

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

2018-2019 Newsletter

Meet our Faculty

Oscar Aguirre-Mandujano

Assistant Professor of History

Oscar Aguirre-Mandujano is an Assistant Professor of Ottoman History. He specializes on early modern Ottoman intellectual history, and its connections to literature, poetry, and bureaucracy. He was born and raised in Mexico City. He attended the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and earned a BA degree in History. Since he became interested in Ottoman history, Aguirre-Mandujano began learning Turkish and moved to London in 2009 to study an MA degree in Historical Research Methods at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the University of London. In London, Oscar studied Modern and Ottoman Turkish. Aguirre-Mandujano lived in Turkey afterwards, and in 2011 he moved to Seattle to pursue his doctoral education at the University of Washington, where he continued to study Ottoman poetry. He also learned Persian at the UW. Since 2012, Aguirre-Mandujano is also part of the teaching staff at the Intensive Ottoman and Turkish Summer School (Harvard/Koc Universities) in Cunda, Turkey, where he tutors in Ottoman paleography and Ottoman archival sources. Oscar Aguirre-Mandujano is interested in the relation between language and imperial administration and his work focuses on the process of writing as a form of political action. Aguirre-Mandujano's research and teaching interests include Ottoman cultural and intellectual history, book cultures of the Islamic world, animal-human relations in Anatolia and Central Asia, history of the Silk Road and Central Asia, and Jews, Christians, and other religious minorities in the Ottoman Empire.



Eiichiro Azuma

Alan Charles Kors Term

Associate Professor of History

Eiichiro Azuma is an Alan Charles Kors Term Associate Professor of History and Asian American Studies. He specializes in Asian American history with an emphasis on Japanese Americans and transpacific migration, as well as U.S. and Japanese colonialisms and U.S.-Japan relations. He holds an M.A. in Asian American Studies and a Ph.D. in history, both from University of California at Los Angeles. He has taught at Penn since January 2001. In 2008-2009, he received the Donald D. Harrington Faculty Fellowship from the University of Texas, Austin. Recently, he served as a Taiwan Fellow (sponsored by the Republic of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and a Japan Foundation Research Fellow in 2018.



Azuma authored *Between Two Empires: Race, History, and Transnationalism in Japanese America* (Oxford University Press, 2005), which won the Theodore Saloutos Award from the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, the Honorable Mention in the Frederick Jackson Turner Award by the Organization of American Historians, and the History Book Award from the Association for Asian American Studies, as well as the Hiroshi Shimizu book prize from the Japanese Association of American Studies. With Professor Gordon H. Chang of Stanford, Azuma also co-edited *Yuji Ichioka, Before Internment: Essays in Prewar Japanese American History* (Stanford University Press, 2006)—recipient of the Honorable Mention in the History Book Award from the Association for Asian American Studies. In 2016, Azuma co-edited the *Oxford Handbook of Asian American History* (Oxford University Press) with UCLA Professor and Associate Provost David K. Yoo. His second monograph, *In Search of Our Frontier: Japanese America and Settler Colonialism in the Construction of Japan's Borderless Empire*, is forthcoming in August 2019 from the University of California Press.

Since 2009, Azuma has served as co-editor of the *Asian American Experience* book series at the University of Illinois Press. He has been on the Executive Board of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society (2007-2010), and of the Editorial Board for the *Pacific Historical Review* (2011-2013), *Journal of Asian American Studies* (2012-2016), and *Journal of American Ethnic History* (2009-present).

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Cheikh Babou

Associate Professor of History

Cheikh A. Babou is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania, where he teaches African History and the History of Islam in Africa. His research focuses on mystical Islam in West Africa and Senegal and on Senegalese international migration. Professor Babou is the author of *Fighting the Greater Jihad: Amadu Bamba and the Founding of the Muridiyya of Senegal, 1853-1913* (Ohio University Press, 2007). A French translation was released by Karthala under the title *Le Jihad de l'âme: Amadou Bamba et la fondation de la Mouridiyya (1853-1913)* in 2011. Dr. Babou's articles have appeared in leading scholarly journals, including *African Affairs*, *Journal of African History*, *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, *Journal of Religion in Africa*, and *Africa Today*. From 2010 to 2015, he co-edited the *Journal of African History*. Dr. Babou has presented papers in international scholarly meetings in the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, France, Senegal, Ghana and across the United States. His current research project examines the experience of West African Muslim immigrants in Europe and North America.



Mia Bay

Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols Chair in American History

I joined Penn as a Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols Professor of American History in January 2018, and have spent the past year settling in—although I'm not sure I'll ever finish unpacking all the boxes that came with me. Since arriving, I've taught several courses, and had fun getting to know my new colleagues, and the history department's wonderful staff and students. This semester, I am on research leave and will use the time to finish *Traveling Black*, my book on the social history of segregated transportation.



My publications include *The White Image in the Black Mind: African-American Ideas about White People, 1830-1925* (Oxford University Press, 2000); *To Tell the Truth Freely: The Life of Ida B. Wells* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009); and the edited work *Ida B. Wells, The Light of Truth: The Writings of An Anti-Lynching Crusader* (Penguin Books, 2014) as well as many articles and book chapters.

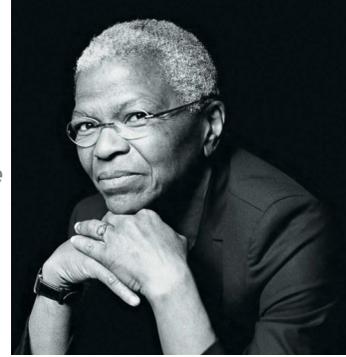
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Mary Frances Berry

Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought

Mary Frances Berry has been a Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought and Professor of History since 1987. She received her Ph.D. in History from the University of Michigan and JD from the University of Michigan Law School. She is the author of twelve books including *Five Dollars and a Pork Chop Sandwich: Vote Buying and the Corruption of Democracy* (2016); *We Are Who We Say We Are: A Black Family's Search for Home Across the Atlantic World* (2014); *Power in Words: The Stories behind Barack Obama's Speeches, from the State House to the White House* with Josh Gottheimer (2010), *And Justice For All: The United States Commission On Civil Rights And the Struggle For Freedom in America* (2009); *My Face is Black Is True: Callie House and the Struggle for Ex-Slave Reparations* (2005); *The Pig Farmer's Daughter and Other Tales of American Justice: Episodes of Racism and Sexism in the Courts from 1865 to the Present* (1999); *Black Resistance, White Law: A History of Constitutional Racism in America* (1994, orig. 1971); *The Politics of Parenthood: Child Care, Women's Rights, and the Myth of the Good Mother* (1993); *Why ERA Failed: Politics, Women's Rights, and the Amending Process of the Constitution* (1986); *Long Memory: The Black Experience in America*, with John Blassingame (1982); and *Military Necessity and Civil Rights Policy: Black Citizenship and the Constitution, 1861-1868* (1977). She is a Fellow of the Society of American Historians and of the National Academy of Public Administration and is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Society for Legal History. She is a recipient of the Roy Rosenzweig Distinguished Service Award of the Organization of American Historians.



Warren Breckman

Sheldon and Lucy Hackney Professor of History

I had a busy and productive year. My colleague Peter Gordon of Harvard and I submitted a major manuscript titled *The Cambridge History of Modern European Thought* to Cambridge University Press. Including chapters by forty leading historians, these two volumes cover a period from roughly the French Revolution to the present. These volumes will be published in October, 2019. 2018 was a busy year for anyone with expertise in Karl Marx; it was two hundred years since Marx was born in the German city of Trier. Such anniversaries provide excellent occasions for retrospectives and evaluations. To that end, a German colleague and I co-edited a special issue of the *Zeitschrift für Ideengeschichte* exploring Marx's legacy. In the same spirit, an American scholar, Jame Brophy, and I organized an international public symposium at the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC, in April 2018. At this all-day event a stellar group of scholars discussed Marx in his own era, as well as the relevance of Marx to the so-called "new history of capitalism", which today represents one of the most vibrant avenues of historical inquiry. A large and active non-academic audience demonstrated both a tremendous interest in Marx as well as willingness to engage his thought in non-dogmatic ways that might have been impossible in the era of the Cold War. In my writing, this year of commemoration led me to return to a theme that has long intrigued me, namely Romanticism, in order to reconsider Marx's complicated relationship to this putatively conservative movement. The year was capped by an international congress in Marx's birthplace, where I presented on the place of animals within Marx's critique of capitalism, a theme that allowed a foray into recent ecosocialist thought. Along with these activities, I made slow but steady progress on a project dear to my heart, a micro-history of the Western Front during the Great War. Based on twenty volumes of diaries written by my grandfather, this project will explore the combat experience of a cavalryman as well as the inner life of a poetic and spiritually oriented young man under extreme circumstances. My books include *Karl Marx, the Young Hegelians, and the Origins of Radical Social Theory: Dethroning the Self* (Cambridge, 1999; paperback 2001), *European Romanticism: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford, 2007; Hackett, 2015), and *Adventures of the Symbolic: Postmarxism and Radical Democracy* (Columbia University Press, 2013)



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Kathleen M. Brown

David Boies Professor of History

During the past year I have been busy working with the Penn & Slavery undergraduate researchers as the lead historian on the project. This has been among the most meaningful teaching I have done at Penn. In addition, I have been serving as Director of the Alice Paul Center and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program since January 2018. We have sponsored a yearlong series in AY 2018-2019, "Beyond Free Speech and Safe Space," which included a recent retrospective on the Mapplethorpe exhibit at Penn's Institute of Contemporary Art. When time permits, I try to work on my book, *Undoing Slavery*, which chronicles abolitionist efforts to imagine free bodies and transform the deeply rooted bodily and material practices that supported slavery.



I am author of *Good Wives, Nasty Wenches, and Anxious Patriarchs: Gender, Race, and Power in Colonial Virginia* (Chapel Hill, 1996), which won the Dunning Prize of the American Historical Association. My second book, *Foul Bodies: Cleanliness in Early America* (Yale, 2009), received the Organization of American Historians' Lawrence Levine Book Prize for cultural history and the Society of the History of the Early American Republic Book Prize. *Foul Bodies* explores the relationships among health, domestic labor, and ideals for beauty, civilization, and spiritual purity during the period between Europe's Atlantic encounters and the American Civil War. My current project, *Undoing Slavery: Abolitionist Body Politics and the Argument over Humanity*, is a book-length interdisciplinary study of the transatlantic abolition movement set in the context of contemporary transformations in international law, medicine, and domestic ideals.

Lee Cassanelli

Associate Professor of History

Lee Cassanelli teaches African history and historiography, the history of foreign aid in Africa, and comparative world history. His research interests focus on the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Somalia) from the 18th to the 20th century. Books and monographs include *The Shaping of Somali Society 1600-1900*; *Victims and Vulnerable Groups in Southern Somalia*; a co-edited collection on *The Struggle for Land in Southern Somalia: The War Behind the War*; and 'Hosts and Guests,' a historical interpretation of land conflicts in southern and central Somalia.



He is currently working on a collection of essays on the uses of the past in contemporary political and cultural debates in the Horn of Africa, exploring how individuals and communities rethink and remake their histories in times of war, displacement, and resettlement. This includes research on history and memory in Somali refugee and diaspora communities in eastern Africa and overseas.

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Brent Cebul

Assistant Professor of History

Brent Cebul is a historian of the modern United States with interests in political history, urban history, and the history of business, capitalism, and inequality. His current book-length project, *Illusions of Progress: Business, Poverty, and Liberalism in the American Century*, illuminates the overlooked history of liberalism's "supply side" in programs designed to solve poverty by stimulating economic growth from Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal to Bill Clinton's New Democrats. *Illusions of Progress* is under contract with the University of Pennsylvania Press. Cebul has published in leading journals such as *American Quarterly*, *The Journal of American History*, *Reviews in American History*, and *Modern American History*. He is also co-editor of *Shaped by the State: Toward a New Political History of the Twentieth Century* (University of Chicago Press, forthcoming 2019), which urges political historians to write more inclusive, nuanced, and imaginative histories that transcend the constricting conservative v. liberal framework that has dominated the field for decades.



