

# 2019 Brown Sabbatical Research Newsletter





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## Foreword

This is the seventh edition of the annual Brown Sabbatical Research Newsletter published by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty. Its main focus is on the research by Brown faculty that has been made possible during the past academic year by our sabbatical program (also included are some reports on non-sabbatical research). The word *sabbatical* derives from the Hebrew verb *shabath* meaning “to rest.” In keeping with the ancient Judeo-Christian concept the academic sabbatical designates a time, not of simple inactivity, but of the restorative intellectual activity of scholarship and research.

Brown instituted the sabbatical leave in 1891, 11 years after Harvard had become the first university in the United States to introduce a system of paid research leaves (Brown was the fifth institution in the nation to adopt such a program, following Harvard, Cornell, Wellesley, and Columbia). As these dates suggest, the concept of the sabbatical emerged out of the establishment of the modern research university in America during the second half of the 19th century. A 1907 report by a Committee of the Trustees of Columbia University underlines the fundamental principle on which this innovation was based: “the practice now prevalent in Colleges and Universities of this country of granting periodic leaves of absence to their professors was established not in the interests of the professors themselves but for the good of university education” (cited in Eells, 253). Thus the restorative action of the sabbatical was understood to affect primarily not individual faculty members but the university as an intellectual community and an educational institution. The promulgators of the modern university believed that time for intensive focus on research contributed significantly and directly to the quality of the knowledge and methods transmitted by the university to its students and to the public in general.

For over 120 years Brown has reaffirmed that belief by granting sabbaticals to its faculty. The following publication of sabbatical research aims to provide some indications of the results of these research leaves over the last year. The entries are lightly edited versions of the reports submitted by the individual faculty members themselves. I hope that they will be found interesting and instructive.

Kevin McLaughlin  
Dean of the Faculty

*Further reading:*

Walter Crosby Eells, “The Origin and Early History of Sabbatical Leave,” *AAUP Bulletin* 48. 3 (September 1962): 253-256 (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/40222893>).

*\*Special thanks are due to Senior Associate Dean of the Faculty Joel Revill, also to PJ Centofanti of the Office of University Communications.*

## Omer Bartov

HISTORY & GERMAN STUDIES • 2018-19

A significant amount of Professor Omer Bartov's time in 2018-19 was devoted to events and additional work surrounding the publication, in January 2018, of his monograph, *Anatomy of a Genocide: The Life and Death of a Town Called Buczacz* (Simon and Schuster). This year the book won the 2018 National Jewish Book Award in the category Holocaust, the ninth annual Zócalo Book Award and the annual Ab Imperio Award for 2018. Since summer 2018 alone Bartov has given 20 invited lectures on the book in the United States, the Ukraine, Munich, Frankfurt and Berlin. He has also spoken about the book on panels dedicated to it at major conferences and at special events in Italy, Canada, and the Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in Boston. Additionally, he has been heavily engaged in translations of the book, working especially closely with Polish and Hebrew translators. (The book is also coming out in Chinese and German.)

Bartov's new projects include first a volume titled *Voices on War and Genocide: Personal Accounts of Violence in 20th-Century Eastern Europe*, to be published in the series *Studies on War and Genocide* of which he is also a co-general editor. The book includes translations of three previously unpublished and quite unique diaries by a Polish headmaster, a Ukrainian teacher, and a Jewish radio technician, describing the two world wars in the Eastern European town of Buczacz that was at the center of Bartov's last monograph. The second undertaking is an edited volume, based on a selection of 20 contributions from the multiple papers presented at the "Israel-Palestine: Lands and Peoples" project Bartov directed at the Watson Institute. This will be an important publication reflecting not only the state of the field of Israel-Palestine studies but also the various ways in which Israelis and Palestinians can think together about a past and future of peaceful coexistence.

Professor Bartov's new interest in this field is reflected in two other major preoccupations. First, he has devoted much time to the Providence-Jerusalem Student Exchange Program that will officially launch in the fall 2019 semester at Brown with six students from Hebrew University (four Jewish Israelis and two Palestinians have already been selected) and six students from Brown.

The second is a monograph, provisionally titled "Israel, Palestine: A Personal Political History," which is a hybrid of history, personal reflections by Jewish and Palestinian members of this generation, and autobiography. It is also, in a sense, a biography of the state as told by the generation that normalized it by the very fact that it was born just after independence. In preparation for this project Bartov wrote during the fall of 2018 an extensive, 60-page prospectus of the book. He also gave a number of presentations, and wrote several articles and book chapters on the topic that were recently published or are about to come out this summer or fall, including the chapter "National Narratives of Suffering and Victimhood: Methods and Ethics of Telling the Past" in the volume *The Holocaust and the Nakba*; the essay "From Building a City to Demolishing Homes" in *Tikkun* magazine, and the paper "The Return of the Displaced: Ironies of the Jewish-Palestinian Nexus, 1939-1949," forthcoming in the journal *Jewish Social Studies*.

