

History

Campus History Collection, Western Libraries Heritage Resources.

Introduction

At a time when many History departments around the country are struggling, we have been growing! After a small dip during the Great Recession, we have grown to over 200 majors and over 40 minors. This reflects the positive energy in our department today.

We have expanded our curriculum and offerings too! We are one of the only universities of our size, for example, to have two scholars in Latin American history. Similarly, we also now have two historians of the ancient Mediterranean world, thanks to last year's hire of Prof. Christine Johnston, who teaches courses on ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome. For the first time, we are proud to have a new position in South Asian history, and to welcome Prof. Dharitri Bhattacharjee to the Department. Students at Western can learn about more eras and areas of the world than ever before—something essential for Americans today. It is a rich feast for the mind.

Our Department is composed of dedicated teachers. We pride ourselves on the close relationships that we develop with our students. In our smaller upper-division courses, we provide the kind of attention and care that students receive at small liberal arts colleges! Our senior seminars are sites for lively discussions. We hope our students graduate not just with new skills, but with a passion to learn about the world.

All History students write original research papers, a labor-intensive process for students and their professors. Every year, we showcase some of their accomplishments at the regional Phi

Alpha Theta conference, which was held in 2019 in Pocatello, Idaho. You might imagine the camp atmosphere as three professors and nine students traveled over mountains and through valleys for many long hours to reach Pocatello from Bellingham. But the trip was worth it; our students returned proud of their accomplishments (see list of their paper titles below).

Our Department also went through an important transition. After decades of dedicated service to our Archives and Records Management master's program, beloved Prof. Rand Jimerson retired. Under Prof. Jimerson's leadership, the program was nationally renowned. Our graduates were placed in important institutions across the country. We are proud of all the accomplishments of our Archives graduates, and are deeply grateful for Prof. Jimerson's work. He has touched many students' lives, and his legacy will live on through their work. If you had Prof. Jimerson, you know how hard he worked for his students.

Finally, our Department remains committed to producing new scholarship that informs not only the public's understanding of the past, but informs what professors teach in classrooms across the country and world. It is vital that schools like ours continue to produce scholarship, and we are proud that our scholars' work has been influential. Below, you will learn about the research interests of our new faculty members Profs. Dharitri Bhattacharjee, Christine Johnston, and Peter Pihos. You can also browse a selection of books published recently by professors in the Department.



Photo by Rhys Logan ('11)

All of this work takes time, love, energy and... money, of course. If you would like to learn more about our work, please reach out to me. If you would like to support our students, please consider donating to the [department](#).

Sincerely,

Johann Neem

Chair and Professor of History

Research Papers

Presented by our students at the 2019 Phi Alpha Theta Conference in Pocatello, Idaho:

1. **Maria Carriere**, "Women's Participation in the First Crusade: 1095-1099"
2. **Jason Gapper**, "The Shadow Falls: Anti-Semitism, Psychopathology, and Collectivism in Vichy France"
3. **Patrick M. Kissinger**, "Celebrating Memory, Mourning Anniversary: Lummi Nation Carvings on The Bellingham Centennial History Pole, 1852-1952"
4. **Kayleen Melior**, "The Legend Behind the Myth :Uncovering the Secrets of the Pyramids"
5. **Amanda Mills**, "The Lavender Scare: Paranoia, Homophobia, and 'The Fruit Machine' in Cold War Canada"
6. **Vaughan Shubert**, "DARE – The Neoliberal Trojan Horse"
7. **Skylla Sorenson**, "Partes Agrippinae: Exploring the Phenomena of the Julio-Claudian Female Politician"
8. **Matt Svilar**, "A Promise Without an Execution: Kurdish Identity During the British Mandate of Iraq"
9. **Dana Svitavsky**, "Godnapping in the Neoassyrian and Neobabylonian Empires"

Introducing New Faculty

Dharitri Bhattacharjee comes to WWU from Sewanee: University of the South, where she taught for three years.



At Western, she will be teaching courses on adventures in the Indian Ocean, India's partition in 1947, gender,

cinema literature and South Asian history. Dr Bhattacharjee's work has appeared in peer-reviewed journals and online publications. She is currently preparing her first book on Muslim politics in Bengal (India) for publication. She is excited about her life trajectory that has brought her from Bay of Bengal (born in Kolkata, India) to Bay of Bellingham and hopes to be a resource for all things South Asia: history, music, politics, food, literature and cinema.