Cebul also has a number of initiatives in the digital humanities, including *Renewing Inequality*, an interactive, digital historical website that maps with unprecedented granularity and comprehensiveness thousands of federally-funded urban renewal projects that displaced hundreds of thousands of American families – disproportionately African American – between 1949 and 1974.

Cebul teaches lecture courses in modern U.S. political history ("HIST 356: Age of Reagan"), urban history ("HIST 153: Making the Unequal City"), and seminars including, "Crisis Decade: The 1970s," and "Money, Power, and Democracy: Lobbying in America since 1929." He has also partnered with Penn's Price Lab for Digital Humanities on a series of digital projects for his urban history classes.

Cebul's writing has appeared in popular outlets such as *The New Republic*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The Atlantic's CityLab*. Cebul earned his Ph.D. at the University of Virginia, and prior to joining Penn he was a Visiting Scholar at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Mellon Postdoctoral Research Scholar at the University of Richmond, and Assistant Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. He lives in West Philadelphia with his wife Katherine and their two-year-old daughter Lucinda.

Roger Chartier

Annenberg Visiting Professor in History

Professor at the College de France

Roger Chartier is the Annenberg Visiting Professor in History at the University of Pennsylvania. He is Emeritus Professor at the Collège de France and at the Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales. His field is cultural history of Early Modern Europe, with a particular interest in the history of authorship, publishing, writing and reading. His last books translated into English are *The Author's Hand and the Printer's Mind* (Cambridge : Polity Press, 2014) and *Cardenio between Cervantes and Shakespeare: The Story of a Lost Play* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2013). His forthcoming book, *Won in Translation*, is translated by John Pollack and will be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. He has received doctorates honoris causa from ten universities in Spain, Argentina, Chile, Canada, Spain, Portugal and Switzerland.



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Alex Chase-Levenson

Assistant Professor of History

Alex Chase-Levenson is an Assistant Professor of Modern European history. He has been teaching at Penn since 2015, after he received his PhD from Princeton University. A specialist in British and Mediterranean history, he researches the history of borders, borderlines, and quarantines. He is completing a book entitled *The Yellow Flag: Quarantine in the British Mediterranean World*, under contract with Cambridge University Press. Based on the fear of the bubonic plague, the Mediterranean quarantine system detained every single person, ship, letter, and trade good moving from the Middle East to Western Europe until the middle of the nineteenth century. *The Yellow Flag* explores how the system set down a conceptual barrier between West and East, how it helped lay the foundation for the growth of public health regimes in Britain itself, and how it tied Britain to Continental powers at the level of small-scale bureaucrats in Mediterranean port cities. In addition to his work on quarantine, Chase-Levenson has also published articles about the history of Egyptology, nineteenth-century theatre, and Britain's Crystal Palace. Finally, he is beginning new work on a second book about the concept of border lines and border markers in Britain and its Empire in the long nineteenth century.



Chase-Levenson teaches courses on British history since 1700, Europe from 1789 to 1945, Mediterranean history, the history of memory, and the history of epidemic disease. He divides his time between Philadelphia and Binghamton, where his wife teaches medieval history and premodern medicine. Perhaps as a result of significant time spent commuting, Chase-Levenson has developed an enduring fascination (and frustration) with transportation, both its history and its modern reality. A train enthusiast, he has travelled across North America, from Syracuse to Seattle, by Amtrak and hopes to undertake another such journey soon.

Frederick Dickinson

Professor of History

Frederick R. Dickinson is Professor of Japanese History, Co-Director of the Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies, and Deputy Director of the Penn Forum on Japan (PFJ). Born in Tokyo and raised in Kanazawa and Kyoto, Japan, he teaches courses on modern Japan, on empire, politics and nationalism in East Asia and the Pacific, and on World History. He received an MA and PhD in History from Yale University and holds an MA in International Politics from Kyoto University (Kyoto, Japan). He is the author of *War and National Reinvention: Japan in the Great War, 1914 - 1919* (Harvard University Asia Center, 1999), *Taisho tenno* (Taisho Emperor, Minerva Press, 2009) and *World War I and the Triumph of a New Japan, 1919-1930* (Cambridge University Press, 2013). Currently, he is working on a global history of modern Japan.



Ann Farnsworth-Alvear

Associate Professor of History

Ann Farnsworth-Alvear is author of *Dulcinea in the Factory: Myths, Morals, Men and Women in Colombia's Industrial Experiment, 1905-1960* (Duke University Press, 2000), winner of the Allan Sharlin Prize of the Social Science History Association and the Bolton-Johnson Prize of the Conference on Latin American History, as well as *The Colombia Reader* (Duke University Press, 2016). Her current research focuses on the Colombian Chocó.



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Siyen Fei

Associate Professor of History

Undergraduate Chair

Siyen Fei received her PhD degree from Stanford University in 2004. She teaches and researches Chinese history at Penn. Her work to date is primarily concerned with the political and cultural activism of sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century Ming dynasty China (1368-1644). Examining the action of wide-ranging historical actors—women, urbanites, and border residents—she engages and expands the new scholarly paradigm of “defiant late Ming energy” that re-vision a society formerly considered submissive to an all-powerful imperium. In particular, her research on gender, urbanization and empire breaks new grounds by exploring how this emerging state-society dynamics drove and shaped unprecedented transformations in Chinese history



Her current book project *Sexuality and Empire: Female Chastity and Frontier Societies in Ming China (1368-1644)*, takes on a highly politicized issue in China: identity. This book looks at the life and struggle of people at the borderlands who found themselves caught in the making and unmaking of the Ming empire and examines how they confronted their plight on their own terms. It tells a story about a time when familiar vocabularies such as empire/identity were unavailable, and in that absence, how the commemoration of chaste heroines—women who martyred themselves to preserve their chastity—became a venue to negotiate destabilized frontier identities and to re-imagine the Chinese world. The new research focus on empire-making builds on her recently published book *Negotiating Urban Space: Nanjing and Late Ming Urbanization* (Harvard, 2010) that argues urbanism in late imperial China was intricately defined by the distinct vision of each dynastic empire. This finding is of great historiographic significance to Chinese urban history: In spite of general agreeme