## Sarah Besky

ANTHROPOLOGY & INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS • FALL 2018

Professor Sarah Besky spent the fall 2018 semester completing the manuscript for her second book, *Tasting Quality: The Past and Future of Tea*, which will be published by the University of California Press in early 2020. The book explores one of the world's most recognized and popular products: mass-market black tea. It traces how contemporary tea industry reformers have mobilized notions of quality in attempts to refit a colonially rooted product and industry for a 21st-century global democracy. Besky's analysis of the effort to make "quality tea" at a time when India is trying to secure a place as a global economic leader shows how, together, the materiality of plants and aesthetic and technoscientific practices mediate—and perhaps impede—economic and political reform. The book examines how quality became a discrete category of knowledge from the final decades of British rule in India to the early years of Indian independence. This historical work is paired with ethnographic research both on plantations and among an array of Indian experts, from soil scientists and chemists to professional tea tasters and traders. She describes how these groups discuss and debate the quality of mass-market tea through an esoteric lexicon of descriptive terms, an ever-changing range of laboratory techniques, and a shifting set of philosophies regarding the regulation of the market.

After finishing the manuscript in November, Besky spent the remaining months of her sabbatical starting research for a new project on the meanings of land in the Himalayan district of Kalimpong, on the India-Bhutan border. Kalimpong is home to a patchwork of small farms operated by Nepali-speaking families. In 1865, the British annexed a large parcel of territory from the Kingdom of Bhutan that included this area. While European companies quickly leased much of the newly acquired land for tea plantations, Kalimpong was reserved as a food-producing "Government Estate." Colonial practices of "survey and settlement" took spaces of forest and *jhum* (swidden) cultivation and divided them up into individual holdings. Nepali land agents (*mandals*) were supported by the Government of Bengal to provide recruitment incentives to peasants (*rai*yats) from low-caste and tribal groups from Nepal, as well as indigenous Lepcha and Bhutia people, to work the estate as rent-paying farmers. The vegetables, fruits, corn, and rice these *rai*yats produced would form a major portion of the food supply both for the growing plantation population and the expanding urban populations of the plains well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In November and December 2018, Besky worked with archival materials in the British Library related to the British annexation of Bhutan in 1865 as well as on the settlement of the Kalimpong Government Estate following annexation. This archival work formed the basis of follow up ethnographic fieldwork during the summer 2019.

## Laurel Bestock

EGYPTOLOGY AND ASSYRIOLOGY, ARCHAEOLOGY, & HISTORY OF ART AND  
ARCHITECTURE • 2018-19

Laurel Bestock spent her sabbatical year 2018-19 working on two projects. First, with the help of a Cogut Fellowship, she embarked on research for a new book examining “invisible” art in ancient Egypt – images that were intended not to be seen for some or all of their lives. Egyptian art, particularly but not only statuary of people and divinities, was expected to have agency in a very literal sense, and limiting who could see such images and under what circumstances was one of the key ways in which their efficacy was enabled. For instance, statues of deceased individuals at their tombs could be walled up inside chambers that allowed the statue to see out but not to be seen by those who brought offerings to the tomb.

Two key elements of this project were articulated during this sabbatical, both focused on the social roles played by Egyptian art. First, a method to map the ancient social relations of the art in question was devised, to visualize who was in contact with the art, or the entity residing in it, at what points and how restrictions on vision structured those relationships. Since many Egyptian objects had very long lives, during which their uses often changed, these social maps necessarily include a chronological element. Second, and related, the social lives of ancient Egyptian art in the present are also addressed. The modern display of Egyptian objects has fundamentally changed which social relations they participate in, but has not changed the fact that controlling who can see what is still related to power and still in flux. We have made much art that was originally intended not to be seen visible, but have done so in contexts that do not simply teach about the past but are socially meaningful in the contemporary world. To begin to address the latter, visits to museums and




*Kite aerial photograph of excavation of a room in Uronarti fortress.*

she co-directs with her colleague Christian Knoblauch at Swansea University ([blogs.brown.edu/archaeology/fieldwork/uronarti/](https://blogs.brown.edu/archaeology/fieldwork/uronarti/)). With a team of graduate students and specialists, a winter season this academic year greatly expanded the scope of the project. Excavation focused on three areas. A building just inside the fort's

discussions with curators and guides in Turin, Berlin, and New York were undertaken. Turin provides a telling case study as a recent complete rethinking and remodeling of the museum has turned it from a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century antiquities museum into an archaeological one, with a deliberate attempt to contextualize objects and to increase not only the numbers but the types of people who see them. In particular, the outreach to Arabic speaking populations marks a deliberate shift in expectation of what role Egyptian art should play in the modern world, and how access to seeing it facilitates that role.