Christine Johnston has been teaching at WWU in the History and Honors Programs for three years and is looking



forward to continuing to work with the students and faculty of the History Department. Dr. Johnston is an archaeologist and historian

of Ancient Greece, Rome, Egypt, and the Near East. Her primary fields of research are political economy, exchange systems, and cross-cultural interaction between the different regions of the Mediterranean during the Bronze Age. In particular she focuses on the ways in which commerce and trade facilitated cultural exchanges, and with modelling the specific mechanics of such transmissions. Dr. Johnston also specialize in the study of pottery, which is the primary data she uses for modeling trade networks. Currently she is conducting a fieldwork project in Cyprus, but she has also worked and studied in Turkey, Greece, Israel, and Canada. Dr. Johnston is also

currently the Assistant Editor of the American Journal of Archaeology. Outside of teaching and research, she is active in public education, particularly in bringing awareness to issues of looting, antiquities trafficking, and the destruction of cultural heritage.

Peter Pihos came to Western in the fall of 2018 from teaching African-American history as a visiting assistant



professor at Williams College. He previously taught at Duke University and Deep Springs College. His courses at Western focus on

African-American History; post-World War II U.S. history; legal history; crime and punishment; and urban history. Dr. Pihos' research broadly examines race and the politics of policing in American cities from the 1950s to the 1980s, with a special interest in the efforts of black reformers and radicals to challenge racist and brutal police practices. He spent the past summer writing about police officers in Chicago who embraced Black Power in the 1960s. Among other things, he is looking forward to in the coming year is a symposium at the University of Kansas to mark the 50th Anniversary of the War on Drugs.

Student/Alumni Spotlight

Our featured alum is **Jennifer Reidel** (MA History 2007). She is a civics and social studies teacher at Options High School in Bellingham, Washington. During the 2019-20 year, she is in Washington, D.C., as the Library of Congress's Teacher in Residence.

Q How long have you been a teacher, and what is your favorite part about teaching?

A I have been teaching Social Studies for 23 years. What energizes me is when I am able to connect content to a previously disengaged student who then begins to ask questions and ultimately is invested in their learning. I am most passionate about teaching Civics, US History, and Law. Collectively, knowledge of these three subjects have the power to effectively equip students to positively impact their world.

Q Congratulations on being the Library of Congress's Teacher in Residence. What are you going to be doing during your year in DC?

A Thank you, I am still pinching myself wondering if it is real! My position entails several duties. First, I will be digging into the Library collections and curating digitized primary sources educators can use to illustrate civic principles. I am writing lesson plans developed specifically for Civics and US History teachers and blogging monthly in Teaching with the Library of Congress to highlight primary source activities centered on Civics. Secondly, I will assist with teacher professional development sessions at national conferences and teacher trainings at the Library. And lastly, as Civics educator, I will contribute to the work of the Library in determining how its collections and resources can effectively and intentionally support civic literacy.

Q How did your graduate work in history at Western help prepare you for your work?

A During my time as a graduate student in the History department,

my paradigms and narratives of history were broadened. Our cohort was pushed to consider how class, race, gender, and sexuality influenced the recording and telling of historical events. Those discussions were not always comfortable, but they gave me a foundation to teach in today's political climate and a framework to view my work here at the Library. In addition, as a master's student in the History department, I drastically improved my researching, writing, and editing skills. Each of these I use on a daily basis as the Teacher in Residence.

Q What is the coolest thing you've learned or seen while in DC?

A Hmm, where to start? The fact that I have easy access to original artifacts of history daily blows me away. But, so far, I have had two lasting experiences I will never forget. The first one occurred at the end of the National Book Festival on Labor Day weekend. I had bought the most recent young adult book written by Sharon Robinson, daughter of Jackie Robinson. I had the chance to meet, hug, and be encouraged as an educator from a voice of history! The other amazing experience was that I got a tour in the closed stacks of the Manuscript Reading Room at the Library of Congress and was able to see an original copy of Martin Luther King Jr.'s, "I Have a Dream" speech. The next day I visited his memorial and stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial where he delivered his vision for a better America. Life for a history teacher doesn't get much better than this!

