

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

2018-2019 Newsletter

Graduate Alumni News

Our graduate students move on to exciting careers where they produce new scholarship and pass on their knowledge and passion for history to the next generation of students.

Paulina L. Alberto (Ph.D., 2005)

Paulina is Associate Professor in the Departments of History and of Romance Languages and Literatures (Programs in Spanish and Portuguese) at the University of Michigan. She is the author of multiple articles on racial activism and racial ideologies in modern Brazil and Argentina, and of *Terms of Inclusion: Black Intellectuals in Twentieth-Century Brazil* (UNC Press, 2011). She is also co-editor (with Eduardo Elena) of *Rethinking Race in Modern Argentina* (Cambridge University Press, 2016). Alberto's work has received support from the Social Science Research Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council for Learned Societies, among others, and has been recognized with the Roberto Reis Prize for Best Book in Brazilian Studies (BRASA, 2012), the Warren Dean Prize for Best Book in Brazilian History (CLAH, 2013), and the James Alexander Robertson Prize (CLAH, 2017). Her current book manuscript, *Black Legend: 'El Negro' Raúl Grigera and Racial Storytelling in Modern Argentina*, illuminates the power of stories to construct "whiteness" and "blackness" in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Argentina and to shape individual fates. Together with her colleague Farina Mir, Alberto designed and regularly teaches History 101: What is History?, UM's innovative, large-scale gateway course (featured in the AHA's *Perspectives on History*)

Rene Luis Alvarez (Ph.D., 2008)

[René Luís Alvarez](#) (PhD, 2008), is a Clinical Assistant Professor of History at the [Arrupe College of Loyola University Chicago](#), where he teaches both halves of the Western Civilization and United States history survey courses. Opened in 2015, Arrupe College offers previously underserved student populations in the greater Chicago area a rigorous liberal arts education in the Jesuit tradition leading to an associate of arts degree in either Arts and Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences or Business. René also is a full-time academic adviser for a cohort of approximately 20 undergraduate advisees; regularly meeting with each of them to ensure their academic progress and to foster their interpersonal development. In addition to his teaching and advising duties, René also is the Director of Arrupe's First-Year Seminar Program, servicing all freshmen students as they transition from secondary to higher education. When not fulfilling his myriad teaching, advising, and administrative responsibilities, René enjoys taking in the sights and sounds of his hometown; but does feel nostalgia every now and again for his alma mater and the city of brotherly love.

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Ellen Amster (Ph.D., 2003)

Ellen Amster is the Jason A. Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine at McMaster University and Associate Professor in the Departments of Family Medicine and History. She received her B.A. from the University of Chicago and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. A historian of North Africa, France, and medicine, her research on science in the French-Islamic colonial encounter was first a book, *Medicine and the Saints: Science, Islam, and the Colonial Encounter in Morocco, 1877-1956* (University of Texas) and now extends to an interdisciplinary global health field course she leads in the determinants of women's health for undergraduate students in Morocco. She is the Principal Investigator of the Morocco-Canadian Network in Maternal and Infant Health, a project funded by the Canadian Institute for Research on Health. Her research has also received funding from Fulbright, SSRC, AIMS, CIHR, and the Government of France. Current research interests include Islamic biopolitics, globalizing the history of public health, and North African gender, religious, and race identities. She has created a resource for all researchers in the history of medicine and medical humanities that includes worldwide library, archival, museum, grants and digital collections, the History of Medicine and Medical Humanities Research Portal, <http://medhumanities.mcmaster.ca>.

Heather Bennet (Ph.D., 2013)

I will complete the tenure process at Santa Monica College (History Department) this fall. I am forming the department's study abroad program in conjunction with the International Education Department. I continue to research and have done some writing but my focus has been on teaching and building international experiential learning opportunities. Most recently, I led a study abroad course in Denmark.

Mark Brennan (Ph.D., 2013)

I have been teaching at New York University's Stern School of Business since 2011 after finishing my degree at Penn in 2013. However, the biggest news in my life came December 29, 2017 when I received a Stage 4 oropharyngeal cancer diagnosis. I took off the spring 2018 semester in order to undergo six months of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. In the fall of 2018 I returned to teaching. I am now forty pounds lighter and my first post-treatment scan showed that the cancer has not spread!