Antonio Feros

Rose Family Endowed Term Professor of History

Antonio Feros is a Rose Family Endowed Term Professor of History. A leading scholar of early modern European history focusing on Spain and its empire, Dr. Feros is the author of two books, *Kingship and Favoritism in the Spain of Philip III, 1598-1621* (Cambridge University Press, 2000), and *Speaking of Spain: The Evolution of Race and Nation in the Hispanic World* (Harvard University Press, 2017), as well as three co-edited volumes and many articles. He has received a Fulbright Scholarship in Portugal and research grants from the Centro de Estudios Hispánicos e Iberoamericanos, the Luso-American Development Foundation and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at NYU. Dr. Feros is a committed teacher and has been recognized with the SAS Award for Mentorship of Undergraduate Research and the department of history’s Dunn Award for Distinguished Teaching. He has served as the graduate chair of history and as a member of the Arts and Sciences Committee on Graduate Education and the University Scholars Council.



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Roquinaldo Ferreira

Henry Charles Lea Professor of History

Having joined Penn in Fall 2018, Ferreira has enjoyed teaching and getting to know students, colleagues and Philly. He has finished articles and chapters for several forthcoming publications, and is now working on articles and chapters for conferences in Brazil, England, and the United States. In Fall 2018, Ferreira gave talks and participated in round tables and seminars at Harvard, Columbia, and Barnard College, and he is scheduled to share his scholarship at Yale and Emory in Spring 2019. At Penn, he collaborates with Profs. Melissa Teixeira (History) and Michael Hanchard (Africana) to create a digital repository of documents related to the history of the black movement in Brazil. In January/February, he conducted research in India (Goa) towards a new book project on the global Indian textile trade in the eighteenth century. He also finished transcribing and analyzing a treasure trove of French documents on the foundation of the Portuguese fort of Whydah (1721), which will be the focus of his next monograph. Ferreira serves as president of the committee of the Agostinho Neto Prize for Historical Research, which is sponsored by the namesake foundation (named after the first president of Angola) and seeks to stimulate scholarship on the History of Angola and the African diaspora. He is the author of *Cross-Cultural Exchange in the Atlantic World: Angola and Brazil during the Era of the Slave Trade* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012). His latest book, *The Costs of Freedom: Central Africa in the Age of Abolition, 1820 ca.-1880 ca.*, is forthcoming with Princeton University Press.



Marc Flandreau

Howard Marks Professor of Economic History

Marc Flandreau received his PhD in Economics from the Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris, and is also a graduate of the Ecole normale supérieure in Paris. By intersecting two disciplines, Flandreau's work examines the "micro-foundations" of historical capitalism, especially since 1800. To those ends, he excavates both the structural dynamics and also the layered storylines surrounding the co-evolution of credit, information and financial systems. He has published extensively on the history of the international monetary system, central banking, exchange-rate regimes, public finance, monetary unions, rating agencies, financial journalism, white-collar criminality, investment banking, and the dynamics of financial crises. His latest book, *Anthropologists and the Stock Exchange* (Chicago, 2016), casts new light on the "unholy trinity" of scientific knowledge, power, and finance in Victorian Britain. He has also published *Money Doctors: The Experience of International Financial Advising, 1850-2000* (Routledge 2003)



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Sarah Barringer Gordon

*Arlin M. Adams Professor of Constitutional Law
Professor of History*

Legal and constitutional historian Sally Gordon is well known for her work on religion in American history and the law of church and state, especially for the ways that religious liberty developed over the course of American national history. She is a frequent commentator in news media on the constitutional law of religion and debates about religious freedom. Her current book project is *Freedom's Holy Light: Disestablishment in America, 1776-1876*, about the historical relationship between religion, politics, and law, under contract with the University of North Carolina Press. Her article, "The



First Wall of Separation between Church and State: Disestablishment, Race, and Slavery in Late-Eighteenth-Century Virginia," was published in *The Journal of Southern History* in February 2019. She is also the co-author with Kevin Waite of Durham University on a forthcoming study, *The Long Road to Freedom: Biddy Mason and the Making of Black Los Angeles* (currently circulating with presses). In 2015-16, Gordon was a Guggenheim Fellow, and in Fall 2017 held the Maguire Chair in Ethics and American History at the Library of Congress. Gordon is the President-elect of the American Society for Legal History, also serves as co-editor of *Studies in Legal History*, the book series of the Society. She serves on the boards of the William Nelson Cromwell Foundation and the McDowell-Hartman Foundation, as well as the University of Pennsylvania Press. In 2011, she received the University's Lindback Award for distinguished teaching.

Sarah Gronningsater

Assistant Professor of History

Sarah L. H. Gronningsater is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania, where she researches and teaches 18th- and 19th-century U.S. history. Her first book, *The Arc of Abolition: The Children of Gradual Emancipation and the Origins of National Freedom*, is under contract with the University of Pennsylvania Press. Professor Gronningsater has received fellowships and awards from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the New York Historical Society, the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, and the American Society for Legal History, among others. Her most recent article, "Expressly Recognized by Our Election



Laws': Certificates of Freedom and the Multiple Fates of Black Citizenship in the Early Republic," appeared in the July 2018 issue of the *William and Mary Quarterly*. She received her A.B. in History and Literature from Harvard University, her M.St. in History from University of Oxford, and her Ph.D. in History from University of Chicago.

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Peter Holquist

Ronald S. Lauder Endowed Term Associate Professor of History

Peter Holquist's teaching and research focus upon the history of Russia and modern Europe. He is the author of *Making War, Forging Revolution: Russia's Continuum of Crisis, 1914-1921* (Harvard, 2002) and was founder and, for twelve years, editor of the journal *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*.

Holquist's current project, *By Right of War*, explores the emergence of the international law of war in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Specifically, it analyzes the role of imperial Russia in codifying and extending these "laws and customs of war," and examines to what extent European militaries, and particularly the Russian army, observed these norms in practice.