For more information on Ms. Reidel's work, see <https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-19-087/library-goes-back-to-school-with-teachers-of-science-and-civics/2019-09-09/>



Jennifer Reidel

Spotlight: Dr. Eurich's "ReActing to the Past" – Classroom Assignment

"This class was absolutely fantastic! It takes a subject that many would expect to be boring and makes it thrilling and exciting!.. The RTTP model for this class was really effective for me. It facilitated a real command of the material and encouraged an understanding of events on a deeper level... The role-playing aspect was phenomenal. I retained so much more information because I had a vested interest in the history through the character I played."

That's how students in Professor Amanda Eurich's History 321: The Age of Religious Wars describe their experience playing key figures in the English Reformation of 1529-1532. At issue, the King's "Great Matter" (Henry's dynastic conundrum and divorce from Anne Boleyn) that transformed Church-State relations forever. Over the course of Spring Quarter 2019, students mastered two role-playing games, the second written by Eurich during two quarters of professional leave. In "The Crucible of Religious War," students found themselves in France in the 1570s, engaged in negotiations to end the

seemingly intractable conflict between Catholics and Protestants that lasted for more than thirty years.

Both games employed a role-playing pedagogy known as Reacting to the Past (RTTP). Pioneered by Mark Carnes at Barnard College over twenty years ago, RTTP now has over 300 partner universities. Professors at many other universities across the U.S. have adopted RTTP games to breathe life (literally!) into great watershed moments in history. Western now joins their ranks.

Most students in History 321 were Reacting to the Past newbies, ushered into the world of RTTP role-playing by a few veterans of Eurich's RTTP French Revolution class (Spring 2017). "It was wonderful to see a project that I had worked on for almost two years fully realized in the classroom in the hands of such able and energetic students," says Eurich. "I was blown away by students' willingness to take up the challenge and assume control of the classroom. They read and re-read core primary texts and made them their own in speeches, posters, text messages, and conspiracies crafted to bring down the opposition and achieve their victory goals."

Phi Alpha Theta

The History Department looks forward to an exciting year of activities and programming with Phi Alpha Theta, the history student honor society. Early in the Fall quarter, our students will meet and plan events for the 2019-2020 academic year. In a typical year, Phi Alpha Theta will sponsor a regular schedule of both social and academic events for students, as well as workshops on applying to graduate school or entering the workforce as a history major. The spring regional conference, at which our students present their work, is one of the annual highlights for both faculty and students. This year, WWU will be hosting the regional conference April 2-4, 2020, and students and faculty from throughout the northwest will join us in Bellingham for two days of presentations and fun. Keep an eye out for details on the conference and other events. To join Phi Alpha Theta, visit the [Phi Alpha Theta](#) website for information. Please send any questions to the current Phi Alpha Theta advisor: [Steven Garfinkle](#). Alums who wish to support our chapter of Phi Alpha Theta should contact the department chair, [Johann Neem](#).

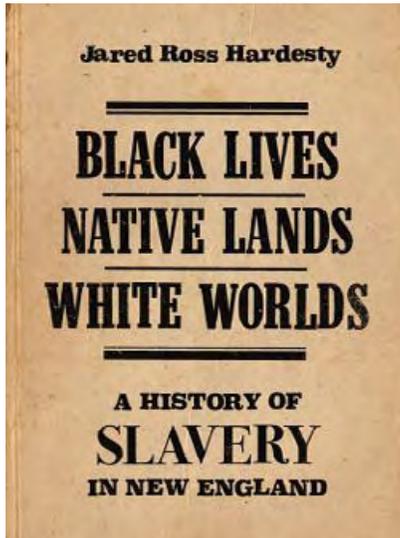


Professor Eurich's students bringing history to life.