Brian Caton (Ph.D., 2003)

Brian has been teaching at Luther College and has been serving as Department Chair since 2013. He and Sandhya have two boys, 8 and 13, and all are doing well.

Sefali Chandra (Ph.D., 2003)

I received my Ph.D. from the History Department in 2003. I recall the Penn History department most warmly for its terrific graduate student culture, and some really dedicated mentors (shout out to Lynn Lees and Kathy Brown!). Since leaving Penn, I've held positions at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and currently, Washington University in St. Louis where I am an Associate Professor. As a scholar of modern South Asia, I teach and write about the sexual history of caste in India, the long history of the Cold War in Pakistan and India, and the politics of the South Asian diaspora in shaping the United States. My first book, *The Sexual Life of English: Languages of Caste and Gender in Colonial India* was published by Duke University Press in 2012. In that I studied the way that Indians used sex and gender to appropriate the English language. I veered away from the standard postcolonial scholarly assessment of English as a colonial imposition, the language of colonial power. Instead I showed how upper-caste Indians marshaled sexual difference to restrict others from accessing English, and to naturalize and accentuate caste inequities. Presently I am working on a book-length project that shows how (and why) sex has become fundamental to the relationship between India and the United States over the 20th century. I can be contacted at sc23@wustl.edu

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Christopher Close (Ph.D., 2006)

Christopher has been teaching at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia since fall 2012. His research focuses on the history of early modern Europe with a special interest in the intersection of religion and politics in European society from the fifteenth through the seventeenth centuries. His first monograph, *The Negotiated Reformation: Imperial Cities and the Politics of Urban Reform (1525-1550)* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), examines how networks of support and communication between cities enabled the Protestant Reformation to spread and survive in southern Germany. His current book project, *Empire of Alliances: Shared Sovereignty and State Formation in Early Modern Europe, 1488-1672*, reevaluates traditional models of state formation by analyzing the political operation of corporate alliances in the Holy Roman Empire and the Low Countries during the early modern period. Dr. Close's articles have appeared in several scholarly journals, including *Central European History*, *The Sixteenth Century Journal*, *Archive for Reformation History*, *European History Quarterly*, and *German History*. He received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in 2018.

D'Maris Coffman (Ph.D., 2008)

I graduated from Penn History in May 2008, five and a half years after starting in September 2002. I am currently the Professor of Economics and Finance of the Built Environment at University College London's Bartlett School. At present, I also am Head of Department and Director of the Bartlett School of Construction and Project Management. From October 2008 to September 2014 when I joined UCL as a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor), I was a junior research fellow and college lecturer at Newnham College of the University of Cambridge. In my final year at Newnham, I held an early career Leverhulme fellowship. While in Cambridge, I started the Centre for Financial History. At present, I am a Managing Editor of Elsevier's *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics* (IF=1.542), Associate Editor of Springer's *Economia Politica* (IF=0.970) and Senior Editor of the Palgrave Studies in the History of Finance series, which publishes monographs and essay collections, and has recently signed its 40th title. I am a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. I live in London with my partner, Dr John Prowle, who is a consultant physician in intensive care medicine and nephrology and Associate Professor at Barts Health/Queen Mary, University of London, and young son, Philip. As a family, we enjoy skiing, hiking, and travelling, especially in China. I'm happy to discuss employment opportunities in the UK with other Penn alums. It's been a great decade!

Nick Di Liberto (Ph.D., 2009)

Nick is associate professor of History at Newberry College, where he teaches European and World History. He was recently elected Vice President/President Elect of the Southeast World History Association and also serves as associate editor of the *World History Bulletin*.

Yaacob Dweck (Ph.D., 2008)

Yaacob is an associate professor of history and Judaic Studies at Princeton University. His new book, *Dissident Rabbi: The Life of Jacob Sasportas*, will be published by Princeton University Press in the fall of 2019.