Holquist received his Ph.D. with distinction from Columbia University in 1995. He offers lecture courses on imperial Russia, War and Peace and the Napoleonic era, and the First World War, as well as undergraduate seminars on "Russia in the Age of Anna Karenina" and on the First World War. Holquist works with graduate students in the fields of Russian history, Soviet history, and the history of modern Europe.



Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet

Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History

Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet, a professor of Middle Eastern history, arrived at Penn in 1999. Since then, she has taught a range of courses on the ethnic and political conflicts of the region; women and gender relations; and popular culture (among other subjects). She is finishing two book projects, tentatively titled: *Between Heroes and Hostages: Reflections on US-Iranian Relations*, and *Tales of Trespassing: Borderland Histories of Iran, Iraq, and the Persian Gulf*. In the latter work, she deals with issues of migration and borderland crossings, while investigating, in part, the erasure of Persianate history

and communities from Iraq and the Persian Gulf in the modern era. She has presented numerous talks from both book projects and looks forward to their completion. She has also published *Frontier Fictions: Shaping the Iranian Nation, 1804-1946* (Princeton University Press, 1999) and *Conceiving Citizens: Women and the Politics of Motherhood in Iran* (Oxford University Press, 2011). She has also directed the Middle East Center at Penn as a National Resource Center since 2006. Firoozeh enjoys Middle Eastern cuisine and hospitality, as well as all forms of music, from Persian to pop. She appreciates dance, too, but is not coordinated enough to indulge in it herself. Stop by if you want to be regaled with Middle Eastern trivia!



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Ada Kuskowski

Assistant Professor of History

Ada Maria Kuskowski is a medieval historian and a legal historian. Her interdisciplinary work weaves together approaches from history, law and literature with the larger goal of understanding how legal cultures developed in Europe during the Middle Ages (ca. 500-1500). Her writing has focused on sources that might be described as “black letter law” and are often prone to positivist approaches. However, she interprets these materials as legal narratives that are imbedded in larger cultural contexts and examine them through the values, representations, expectations and mentalités that produced them and gave them meaning. She thus uses these sources to think about the stories that medieval actors told themselves about law, the language they used to express the norms by which their societies should function, and more broadly how ideas about order developed into ideas about law. She teaches the following courses: “Discover the Middle Ages,” “War and Conquest in Medieval Europe,” “The Vikings,” “Taking Things: A History of Property and Law,” “Love, Lust and Violence in the Middle Ages” and “Histories of Law: Pre and Early Modern.”



Walter Licht

Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History

I am writing this update from Belgium; I am teaching a modern U.S. history survey course this semester at the University of Leuven (I had the good fortune of doing this before in 2014). I am now in my forty-second year of employment at the University of Pennsylvania—contemplating retirement in the near future—and remain very active in University affairs. For decades, I have served as faculty director of Civic House and the Penn Civic Scholars Program and the students that I work with there never cease to inspire me. Related to that, I continue to be engaged in community affairs in West Philadelphia and in public history projects throughout the city. My teaching role in the department largely is the same with one exception; working with Kathy Brown to re-invent our U.S.



history survey and co-teaching with her has been rejuvenating (we call the course, Deciphering America). Forthcoming is the Princeton University Press publication of my book, *American Capitalisms: A Global History* (yes, that is plural); the research and writing of the book took me way out of my comfort zone to time periods and regions of the world far from my expertise, wound up at a length more than four times planned and contracted for, and too many years have passed since its initiation. I am now dabbling in scholarly projects that involve two volumes of essays and a book that would recast Richard Hofstadter’s *The American Political Tradition* (pluralization would figure here). I have enjoyed participating in the rebuilding of Penn’s History Department and there is now wonderful vitality with our slate of new junior and senior hires. The process of refilling positions, though, has had a sad aspect. I deeply miss Rick Beeman, Bob Engs, Sheldon Hackney, and Michael Katz.

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Walter A. McDougall

Professor of History

Alloy-Ansin Professor of International Relations

A graduate of New Trier Township High School in suburban Chicago, McDougall attended Amherst College (BA cum laude 1968) with a major in history and minors in German and music theory. He then served in the U.S. Army and saw combat duty in the Vietnam War. After returning in one piece, he pursued graduate studies at the University of Chicago (PhD 1974) and joined the faculty of the University of California, Berkeley, in 1975. After a long struggle he was at last promoted to Associate Professor in 1984 and full professor in 1986. He accepted Penn's offer of a chair and directorship of the International Relations Program in 1988, a decision he has never regretted.



McDougall, a protégé of the famous world historian William H. McNeill, is an unabashed generalist whose teaching fields include European diplomatic history, Europe since the Renaissance, American diplomatic history, Asia/Pacific international relations, and American history since colonial times. His books include *France's Rhineland Diplomacy: Last Bid for a Balance of Power in Europe* (1978); *... the Heavens and the Earth: A Political History of the Space Age* (1985); *International Relations in the Twentieth Century* (1989); *Let the Sea Make a Noise.... A History of the North Pacific from Magellan to MacArthur* (1993); *Promised Land, Crusader State: The American Encounter with the World since 1776* (1997); *Freedom Just Around the Corner: A New American History 1585-1828* (2004); *Throes of Democracy: The American Civil War Era 1829-1877* (2008); and *The Tragedy of U.S. Foreign Policy: How American Civil Religion Betrayed the National Interest* (2016).

McDougall has won numerous fellowships and awards including the Pulitzer Prize for History. He has also served in many capacities for Philadelphia's Foreign Policy Research Institute and edited its journal *Orbis*. He has been happily married for thirty years, has two grown children, played sports until the joints grew creaky, and is a lifelong aficionado of non-fiction, fiction, theology, maps, and music from Bach to Bob Dylan.

Ann E. Moyer

Associate Professor of History

Ann Moyer specializes in the intellectual and cultural history of Renaissance Europe, especially sixteenth-century Italy. She is completing a book on the study of culture and the formation of cultural identity in sixteenth-century Tuscany. Moyer's previous work includes a cluster of three related book-length research projects with overlapping themes related to music, mathematics, and the relationship between the arts and the sciences in Renaissance Europe: *Musica Scientia: Musical Scholarship in the Italian Renaissance* (Cornell University Press, 1992); *Raffaele Brandolini On Music and Poetry* (MRTS, 2001); and *The Philosophers' Game: Rithmomachia in Medieval and Renaissance Europe* (University of Michigan Press, 2001).