Recent Published Works by the Faculty

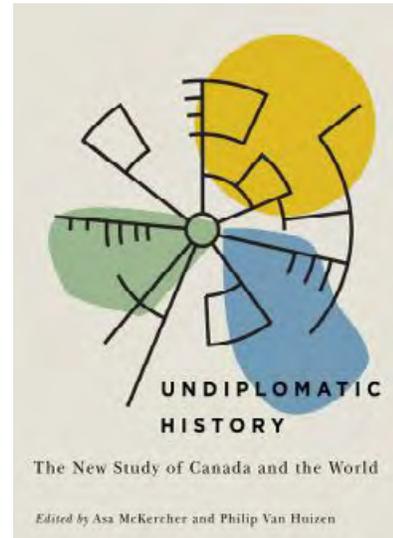
[“Black Lives, Native Lands, White Worlds: A History of Slavery in New England”](#)

– Dr. Jared Hardesty

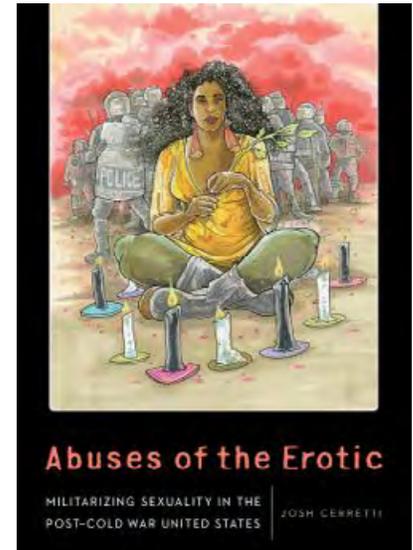


[“Undiplomatic History: The New Study of Canada and the World”](#)

– Dr. Philip Van Huizen

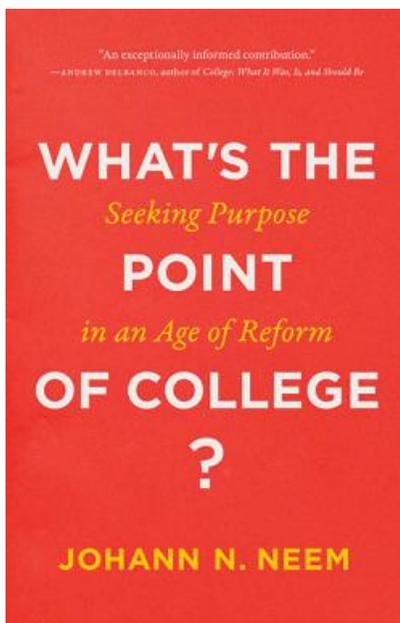


[“Abuses of the Erotic: Militarizing Sexuality in the Post-Cold War United States”](#) – Dr. Josh Cerretti

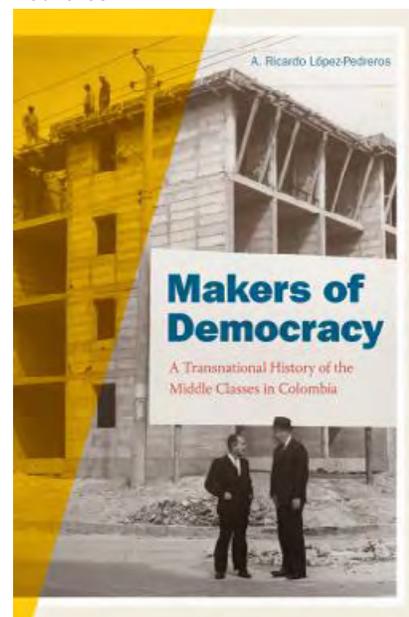


[“What’s The Point Of College?: Seeking Purpose in an Age of Reform”](#)

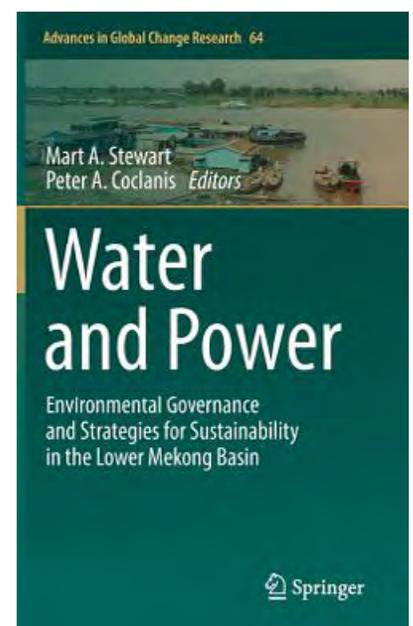
– Dr. Johann Neem



[“Makers of Democracy: A Transnational History of the Middle Classes in Colombia”](#) – Dr. Ricardo López-Pederos



[“Water and Power: Environmental Governance and Strategies for Sustainability in the Lower Mekong Basin”](#) – Dr. Mart Stewart



Department Updates

Johann Neem - Prof. Neem spent the 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years at the University of Virginia, where he wrote



his book *Democracy's Schools: The Rise of Public Education in America*. Upon return, he was appointed chair of the Department, and has focused

his energies on administration. He also published his new book, *What's the Point of College?*, which offers his ideas about a question that he continues to explore with his students in one of his favorite courses, HIST 131: Going to College in America.