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Jacob Eder (Ph.D., 2012)

Jacob Eder teaches contemporary history at the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena. He is currently a Feodor Lynen-Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the History Department of New York University and a Visiting Fellow at NYU's Remarque Institute. Jacob studied Modern History and American Studies at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, spent a year on a Fulbright Scholarship at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and holds a PhD in History from the University of Pennsylvania. He is the recipient of numerous research grants and fellowships, including a Charles H. Revson Foundation Fellowship from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, fellowships from the Gerda Henkel Foundation and the German Historical Institute, and a Mellon Foundation Fellowship in Cold War/Post1945 International History from the George Washington University. He was also a visiting lecturer and a visiting scholar at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. For his dissertation, Jacob received the Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History of the Wiener Library, the Marko Feingold Dissertation Prize in Jewish Studies of the University of Salzburg, and the Betty M. Unterberger Dissertation Prize of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. He recently received Jena University's teaching award for a seminar on memory in Germany and Israel, which brought together students from Jena and Jerusalem. Jacob is the author of *Holocaust Angst: The Federal Republic of Germany and American Holocaust Memory since the 1970s* (Oxford University Press, 2016) and the co-editor of *Holocaust Memory in a Globalizing World* (Wallstein, 2017).

Juan M. Floyd-Thomas (Ph.D., 2000)

Juan is Associate Professor of African American Religious History at Vanderbilt University's Divinity School and Graduate Department of Religion since he joined the faculty in 2008. Prior to arriving Vanderbilt, Floyd-Thomas taught in the History Departments of Virginia Tech and Texas Christian University. In addition to having written numerous journal articles and book chapters, he is author of *The Origins of Black Humanism: Reverend Ethelred Brown and the Unitarian Church* (2008) and *Liberating Black Church History: Making It Plain* (2014) as well as co-author of *Black Church Studies: An Introduction* (2007) and *The Altars Where We Worship: The Religious Significance of Popular Culture in the United States* (2016). Most recently, he co-edited *Religion in the Age of Obama* with Anthony B. Pinn (2018). He is working on his next major research project, a book about the history of African American religion in Harlem. His research has been funded by fellowships and grants from the Louisville Institute, the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, and most recently the Robert Penn Warren Center for Humanities at Vanderbilt University (2016-2017). Currently, he serves as the Executive Director of the Society for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion (SRER).

Rob Goldberg (Ph.D., 2015)

Rob finished his dissertation - on how the US toy industry got swept up in the social movements of the 1960s - in 2015. For the past nine years, he's been teaching history to 4th graders and high schoolers at Saint Ann's School in Brooklyn, as well as helping to raise two kids, ages 5 and 8. He is always happy to talk with anyone interested in pursuing a teaching career at the elementary or secondary level.

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Cassie Good (Ph.D., 2012)

Cassie is an assistant professor of history at Marymount University. She is the author of *Founding Friendships: Friendships Between Men and Women in the Early American Republic* (Oxford, 2015), which received the Mary Jurich Nickliss Prize for the best book on women's/gender history from the Organization of American Historians in 2016. She also served as co-editor for two volumes of *The Papers of James Monroe*. Last summer, she spent a month researching in the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle supported by a fellowship from the Georgian Papers Programme. She is currently working on a book about George Washington's step-grandchildren and their political role in nineteenth century America.

J. Casey Hammond (Ph.D., 2011)

Following graduation in 2011, I joined the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences faculty at Singapore University of Technology and Design. I've enjoyed my return to this region where I lived before entering the graduate history program at Penn. I work on multicultural issues in Singapore, Indonesia, and Taiwan, with a focus on Indonesian migrant workers in Taiwan.

Claire Kaiser (Ph.D., 2015)

Since 2016, Claire has been Director for Strategic Initiatives at McLarty Associates, a Washington DC-based global strategy and commercial diplomacy firm. She advises clients on matters in Europe and Eurasia as well as works with the firm's leadership on global issues. Additionally, she has been an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies since 2016, teaching a graduate seminar on the history of the Caucasus, and has also been an instructor at the Department of State's Foreign Service Institute, teaching outbound US diplomats about Central Asia history, politics, and current affairs. She has a chapter on post-World War II deportations in the Caucasus forthcoming in Krista A. Goff and Lewis H. Siegelbaum, eds., *Empire and Belonging in the Eurasian Borderlands* (Cornell University Press, 2019). On a personal note, she gave birth to a son, Robert Paul Kaiser (aka Bo) in May 2018.