Professor Moyer is one of the Executive Editors of *The Journal of the History of Ideas*. The *JHI* is published by Penn Press, and its offices are on the Penn campus.

Professor Moyer served as Executive Director of the Renaissance Society of America July 2010-June 2015.

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Benjamin Nathans

Associate Professor of History

Benjamin Nathans teaches and writes about Imperial Russia and the Soviet Union, modern European Jewish history, and the history of human rights. He edited *A Research Guide to Materials on the History of Russian Jewry (19th and Early 20th Centuries) in Selected Archives of the Former Soviet Union* [in Russian] (Moscow, 1994) and is author of *Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter With Late Imperial Russia* (Berkeley, 2002), which won the Koret Prize in Jewish History, the Vucinich Prize in Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies, the Lincoln Prize in Russian History and was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award in History. *Beyond the Pale* has been translated into Russian (2007) and Hebrew (2013). Nathans has published articles on Habermas and the public sphere in eighteenth-century France, Russian-Jewish historiography, the state of the field of Russian and East European studies in Germany and the United States, Soviet dissident memoirs, and many other topics. From 2008 to 2012 he worked as a consultant for Ralph Appelbaum Associates, a leading museum design firm. Nathans chaired an international committee of scholars that helped design the content for the Museum of Jewish History in Moscow, which opened in November 2012.



Marcy Norton

Associate Professor of History

Marcy Norton is associate professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania. She specializes in the early modern Atlantic World, with a particular focus on colonialism and indigenous communities in Mexico and Greater Amazonia. Her research explores the intersections of environment, embodiment, and thought, and these concerns have guided her work on the history of food, drugs, science and inter-species relationships. Likewise, she teaches courses about colonial Latin America and environmental history (with a particular focus on human-animal relationships.) Her publications include *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World* (Cornell University Press, 2008, winner of the best book prize from the Association for the Study of Food and Society), "Subaltern Technologies and Early Modernity in the Atlantic World" (*Colonial Latin America Review*, 2017) and two articles that appeared in *American Historical Review*, "Tasting Empire: Chocolate and the Internalization of Mesoamerican Aesthetics (2006)" "The Chicken or the legue: Human-Animal Relationships and the Columbian Exchange" (2015). A Guggenheim Fellow in 2016-2017, she is currently finishing a book entitled *The Tame and the Wild: People and Animals after 1492*, to be published by Harvard University Press.



Amy C. Offner

Assistant Professor of History

Amy C. Offner (Ph.D. Columbia University) studies twentieth-century US history in global perspective, with special focus on Latin America. Her research and teaching address the history of capitalism and political economy, empire and foreign relations, and social and intellectual history.



She is writing a book, tentatively entitled *Sorting Out the Mixed Economy*, that reinterprets two problems in postwar political economy: the making and unmaking of welfare and developmentalist states, and the rise of economic reasoning in public life. Offner's second project turns from public policy and economic thought to business, labor, and legal history. It offers an international and historical perspective on a major shift in late twentieth-century capitalism: the expansion of capital accumulation strategies that did not involve directly owning or managing productive facilities.

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Kathy Peiss

Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols Professor of American History

Kathy Peiss is the Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols Professor of American History at the University of Pennsylvania. She received a B.A. from Carleton College in 1975 and Ph.D. from Brown University in 1982. She taught at the University of Maryland Baltimore County and the University of Massachusetts Amherst before coming to Penn in 2001. A recipient of the Ira



H. Abrams Award for Distinguished Teaching, she offers courses on modern American cultural history and the history of American sexuality, women, and gender. Peiss is a member of the affiliated faculty of the Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Program and the graduate group in the History and Sociology of Science Department. She served as Chair of the History Department from 2008 to 2011, and is currently the Diversity Search Advisor for the Humanities in the School of Arts and Sciences.

Peiss's research has explored the history of working women; working-class and interracial sexuality; leisure, style, and popular culture; the beauty industry in the U.S. and abroad; and print culture and cultural policy during World War II. She is the author of *Cheap Amusements: Working Women and Leisure in Turn-of-the-Century New York* (1986); *Hope in a Jar: The Making of America's Beauty Culture* (1998), a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Award; and *Zoot Suit: The Enigmatic Career of an Extreme Style* (2011), which received the Millia Davenport Publication Award of the Costume Society of America. Her latest work, *On a Mission: American Libraries, Intelligence, and Endangered Books in World War II*, will be published by Oxford University Press in 2020. She has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, Smithsonian Institution, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, American Council of Learned Societies, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, and is a Fellow of the Society of American Historians. In addition to writing and teaching, she has served as a consultant to museums, archives, and public history projects, and appeared in the documentary films *New York, Miss America*, and *The Powder and the Glory*.

Eve M. Troutt Powell

Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of History

Eve M. Troutt Powell teaches the history of the modern Middle East and the history of slavery in the Nile Valley and the Ottoman Empire. As a cultural historian, she emphasizes the exploration of literature and film in her courses. She is the author of *A Different Shade of Colonialism: Egypt, Great Britain and the Mastery of the Sudan* (University of California, 2003) and the co-editor, with John Hunwick, of *The African Diaspora in the Mediterranean Lands of Islam* (Princeton Series on the Middle East, Markus Wiener Press, 2002). Her most recent book is *Tell This in My Memory: Stories of Enslavement in Egypt, Sudan and the Late Ottoman Empire* (Stanford University Press, 2012).



Troutt Powell received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from Harvard University. Prior to coming to Penn, she taught for ten years at The University of Georgia. She has received fellowships from the American Research Center in Egypt and the Social Science Research Council, and has been a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. In 2003 she was named a MacArthur Foundation Fellow.

Troutt Powell is now working on a book about the visual culture of slavery in the Middle East which will explore the painting and photography about African and Circassian slavery in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She is also a professor in the department of Africana Studies.