Charles Anderson - Prof. Anderson studies modern Arab history, with special interests in empire, anti-colonial-



ism, political economy, and Palestine/Israel. In the Fall he's teaching the modern Middle East survey and the history of the Palestinian-Israeli

conflict. Thanks to a grant from the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, he will be on leave in Winter and Spring 2020 working on his first book project, a history of the Palestinians' attempted revolution in the 1930s known as the "Great Revolt." His article on the growth of Palestinian landlessness before the revolt, published in *Middle Eastern Studies* in 2018, recently won the journal's Elie and Sylvia Kedourie Prize for Outstanding Article.

Emi Bushelle - Prof. Bushelle joined Western's faculty in 2016. Her research focuses on ethnocentrism and nativism in pre-modern Japanese history; she is currently working on an article examining the ways in which Buddhism helped to engender a Japan-centric discourse



in Japan's ninth through 13th centuries. During the 2019-20 academic year, she will be teaching the following courses: Introduction to East Asian Civilizations; Premodern Japanese History; Yōkai: Monsters and the Monstrous in Japanese History; HIST 506: Graduate Research Seminar; and HIST 499: Japanese History Before 1868.

Pedro Cameselle-Pesce - Prof. Cameselle has been an Assistant Professor at Western since 2017. Currently he is



writing a book tentatively titled *Forgotten Neighbors: The Challenge of Uruguay-United States Relations During the FDR Era, 1929-1945*, in which

he explores the political and cultural influence of Roosevelt's image in Uruguay and examines the role of transnational non-state actors in foreign relations. This year Prof. Cameselle will be teaching several courses related to Latin America and the United States, including U.S.-Latin American Relations, Immigration and Ethnicity in the Americas, and Latin America During WWII.

Josh Cerretti - Prof. Cerretti teaches about the United States in intersectional, transnational, and interdisciplinary perspective. This year he'll offer an LGBTQ+ History GUR, a History of Sexuality course, and an Empire in the Pacific advanced seminar. In addition, Prof.



in Japan's ninth through 13th centuries. During the 2019-20 academic year, she will be teaching the following courses: Introduction to East Asian Civilizations; Premodern Japanese History; Yōkai: Monsters and the Monstrous in Japanese History; HIST 506: Graduate Research Seminar; and HIST 499: Japanese History Before 1868.

Cerretti will teach courses in the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program on Feminist and Queer Methodologies and Women, War, and Post-Conflict Transformation. His monograph *Abuses of the Erotic: Militarizing Sexuality in the Post-Cold War United States* came out this year from University of Nebraska Press and he's looking forward to working on a new project about sex, knowledge, and power in the contemporary US.

Daniel Chard - Dr. Chard is a historian of the United States and the modern world with a research focus on



post-World War II social movements, political violence, and counterterrorism. This year he'll be teaching History 391: History of the Pacific Northwest

(Fall '19 and Spring '20); Honors 352: The United States and International Terrorism (Fall '19); and History 104: American History since 1865. His co-edited book, *Science for the People: Documents from America's Movement of Radical Scientists* was published by University of Massachusetts Press in 2018, and his book *Nixon's War on Terrorism: The FBI, Leftist Guerrillas, and the Origins of Counterterrorism* is scheduled to be published in 2021 with the University of North Carolina Press, Justice, Power, and Politics series. For more information on his writing and teaching, please visit his website: danielschard.com.

Susan Costanzo - Prof. Costanzo teaches courses in Russian history, Western Civilizations, film courses, and



a methods course. Her fall film course addresses Russian World War II films. The methods course this quarter helps students learn how

historians create history from documents and other scholarship. It also prepares majors for their 499 capstone research project. Western Civilizations covers the modern period and show the roots of how we live today. Other courses for this year include Twentieth Century Russia and 499: Film and history. She is completing a book on theater in the Soviet Union from 1957-1999 and has had articles published in the United States, Britain, France, and Russia.