The second project of Professor Bestock's sabbatical focused on the ongoing excavation at the ancient Egyptian fortress at the site of Uronarti, Sudan, that




gate, pictured above, revealed for the first time extensive evidence of the original building history of the monument, including for terracing the rocky outcrop on which the fort is built. Excavation of a domestic structure, a barrack really, though built in the form of a standard Egyptian house, allowed us to sample 150 years' worth of superimposed floors for geological analysis – an unprecedented find from any Egyptian urban settlement. Even the macroscopic examination of these strata gave such results as fish bones embedded in floors and seal impressions discarded in a doorway. The sample preparation for microscopic analysis is nearly complete and should allow the team to illuminate the activities of the garrison in their domestic space and how they changed over the entire lifespan of the fort. Immediately outside the fortress Bestock excavated one of the best preserved pottery kilns ever found in ancient Egypt, adding substantially to our knowledge of how ceramics were fired. This season also saw the addition of regional survey to the project, with the identification of over 100 stone-built features in the western desert within 5km of Uronarti. Many are clearly contemporary with the fortress, and their excavation in the future will allow us to understand the regional picture with much greater nuance. Facilitating the recording and analysis of all these finds was the ongoing development of a tablet-based digital recording system. Thanks to the sabbatical, analysis of this season's finds and preparation for publication are much more advanced than is possible most years, with an initial article joint-authored with several graduate students already accepted for publication.

## Barrymore Bogues

AFRICANA STUDIES & HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE • 2018-19

During his sabbatical year, Professor Tony Bogues was appointed a senior visiting fellow at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam. There he did archival work for six months on slavery and Dutch colonialism, focusing on plantations in Suriname. The Free University of Amsterdam (VU) in part sponsored this fellowship. During the fellowship, Bogues delivered one public lecture on his research work, and conducted two graduate seminars on decolonization in the history department of the VU. The VU appointed a graduate student as a fellow who worked with Bogues in the archives. Part of this fellowship was participation in an expert meeting to determine the impact and weight of slave-based economic activities in the 18<sup>th</sup> century on the Dutch economy. In January 2019, the fellowship at the Institute was supplemented by an arts fellowship at the National Museum for World Cultures in Leiden. Here Bogues's fellowship revolved around two things: Working with various Dutch material objects and art collections in an exercise of new classification and preparing for two major national shows on colonialism and slavery. This aspect of the fellowship entailed working with many Dutch curators. The other aspect of the fellowship was presenting aspects of his work in intellectual history and art to public seminars in the museum. Both these fellowships have allowed Bogues to deepen his current work on the global history of slavery and honed his own curatorial practices as he spent a great deal of time studying collections.



In May, Bogues convened in Johannesburg a historic workshop between African and African diaspora curators. Called the Imagined New, this workshop elaborated a platform for an aesthetic set of art and cultural practices. There will be two more convenings of this workshop; one at Brown and the other in Addis Ababa. The objectives of these workshops are production of volumes on African and African diaspora art as well as to create a major exhibition.

## Caroline Castiglione

ITALIAN STUDIES & HISTORY • FALL 2018

Caroline Castiglione's research focus was her book-length project, *Why Political Theory is Women's Work: Freedom and Justice in Moderata Fonte's The Worth of Women (1600)*. While we have a detailed map of the contested implications of these ideas, it still remains only a partial survey in which men's contributions predominate and women's insights remain less familiar territory. Her project remedies this shortcoming by illuminating the political insights of the writer Moderata Fonte (1555-92) whose posthumously published dialogue *The Worth of Women (1600)* explored justice and freedom in the Venetian republic and its households. Something was amiss, according to Fonte, between political freedom and domestic realities, between republican Venice's notions of justice and the fate of half its subjects. To be a woman and Venetian was all too often an abusive and sometimes prematurely fatal conjuncture. What was to be done about it? And how might a critique of republican justice and Renaissance freedom look from the point of view of a woman who thought the world could be different?

