strolling Players of Empire: Theater and Performances of Power in the British Imperial Provinces, 1653-1833](#) (Cambridge University Press). Kathleen spoke about her new book earlier this semester during a special event at the [Humanities Institute](#).



**Professor Eric Zolov** co-edited with Associate Professor **Sohl Lee**, Department of Art, a Special Issue, "[The Global Sixties in the Global South](#)" for *The Global Sixties*, derived from a Spring '22 conference he co-organized at Stony Brook.



As an interdisciplinary project, Professors **Robert Chase**, **Susan Scheckel** (Department of English), and **Zebulon Miletsky** (Departments of Africana Studies and History) won the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Sustaining Public Engagement grant of \$224,000 to develop a digital humanities project that will publish and make publicly available the written work of more than 100 incarcerated authors and their families.



The title of the project is "*Writing Beyond the Prison: Reimagining the Carceral Ecosystem with Incarcerated Authors*." The New Deal-era Federal Writers' Project to interview formerly enslaved people for historical documentation was the model for our construction of a "Living Archive of Mass Incarceration" that will house the written work and oral history interviews with incarcerated authors.

The grant fully funded one graduate student, **Willie Mack**, and provided six carceral studies fellowships for graduate students in the Departments of History, Africana Studies, English, and Women and Gender Studies.

[Click here to read more about the project.](#)

## Welcome our Newest Faculty Member

The Department is thrilled to welcome **Tamara Fernando**, who will join us in Fall 2023 as an assistant professor. Tamara received her PhD from the University of Cambridge and is currently on a post-doctoral fellowship in Jordan. Her teaching and research interests lie at the intersection of the histories of labor, environment, and science, with a particular focus on the 19th- and 20th-century Indian Ocean world.

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## Graduate Student News

**Willie Mack** has accepted a tenure track position as an assistant professor in the Department of Black Studies and has a joint affiliation with the History Department at the University of Missouri. He will take up that position in January 2024 after his November 2023 dissertation defense. Willie is working under the direction of Professor Robert Chase and was named a 2022-23 College of Arts and Sciences [Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access](#) (IDEA) Graduate Fellow. The fellowship provides Willie with professionalization training and targeted work experience, in addition to financial support for his research and writing.



**Charlotte Rossler** accepted a two-year Visiting Assistant Professorship at Hollins College in Virginia; the position has a possible extension into tenure-track. It was Charlotte's very first job interview, and she got it! She will defend her dissertation, "Race Science on Tour: Scientific Communication and Reception in Provincial Britain, 1830-1870" in June. Please join us in wishing her all the best!

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## Alumni News

**Sergio Pinto-Handler '18, PhD**, whose dissertation under the direction of Paul Gootenberg focused on the history of slavery in Brazil, will begin a tenure track job in History at Marist College in upstate New York beginning in Fall 2023. He has been teaching at Trinity College and St. Olaf College as a visiting assistant professor.

**Magally Alegre Henderson '12, PhD**, was recently appointed director of the Instituto Riva Aguero archive in Peru.

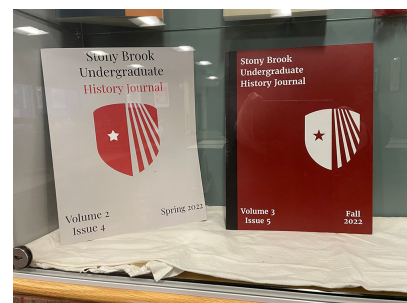
**Spencer Segalla '03, PhD**, recently published his first book [Empire and Catastrophe: Decolonization and Environmental Disaster in North Africa and Mediterranean France Since 1954](#) (University of Nebraska Press).

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## History Club

The History Club's student-run publication, [Stony Brook Undergraduate History Journal](#), proudly published its second hard copy issue (officially, issue no. 5). The journal features original writing and research by our undergraduates and receives generous support from the Robert D. L. Gardiner Foundation.

With co-sponsorship from the Stony Brook Alumni Association, the History Club was pleased to host **Gregory Klubok '13** at our annual "Alumni in Residence Luncheon" talk on April 12. Greg received his law degree from St. John's University after graduating from Stony Brook and is now an associate court attorney with the New York State Supreme Court for Suffolk County.



The History Club has been incredibly busy this semester with programming about Egyptian Hieroglyphics (including how to write your name on real papyrus paper!), their annual "March Madness" competition (this time, focusing on "Competing Empires"), and the return of the Spring Book Sale.



## **Thank you for your support!**

Every year, many of our students find it beneficial – even essential – to travel to out-of-town collections (archives, museums, repositories, etc.) as a part of their research projects, seminars, directed studies, or simply their advanced coursework. This, of course, is what historians do — what we must do and love to do — constantly in our own research. And we depend on and greatly appreciate the [support](#) of our alumni and friends to make these research opportunities available for our graduate and undergraduate students.

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!

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