Bayarsaikhan Dashdondog – Dr.

Bayarsaikhan Dashdondog is a Fulbright visiting scholar at the department of



History for fall quarter 2019. She teaches a course The Mongols in the Middle East at Western Washington University.

Bayarsaikhan is a

Professor of History, National University of Mongolia, a specialist of the Mongol Empire and Mongol-Armenian historical relationships. She studied at the Yerevan State University; defended her Ph. D. dissertation (Mongol-Armenian Political Relations (1220-1335) at Oxford University (UK). Dr. Dashdondog worked on the section of the Armenian Sources for a Cambridge History of the Mongol Empire. She is the author of *The Mongols and the Armenians* (Brill, Leiden, 2011) and *The Essays on the Ilkhans: From Hülegü to Abu Sa'ïd, Ulaanbaatar* (2016) monographs. She translated the Armenian source of the 13th century *The History of the Nation of Archers by Grigor Aknerci* into Mongolian (Antoon Mostaert Centre for Mongol Studies, Monograph series, v. 4, Ulaanbaatar, 2010), as well as authored many articles and papers.

Peter Diehl – Prof. Diehl teaches medieval European history, offering the following courses this year: History 112: Western Civilization, 476-1713 CE (fall and winter), History 316: Europe 1050-1450 (fall), History 515 (graduate seminar, winter), History 315: Europe, 300-1050 (spring), and History 499: The Crusades (spring). He plans to teach History 320:



War in the Middle Ages, in summer 2020. Professor Diehl's research interests include medieval heresy, Carolingian historiography, and the

history of plague. He is translating a group of ninth-century annals and adding historical and philological commentary. Service includes the College of Humanities & Social Sciences Professional Leave Committee and the departmental Undergraduate Program Committee.

Amanda Eurich – Prof. Eurich has just returned from conducting her fifth alumni tour of the canals of southern France



with her husband, a wine enthusiast and educator. The program has thus far raised \$12,000 for student scholarships. Her essay, "Calvin and the Purpose

of Polemic," will be published later this year with Cambridge. Last spring, she introduced a role-playing game on the French wars of religion that she wrote in association with the Reacting to the Past Consortium of Barnard College. From May-June 2020, she will be a writing fellow at the Meeter Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she will continue her work on Jean de Coras, the judge who presided over the infamous case of Martin Guerre.

Chris Friday - During the academic year 2019-2020, Prof. Friday will continue teaching American Indian History courses, including the broad survey and the Tribal Sovereignty and Washington History courses. Prof. Friday will also be teaching a joint undergraduate/graduate seminar in Public History in the spring for those interested in pursuing Public History beyond the introductory survey course. He will also be supervising the



research and writing seminar for the Archives & Record Management (ARM) students throughout the year. Prof. Friday's research into

regional tribal histories continues as he is focusing on tribal treaty rights, tribal relations with the federal and state governments, and tribal histories generally.

Steven Garfinkle – Prof. Garfinkle has taught ancient history at WWU since 2001. His research focuses on economic



history, state formation, and violence in some of our earliest available historical records from the ancient Near East. Currently, he is finishing a

book project on the origins of commerce. Prof. Garfinkle's forthcoming publications include a chapter on "Violence and State Power in Early Mesopotamia" in the Cambridge World History of Violence. This year, he looks forward to teaching a range of courses at all levels introducing students to the ancient past: HIST 111 and HIST 310 in the Fall, HIST 121 and HIST 311 in the Winter, and HIST 412 and HIST 499 in the Spring.

Jared Hardesty - Jared Ross Hardesty is associate professor of history at Western Washington University and a scholar



of colonial America, the Atlantic world, and the histories of labor and slavery. In September 2019, he published his second book, *Black Lives*,

Native Lands, White Worlds: A History of Slavery in New England (Amherst & Boston: Bright Leaf, 2019). This year, Dr. Hardesty will be teaching HIST 103: American History to 1865, HIST 350: American Colonial History, HIST 471: Atlantic Piracy, HIST 499, HIST 290: The Atlantic World, and HIST 390: American Slavery.