Matthew Kruer (Ph.D., 2015)

Matthew received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 2015 under the supervision of Daniel Richter, Kathleen Brown, and Robert St. George. His dissertation, "Our Time of Anarchy: Bacon's Rebellion and the Wars of the Susquehannocks," was awarded the 2016 Allan Nevins Prize for best-written dissertation in American history from the Society of American Historians. The book manuscript based on this research, *Time of Anarchy: The Susquehannock Indians and the Crisis of English Colonialism* is under contract with Harvard University Press. From 2015-2017 he was Assistant Professor of History at the University of Oklahoma, and is currently Assistant Professor of Early North American History and the College at the University of Chicago.

Kruer has received funding from the American Council of Learned Societies, Library Company of Philadelphia, University of Oxford, American Philosophical Society, American Historical Society, Virginia Historical Society, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Huntington, and the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard. He has been invited to give talks about this work at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, the Rothermere Center for American Studies at the University of Oxford, the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Washington Area Early American Seminar, and Boston Area Early American History Seminar. His publications include "Bloody Minds and Peoples Undone: Emotion, Family, and Political Order in the Susquehannock-Virginia War," *William and Mary Quarterly* 3rd ser., 74, no. 3 (Jul. 2017).

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Jessica Lautin (Ph.D., 2011)

Jessica is expecting baby #2, and is very happy and loving work at a museum design firm called Gallagher & Associates.

Anton M. Matytsin (Ph.D., 2013)

Anton is Assistant Professor of History at Kenyon College, where he teaches courses on early modern European history. After receiving his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in 2013, Anton was Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities at Stanford University (2013–2015). He is currently John G. Medlin, Jr. Fellow at the National Humanities Center (2018–2019).

Anton's first book, *The Specter of Skepticism in the Age of Enlightenment* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2016), explores the making of a new conception of rationality that emerged out of the eighteenth-century debates surrounding philosophical skepticism. Anton is also co-editor, with Dan Edelstein, of *Let There Be Enlightenment: The Religious and Mystical Sources of Rationality* (JHUP, 2018), with Jeffrey Burson, of *The Skeptical Enlightenment: Doubt and Certainty in the Age of Reason* (Voltaire Foundation, 2019).

Anton's current project, provisionally entitled *A History of History: The Académie des inscriptions and the Remaking of the Past*, explores the origins of the modern discipline of history and the emergence of Enlightenment cosmopolitanism. The book examines the Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres—one of the most intriguing learned societies of old-regime France that played a crucial role in redefining how Enlightenment thinkers thought about history, religion, and politics. Turning away from biblical accounts of ancient history and toward schemes that incorporated non-European cultures, members of this academy promoted comparative and relativistic approaches to the study of world civilizations. The book also explores how these new understandings of the past shaped the way eighteenth-century thinkers prognosticated the future of humanity

Nicole Maurantonio (Ph.D., 2008)

Nicole is Associate Professor of Rhetoric & Communication Studies and American Studies at the University of Richmond. She looks forward to returning to Philadelphia in April for OAH and reconnecting!

Alex Novikoff (Ph.D., 2007)

Alex now teaches medieval history at Kenyon College, having previously taught at St. Joseph's University, Rhodes College, Fordham University, and the Juilliard School of Music. For the past twelve summers he has taught history and religious studies at Franklin University Switzerland, where he leads excursions to the ancient and medieval sites of Northern Italy and Canton Ticino. His recent publications include *The Medieval Culture of Disputation: Pedagogy, Practice, and Performance* (Penn Press, 2013) and *The Renaissance of the Twelfth Century: A Reader* (University of Toronto Press, 2017). In 2015 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and in fall 2016 he was the Nina Maria Gorrissen fellow of history at the American Academy in Berlin. In spring 2019 he will be a visiting fellow at the Israel Institute of Advanced Studies in Jerusalem. When not teaching, researching or traveling, he enjoys tennis, playing the violin, and ballroom dancing. And hearing from old friends who may be reading this newsletter!

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Adrian O'Connor (Ph.D., 2009)

Adrian received his Ph.D. from the Penn history department in 2009. He is now an associate professor at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, where he has taught since 2010. His first book, *In Pursuit of Politics: Education and Revolution in Eighteenth-Century France* was published by Manchester University Press in 2017. He is currently working on a new project on Enlightenment anxieties regarding commercial and political sociability and the work of institution-building during the early years of the French Revolution, tentatively entitled *Society, Sentiment, and Statecraft in Revolutionary France*. Since January 2018, he is also the editor of the peer-reviewed journal *The Historian*.