Amidst historically high flood waters that episodically threaten the island of Venice including its rare archives, Professor Castiglione visited its collections in order to trace some of the lesser-known influences upon Fonte, including a circle of women who likely inspired her thinking. Professor Castiglione also delivered an invited lecture on this research at the Attending to Early Modern Women Conference: Action and Agency. She drafted portions of the book manuscript with the goal of presenting Fonte to an audience broader than an academic one. Fonte's insistence upon women's liberty as existing both before and after marriage and her willingness to confront the rage women felt at its violation, remain demanding insights for readers. While Fonte condemned femicide, she also refused to use killing to address it. The dilemmas Fonte identified unfortunately remain unresolved today.



## Melody Chan

MATHEMATICS • 2018-19

Professor Melody Chan was on leave visiting MIT in spring 2018, supported by the Henry Merritt Wriston Fellowship. In Fall 2018, she was on junior sabbatical at the Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics (ICERM) in Providence.

The time off enabled Chan to make progress on a joint research project, spanning three submitted manuscripts. Two are joint with Soren Galatius and Sam Payne, and the third is with Carel Faber, Galatius, and Payne. This project is a modern study of the topology (the “shape”) of some beautiful spaces called the moduli spaces of  $n$ -marked, Riemann surfaces of genus  $g$ , or  $M_{\{g,n\}}$  for short. These spaces are of classical interest, known in some form to Riemann two centuries ago and with connections to many parts of geometry and physics; yet much about them is still mysterious despite much attention being devoted to them. With Faber, Galatius, and Payne, Chan has brought modern combinatorial techniques to study the cohomology of these spaces - roughly, how many “holes” they have and which dimensions these holes occupy. The four made significant progress, including a result that contradicted expectations of the community, refuting an established conjecture of Kontsevich in 1993; and another result that proves a 2008 conjecture of Zagier on which no progress had been made in the intervening period.

Chan also had the opportunity to give invited talks during her sabbatical year at Harvard, Stockholm, MIT, Ohio State, U. Strasbourg, Wesleyan, Oregon, Amherst College, UMass Amherst, Stony Brook, and Michigan. Finally, she continued her involvement with graduate students, supporting women and gender minorities in mathematics, and with conference and workshop organization. Chan organized the 174-person AGNES (Algebraic Geometry NorthEastern Series) conference in September 2018 held at Brown, and a Women@AGNES mini-workshop preceding the conference.

## John Cherry

ARCHAEOLOGY, CLASSICS & ANTHROPOLOGY • SPRING 2019

Professor Cherry spent much of his sabbatical leave finalizing a book, co-authored with Professor Krysta Ryzewski (Anthropology, Wayne State University), entitled *An Archaeological History of Montserrat, West Indies*, now accepted for publication by Oxbow Books (Oxford) in January 2020. He has co-directed multi-period survey and excavation activities on the island (see image) since 2010, the Survey and Landscape Archaeology on Montserrat (SLAM) project, with major funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Geographic Society, and the National Science Foundation. The book is not a final report on the SLAM project and its findings — that will be done in a separate, more technical monograph, on which some initial work was completed during the sabbatical — but rather an attempt to synthesize Montserrat’s entire 5,000-year human past, based on all the available archaeological and historical archival evidence, in a manner that is accessible to non-specialist readers. Final work on the text and the preparation



*The volcanically active island of Montserrat in the Caribbean Lesser Antilles, seen from the northeast (photo: Gregory Scott).*

of illustrations necessitated a visit to Montserrat in February and March. During this time, the SLAM website was also given a major overhaul (blogs. brown.edu/archaeology/fieldwork/montserrat), making many of the project's publications and reports available for download. During spring 2019, Cherry and Ryzewski published "An Archaic site at Upper Blakes on Montserrat: discovery, context, and wider significance," in C.L. Hofman and A.T. Antczak (eds.), *Early Settlers of the Insular Caribbean: Dearchaizing the Archaic*, 231-44 (Leiden: Sidestone Press).

Other activities have included presentations at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (Albuquerque, New Mexico, April) and the conference The Archaeology of Cyprus and the Wider Mediterranean (Nicosia, Cyprus, June). A paper on the first petroglyphs to be discovered on Montserrat was prepared for the International Association of Caribbean Archaeology congress, to be held in Barbados in July. Other writing has included a chapter on the chipped stone from a survey of the Mazi Plain in eastern Attica, Greece, a project co-directed by Cherry's former Joukowski Institute doctoral student Alex Knodell.

Considerable time was expended on editorial activities, for the *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology* and *Monographs in Mediterranean Archaeology*. As general series editor, he helped prepare the latest volume in the Joukowski Institute publication series, *Change and Resilience: The Occupation of Mediterranean Islands in Late Antiquity* (Miguel Ángel Cau Ontiveros and Catalina Mas Florit, eds.), published in June 2019.