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Dan Richter

Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols Professor of American History

Dan Richter did most of his growing up in northern Kentucky, a place from which his family emphatically was not. He remained in the Bluegrass State to receive his BA from Thomas More College and then faced east to earn his PhD from Columbia University. He held a postdoctoral fellow at what is now the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture before embarking on a fourteen-year teaching career at Dickinson College. He moved to Penn in 1999, where he is now is the Richard S. Dunn Director of the McNeil Center for Early American Studies and a Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols Professor of American History.



Dan is currently researching English colonization during the Restoration era, for a monograph tentatively titled “The Lords Proprietors: Land and Power in Seventeenth-Century America.” He is the author, among other works, of *Trade, Land, Power: The Struggle for Eastern North America* (2013); *Before the Revolution: America’s Ancient Pasts* (2011); *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America* (2001); and *The Ordeal of the Longhouse: The Peoples of the Iroquois League in the Era of European Colonization* (1992). Along with his colleagues Kathleen Brown, Max Cavitch, and David Waldstreicher, he edits the McNeil Center’s Early American Studies book series, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

He has been elected as a member of the American Antiquarian Society and the Society of American Historians, as a Fellow of the New York Academy of History, and as a Corresponding Member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and is an Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer. In 2017–2018 he received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and was named the Robert C. Ritchie Distinguished Fellow in Early American History at The Henry E. Huntington Library. He has served on the boards of several professional organizations, including the Pennsylvania Historical Association, the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, and the Library Company of Philadelphia. In 2016 he received the Provost’s Award for Distinguished PhD Teaching and Mentoring from the University of Pennsylvania.

Sophia Rosenfeld

Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History

Sophia Rosenfeld has just published a new book entitled *Democracy and Truth: A Short History*. It is intended to illuminate the present moment, but through an explanation of the relationship between democracy and truth from the eighteenth century onward. In 2018, she also published “Of Revolutions and the Problem of Choice,” in *Rethinking the Age of Revolutions: France and the Birth of the Modern World*, eds. David Bell and Yair Mintzer (Oxford) and “The Cultural History of the French Revolution,” in a special issue of *The Journal of Social History*. Since last December, she has given invited talks at the Einstein Forum in Potsdam, McGill University in Montreal, the Institute for Historical Research at the University of London, the Amsterdam Centre for Political Thought at the University of Amsterdam, Swarthmore College, the Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Texas, and Bowdoin College, where she gave the annual Bernstein Seminar, and the University of Vienna, where she gave the Tenth Annual Gerald Stourzh Lecture on the History of Human Rights and Democracy on the subject “Human Rights and the History of Choice.” Her previous books include *A Revolution in Language: The Problem of Signs in Late Eighteenth-Century France* (Stanford University Press, 2001) and *Common Sense: A Political History* (Harvard University Press, 2011). She has just completed her first year of a three year term as a Vice President of the American Historical Association, heading the Research Division. At Penn, she is actively involved in the Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study for Democracy and the Wolf Humanities Center in addition to the History Department.



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David Ruderman

Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Jewish Studies

David B. Ruderman is presently the Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History and was formerly Ella Darivoff Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania from 1994-2014. Prior to coming to Pennsylvania, he taught at the University of Maryland [1974-83] and at Yale University [1983-94]. He is the author of many books and articles including *The World of a Renaissance Jew*, 1981; *Kabbalah, Magic, and Science*, 1988; *A Valley of Vision*, 1990; *Jewish Thought and Scientific Discovery in Early Modern Europe*, 1995, 2001, published also in Italian, Hebrew, and Russian; *Jewish Enlightenment in an English Key: Anglo-Jewry's Construction of Modern Jewish Thought*, 2000; *Connecting the Covenants: Judaism and the Search for Christian Identity in Eighteenth Century England*, 2007, and *Early Modern Jewry: A New Cultural History*, 2010. Three of these books, including the last, won national book awards in Jewish history. He has also edited or co-edited five other books and co-edited two popular textbooks. His most recent book *A Best-Selling Hebrew Book of the Modern Era: The Book of the Covenant of Pinḥas Hurwitz and its Remarkable Legacy* appeared in 2014. He is a past president of the American Academy for Jewish Research. The Great Courses/Teaching Company has produced two of his Jewish history courses, each in 24 lectures. In 2001, the National Foundation for Jewish Culture honored him with its lifetime achievement award for his work in Jewish history. In 2014, his colleagues presented him with a festschrift entitled *Jewish Culture in Early Modern Europe: Essays in Honor of David B. Ruderman*, eds. Richard Cohen, Natalie Dohrmann, Adam Shear, and Elhanan Reiner (Pittsburgh, 2014).



Thomas Max Safley

Professor of History

Thomas Max Safley is Professor of Early Modern European History. A specialist in the economic and social history of the period, 1450-1750, he has published extensively on the histories of marriage and the family, poverty and charity and labor and capital. His most recent publications include *The Cultural History of Work, Vol III, The Renaissance* (2018), *Labor before the Industrial Revolution: Work, Technology and Their Ecologies in an Age of Early Capitalism* (2018) and *Family Firms and Merchant Capitalism in Early Modern Europe: The Business, Bankruptcy and Resilience of the Hoehstetters of Augsburg* (2019). When he isn't teaching or writing, he can usually be found riding his motorcycle, leading tours for the Penn Alumni Association or playing with his grandchildren.



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Robert St. George

Associate Professor of History

Robert Blair Saint-George is an Associate Professor of History. His courses explore such concepts as transculturation and appropriation in ethnography, memory, and material life in world cultures. He is also fascinated by trans-regionalism, comparative colonialism and empires, and commodity and exchange relations.



He has held fellowships by the Mellon Foundation (Massachusetts Historical Society), NEH (Newberry Library), and the Guggenheim Foundation (2000-2001). His various publications include *The Wrought Covenant* (1979) and *Conversing by Signs* (1998). He has edited and introduced *Material Life in America, 1600-1860* (1988 and later), and *Possible Pasts: Becoming Colonial in Early America* (2001). Robert has a recent essay on the relationship of folk life and material culture.