Katherine Paugh (Ph.D., 2008)

Katherine took up a new position in 2017 as Associate Professor of North American Women's History at the University of Oxford and as a Tutor and Fellow of Corpus Christi College. She had previously been Visiting Assistant Professor at Sarah Lawrence College and Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her first book, *The Politics of Reproduction: Race, Medicine, and Fertility in the Age of Abolition*, came out in the *Past & Present* book series through Oxford University Press in 2017. She has also published articles in *Past & Present*, *The Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, and *Slavery & Abolition*. She is currently at work on a book on the history of venereal disease in the Atlantic world. She is also the proud mother of a two-year-old son named Felix.

Juan J. Ponce-Vázquez (Ph.D., 2011)

Juan has been an Assistant Professor at the University of Alabama for the last four years. After graduating in 2011, he also held teaching positions at Rutgers University and Saint Lawrence University.

His forthcoming book, provisionally titled *Smuggling At the Edge of Empire: Social and Political Defiance in Hispaniola, 1580-1697*, is currently under review. In this project he explores the role that smuggling played in the dramatic economic and socio-political transformation of Hispaniola society throughout this long seventeenth century. He demonstrates how local peoples of a colonial periphery actively negotiated and transformed the meaning and reach of imperial bureaucracies and institutions for their own benefit. In Santo Domingo, local actors managed to undermine and co-opt the powers of imperial bureaucracies, either by absorbing them into their own patronage networks or by confronting them with the strength that their colonial isolation granted them. Smuggling became a common activity in which all sectors of society directly or indirectly participated. Local smugglers managed to exert a colossal influence in the activities of local and imperial institutions on the island. By doing so, these local groups took control of their destinies and that of their neighbors in Hispaniola, other Spanish Caribbean possessions, and the Spanish empire in the region.

On a personal note, Juan and his wife Julie are expecting their second son to be born in late December. As he writes these words, they are excited and (almost) ready. He still loves hearing from graduate school friends.

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Chase Richards (Ph.D., 2013)

I have had an eventful half-decade since completing my Penn History Ph.D. in 2013. In 2014, having stuck around as an adjunct instructor and assistant journal editor, I de-camped to Berlin to take up a couple of postdocs based at the Free University. Later that year I had the honor to win the Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize of the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. As my colleagues know all too well, however, the academic job market remained challenging, particularly for Europeanists, which prompted me to embark on a Plan B I'd had in mind for a while, namely a transition into tech. Making sure to abide by the letter of my postdocs, I began a series of very part-time internships in analytics at small Berlin startups. Following the end of my second postdoc, in late summer 2016, I landed my first full-time position at a crowdworking platform called Jovoto. In 2017 I joined Clue, a wonderful women's health app, also in Berlin. In September of this year I returned to the US, moving to the delightful and problematic city of San Francisco. Currently I work as a senior product analyst at Strava, a social fitness app. I'm having a great time. Happy to connect via LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chase-richards>

Kyle Roberts (Ph.D., 2007)

Kyle is Associate Professor of Public History and New Media and Director of the Center for Textual Studies and Digital Humanities at Loyola University Chicago.

Jordan Ross (Ph.D., 2005)

Since completing my doctorate at Penn in 2005, under the supervision of Michael B. Katz, I've taught at the University of Victoria, by the seaside in beautiful British Columbia, Canada. As part of my research on migration, race, and inequality, I head a major national research project, entitled *Landscapes of Injustice*, a 7-year multi-sector and community-engaged endeavour to unearth and tell the history of the forced sale of Japanese-Canadian-owned property during the 1940s (a policy that had no parallel in the mistreatment of Japanese Americans). My other research has examined the social patterns of Italian immigrant neighborhoods, municipal acquisitions of "Indian Reserves" in Vancouver, and the spatial patterns of poverty in Canadian cities. In addition to writing for academic audiences, I'm engaged in a variety of public history initiatives that communicate scholarly analysis in museums and popular media. I'm gratified by the recognition of my work in both the academy and outside of it. My work on the dispossession of Japanese Canadians has been honoured by awards from the Canadian Historical Association and the Society for American City and Regional Planning, and was shortlisted for the national book prize of Canada's Wilson Institute. The *Landscapes of Injustice* received an Award of Excellence from the Canadian Race Relations Foundation for our work in anti-racist education. I look back very fondly on my years at Penn and the invaluable mentors and colleagues that I met there, a "study abroad" experience that launched me into a wonderfully fulfilling career back home in Canada.