A. Ricardo López-Pedrerros - A. Ricardo López-Pedrerros is an immigrant. He is the author of *Makers of Democracy: A*



Transnational History of the Middle Classes in Colombia (Duke 2019) and co-editor of *The Making of the Middle Class: Toward a Transnational History*

(Duke 2012). His research now focuses on the histories of democracy and domination in the Americas. He teaches a variety of courses on the histories of Latin America. He is currently the Vice President for the United Faculty of Western Washington.

Hakeem Naim - Dr. Naim is a Visiting Assistant Professor of modern Middle East history. He received his PhD



in Modern Middle East history from the University of California at Davis in 2019. In his research, Dr. Naim focuses on late 19th century Islamic nation-

alism, colonialism, post-colonial theories, and comparative intellectual history of the Ottoman Empire, Afghanistan, and Central Asia. He has a command of various languages, including Persian (Dari), Turkish (Modern and Ottoman Turkish), Arabic, Pashto, Uzbek, German, and English. At Western, he teaches Introduction to Islamic civilization, Modern Middle East, Palestine, Zionism, and Israel, and history of the Ottoman world.

Hunter Price - Prof. Price contributes to the department's field in early American history. He takes responsibility for



the Civil War era, American religious history, and frontier and borderlands histories of North America. This year Prof. Price is excited to offer two new

courses: a graduate seminar on the Civil War and a senior seminar on antebellum slave narratives. Prof. Price is completing a book on Methodists and their social networks in the early American West. This research describes how the new nation's largest religious group participated in the settlement of the Ohio and Mississippi River Valleys after the American Revolution.

Jennifer Seltz - Prof. Seltz's research historicizes connections between medical and environmental knowledge and



experience, mostly in the 19th and 20th-century North American West. She has published articles and book chapters on topics ranging from epidemic and

endemic disease around the 19th-century Salish Sea to the cultural history of natural childbirth. Prof. Seltz is currently finishing her first book, *Sickly State: Health, Identity, and Expansion in Nineteenth-Century America*, and is on leave fall and winter quarters 2019-2020 to begin a new project on the environmental and cultural history of mid-20th-century American pregnancy and birth. Prof. Seltz teaches classes on the American West, the Pacific Northwest, and the modern United States; on energy history; and on the history of health and medicine.

Mart Stewart - Prof. Stewart is teaching courses this year on the history of the U.S. South (fall), on the environmen-



tal history of the Global South (spring) and on the environmental history of food (spring). His most recent publication is a co-edited volume, *Water*

and Power: Environmental Governance and Strategies for Sustainability in the Lower Mekong Basin (Springer Scientific, 2019) which also includes an essay he authored, "The Mekong Imaginary: From Apocalypse Then to Anthropocene Now." He will be on leave winter quarter to complete some research and writing and to work on two curriculum development projects in Vietnam.

Matthew Van Duyn - Matthew Van Duyn is a doctoral candidate in the history department at the University of



Washington. This year at Western, he is teaching courses on modern China, modern East Asia, and urbanization and revolution in China. His research

interests include urban history, histories of socialism and communism, and comparative colonialism—both in China and around the world. His current research uses urban planning, and especially the building of workers' housing complexes in Shanghai, as a lens to study the processes and meanings of socialist revolution during the 1950s. He is excited to continue exploring these interests while teaching at Western!

Philip Van Huizen - Philip Van Huizen is a Visiting Assistant Professor at WWU. His background is in Canadian-U.S. environmental and public history, with an MA and a PhD from the University of British Columbia. This year he will be teaching Hist 277: Canadian History, Hist 379: Canadian-American Relations, Hist 390: Environmental History of Canada, Hist



393: Introduction to Public History, Hist 490: Modern Canada, and Hist 499: The Pacific Northwest.

Sarah Zarrow – Prof. Zarrow’s scholarship

focuses on Jewish life in Eastern Europe. She is most interested in the history of nationalism(s) and non-nationalism, and



on the ways that culture is transmitted and shaped—especially museums and schools. She is currently working on a book on Jewish museum practices

in Polish lands between the 1890s and World War II. Prof. Zarrow received her doctorate from New York University, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Bucharest, Romania. She moved to teach at Western two years ago. This year, she’ll be teaching History of the Holocaust, History of the Jews in the Modern Era, and Women and Gender in Judaism, as well as the graduate methods course.



Photo by Dylan Gibson