Melissa Teixeira

Assistant Professor of History

Melissa Teixeira is a historian of modern Brazil, with thematic focus on economic and legal history. Her broader interests also include Portugal and the wider Lusophone world as well as global history. Her current book project *South Atlantic Economic Lives: Remaking Capitalism and Citizenship in Twentieth-Century Brazil* explores Brazil's response to the political, economic, and social crises of capitalism following the Great Depression. The book adopts a novel approach to the history of economic life by incorporating wide-ranging legal, economic, and cultural sources to document the process of state-building from the perspective of government ministries and grocery markets alike. It further innovates with its comparative and transnational approach to state-led efforts to reorganize the national economy by drawing upon connections to the New Deal in the United States, Italian Fascism, and the Portuguese Estado Novo. This research has been supported by the Fulbright Commission, the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, and the Whiting Foundation. Recent publications related to this project have appeared in the *Journal of Latin American Studies* and in the edited volume *Crossing Borders: Authoritarianism and Corporatism in Europe and Latin America*. Melissa also published "Making a Brazilian New Deal: Oliveira Vianna and the Transnational Sources of Brazil's Corporatist Experiment" in *The Journal of Latin American Studies* (2018) and "Law and Legal Networks in the interwar corporatist turn: the case of Brazil and Portugal" in *Crossing Borders: Authoritarianism and Corporatism in Europe and Latin America* (2018).



Teixeira joined UPenn's Department of History as an Assistant Professor in 2018. She currently offers courses on the history of Brazil and Latin America, as well as thematic seminars that focus on economic development in global perspective and on the global consequences of the Great Depression. Her teaching stresses the relevance of the past for understanding our contemporary society.

Teixeira is an alumna of the University of Pennsylvania, graduating summa cum laude in 2008 with a B.A. in History and Economics. She then went on to study at the University of Cambridge in England, thanks to the support of the John Thouron Award, and received her Ph.D. in History from Princeton University in 2016. Prior to her arrival at Penn, Teixeira was a postdoctoral Prize Fellow in Economics, History, and Politics at Harvard University.

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Margo Todd

Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History

Margo Todd is a Walter H Annenberg Professor of History, specializing in early modern English and Scottish history and in the culture of Reformed (Calvinist) Protestantism in Britain and early America. Her books include *Christian Humanism and the Puritan Social Order*, *Reformation to Revolution: Politics and Religion in Early Modern England*, *The Culture of Protestantism in Early Modern Scotland* (winner of the Longman-History Today Prize and the Scottish History Book of the Year Award),



and most recently an edition of the Kirk Session Books of Perth, 1577-1590. She has held fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council of Learned Societies, among others, and is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. In 2016-17 she served as the Fletcher Jones Foundation Distinguished Fellow of the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.

Professor Todd is presently at work on a history of the royal burgh of Perth in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and is beginning a study of religious anxiety in the early modern Reformed tradition. Most recently she has published on dispute arbitration in early modern Britain. She teaches a range of undergraduate courses, from medieval and early modern British history to an interdisciplinary seminar on utopian thought from Plato through the twentieth century, in addition to graduate seminars in early modern cultural, urban, and religious history.

Arthur Waldron

Lauder Professor of International Relations

Arthur Waldron has been the Lauder Professor of International Relations in the Department of History at the University of Pennsylvania since 1997. His publications include *The Great Wall of China: From History to Myth* (1989); *The Modernization of Inner Asia* (1991); *How the Peace Was Lost: The 1935 Memorandum*



"Developments Affecting American Policy in the Far East" Prepared for the State Department by John Van Antwerp MacMurray (1992); *From War to Nationalism: China's Turning Point, 1924-1925* (1995), and (with Daniel Moran) *The People in Arms: Military Myth and National Mobilization since the French Revolution* (2003).

Waldron has published extensively on Chinese foreign policy and been invited to deliver a keynote speech at the Oxford University Graduate Forum. In government, he served as one of twelve members of the highly-classified Tilelli Commission (2000-2001), which evaluated the China operations of the Central Intelligence Agency. He was also an original member of the Congressionally-mandated U.S-China Economic and Security Review Commission (2001-2003). He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and former Director of Asian Studies at the American Enterprise Institute. Waldron currently serves on the China Tribunal (London) headed by prosecutor Sir Geoffrey Nice, Q.C. He has also been an expert witness for the Human Rights Legal Foundation. Professor Waldron is now working on a new book project on Chinese politics, 1910-1930.

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Beth S. Wenger

Department Chair

Josephine Berg Professor of History

Beth S. Wenger is Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of History at Penn and has served as Chair of the History Department for six years. She is the author of *History Lessons: The Creation of American Jewish Heritage* (Princeton University Press, 2010) and *New York Jews and the Great Depression: Uncertain Promise* (Yale University Press, 1996), which was awarded the Salo Baron Prize in Jewish History from the American Academy of Jewish Research. Her other books include *The Jewish Americans: Three Centuries of Jewish Voices in America* (Doubleday, 2007), which was named a National Jewish Book Award finalist. The book is a companion volume to the 2008 PBS series, titled *The Jewish Americans*.



Wenger's co-edited collections include *Gender in Judaism and Islam: Common Lives, Uncommon Heritage* (with Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet); *Remembering the Lower East Side: American Jewish Reflections* (with Hasia Diner and Jeffrey Shandler); and *Encounters with the "Holy Land:" Place, Past, and Future in American Jewish Culture* (with Jeffrey Shandler), which received honorable mention as one of the American Library Association's Exhibition Catalogue Awards for Excellence.

Wenger is a Fellow of the American Academy of Jewish Research and has served as Distinguished Lecturer for the OAH and the Association for Jewish Studies. She also received the 2008 Richard S. Dunn Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Wenger currently serves as Chair of the Academic Advisory Council of the Center for Jewish History in New York. She is a former Chair of the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society, former Co-Chair of the Jewish Women's Caucus of the Association for Jewish Studies, and former Director of the Jewish Studies Program at Penn—a position she held for seven years.

Wenger was one of four founding historians who helped to create the core exhibition at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, and she continues to serve as historical consultant to the Museum.