Francis Ryan (Ph.D., 2003)

Francis is graduate director of the Masters in Labor and Employment Relations program at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. His book *AFSCME's Philadelphia Story: Municipal Workers and Urban Power in the Twentieth Century* was published by Temple University Press in 2011, and his edited volume, *The Memoirs of Wendell W. Young III: A Life in Philadelphia Labor and Politics* is scheduled for publication from Temple Press in 2019.

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James Ryan (Ph.D., 2017)

James started a new position as the Associate Director of the Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at NYU in June 2018. In that position, I curate academic events, write and manage two federal grants, run the Center's K-12 outreach program and oversee the Center's day to day activities. My article, "'Unveiling' the Tramway: The Intimate Public Sphere in Late Ottoman and Republican Istanbul", previously published online, recently came out in print in the *Journal of Urban History*. In my time away from administrative duties, I am working on a book manuscript based on his recently defended dissertation, and two new articles. I'm enjoying living in New York, and happy to have a few former colleagues from Penn close by!

Leander Seah (Ph.D., 2011)

Leander is Associate Professor of History at Stetson University, a private liberal arts college in Florida where he founded the Stetson Asian Studies Program and currently serves as its director. He completed a Ph.D. in History at the University of Pennsylvania in 2011, and also holds an M.A. in History and a B.A. with Honours in History from the National University of Singapore. His Penn doctoral dissertation committee comprised Arthur Waldron (advisor), Frederick Dickinson, and Eiichiro Azuma. He also worked closely with Lynn Lees and Victor Mair. As for publications, they include journal articles on late Qing and Republican China, China-Southeast Asia connections, migration and diasporas, East Asian relations, and trans-regionalism and transnationalism. Currently, he is finishing a monograph, *Conceptualizing Chinese Identity: China, the Nanyang, and Trans-Regionalism*, and has begun work on another book, a transnational study of the Burma Theater during the Second World War. He has also won two teaching awards at Stetson, as well as eighteen research fellowships, grants, and awards from the Association for Asian Studies, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, the Center for Chinese Studies in Taiwan, the National Library Board of Singapore, the National University of Singapore, the University of Pennsylvania, and Stetson University.

Jennifer Sessions (Ph.D., 2005)

Jennifer recently joined the faculty of the Corcoran Department of History at the University of Virginia, after thirteen years teaching French, European, and world history at the University of Iowa. Her research and teaching continue to center on the relationship between France and its colonial empire, particularly French Algeria. Her first book, *By Sword and Plow: France and the Conquest of Algeria* (Cornell, 2011) was awarded the Boucher Book Prize by the French Colonial Historical Society. She is now working on two new books: a global microhistory of the 1901 Margueritte rebellion in central Algeria and the debate it sparked about French settler colonialism in North Africa, and a biography of the equestrian statue that stood in the center of colonial Algiers. She is currently serving as Past President of the French Colonial Historical Society.

Adam Shear (Ph.D., 2003)

Adam is Associate Professor of Religious Studies & History and chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. At Pitt since 2001, he teaches courses on medieval and modern Jewish history, on relations between Jews, Christians, and Muslims, and on western religion more generally. His research focuses on early modern Jewish intellectual and cultural history, with a particular focus on the history of books and the transmission of knowledge. Among his publications are *The Kuzari and the Shaping of Jewish Identity, 1167-1900* (2008), *The Hebrew Book in Early Modern Italy*, co-edited with Joseph R. Hacker (2011); and *Perspectives on Jewish Culture in Early Modern Europe*, a *festschrift* for David Ruderman, co-edited with Richard Cohen, Natalie Dohrmann, and Elchanan Reiner (2014). Along with colleagues from JTS, Columbia, and Stony Brook, he is currently project director for a large-scale digital humanities research project on the dissemination and movement of early printed books and their influence in Jewish and non-Jewish culture, "Footprints: Jewish Books through Time and Space." He is currently one of two editors of the *AJS Review*, the scholarly journal of the Association for Jewish Studies, and a member of the academic advisory council of the Center for Jewish History in New York, where he is pleased to be working again with Beth Wenger.