## Howard Chudacoff

HISTORY • 2018-19

Howard Chudacoff entered his 2018-19 sabbatical year with two objectives: 1) to undertake research on a new scholarly project tentatively titled "Game Changers: Those Who Cast (and Broke) the Mold in College Sports;" and 2) to read new scholarship in his fields of interest to update his general knowledge, help to revise his courses, and prepare for the revision of his chapters in his longstanding co-authorship (since 1976) of the U.S. history text *A People and a Nation*, which will next enter its 12th edition.

The research project is intended to examine in historical context individuals whose important and sometimes overlooked careers made college sports into what they are today. In the summer and fall, Professor Chudacoff made two trips to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) archives in Indianapolis to continue ongoing research on Walter Byers, who served as executive director of the NCAA between 1952 and 1987 and

who did more than anyone to create the concept of “student athlete” as well as to turn the NCAA into the powerful organization that presently exists. While there, he uncovered a trove of Byers’s overlooked private papers, some 80 boxes of letters and other documents. This collection refocused the immediate research because it revealed considerable information on the long-term feud between the NCAA and the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), the resolution of which in 1978 determined both the ultimate power of the NCAA and the direction of Olympic and amateur sports in the United States. This topic consumed the next six months of Chudacoff’s work, during which he not only explored relevant papers in the Byers collection during another trip to the archive in Indianapolis, but also immersed himself in the several Congressional hearings in both the House and Senate that were held to try to resolve the feud, which during the Cold War threatened the American team’s performance in the Olympics. The AAU-NCAA, especially their hard-headed and powerful leaders, battled over turf with such bitter rhetoric and shrewd manipulation that they frustrated the intervention not only of Congress but of three presidents, an attorney general, a decorated military hero (Douglas MacArthur), and the nation’s most respected labor lawyer for nearly two decades. Extensive research into contemporary newspaper sources supplemented the project. Finally, after further Congressional hearings and disappointing performances relative to the Soviets in the Olympics of 1972 and 1976, Congress passed and President Gerald Ford signed the Amateur Sports Act of 1978 that reconstituted the U.S. Olympic Committee and diminished the power of the AAU with resulting increase in the NCAA’s predominance over American amateur athletics. In March of 2019, Chudacoff completed a draft of an article on the feud and submitted it to the *Journal of Sport History*, the premier refereed journal in the field, where it currently is under review.

Meanwhile, Chudacoff has continued the larger project and begun further work on Byers, chiefly his successes and defeats during his 36-year reign as executive director of the NCAA, as well as on other figures, such as Donna Lopiano, founder of the Women’s Sports Foundation; former U.S. Congressman and basketball star Tom McMillen, who endeavored to reform college sports in the late 1980s and early 1990s; and fictional character Frank Merriwell, the first college sports hero for youth.

## Mark Cladis

RELIGIOUS STUDIES • FALL 2018

Mark Cladis’ research sabbatical in the fall of 2018 was focused on three articles and his book project, *Radical Romanticism, Democracy, and The Environmental Imagination*. The articles are titled: “W.E.B. Dubois: Racial and Environmental Justice in the Wild;” “Wordsworth: Second Nature and Democracy” (which will be published in *Philosophy and Literature*); and “Rousseau’s Ecological Garden as a World in which to Live.” For the book project, Cladis mainly conducted research on chapter five, “Women, Land, and Justice: Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley.” The book brings together Cladis’ areas of general expertise: religious studies, political theory, and environmental studies. The topic—the interrelation of progressive democratic, religious, and environmental traditions—should be of interest to students and scholars of religious studies, political philosophy, environmental studies, and literary criticism. The normative aim of the book is to show how a multifarious Romantic legacy, which has already contributed much to our intellectual and cultural

identity and sensibilities, can both assist and hinder the ongoing project of cultivating democratic and environmental theory and practice. This Romantic legacy is approached as both an ideology to be critiqued and an inheritance to be critically appropriated.

## Colleen Dalton

EARTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND PLANETARY SCIENCE • 2018-19

Colleen Dalton used her sabbatical to advance several ongoing research projects, initiate new research areas, travel to scientific meetings and workshops, and give invited seminars at seven U.S. universities and colleges. Dalton is a geophysicist whose research addresses questions about the Earth's interior. She uses seismic waves generated by earthquakes to image three-dimensional variations in the physical and chemical state of the rocks inside the Earth in order to answer questions such as: What factors govern the creation, growth, and destruction of oceanic lithosphere (and therefore the volume of the ocean basins)? Why have continental cratons remained stable for more than two billion years? Dalton's research combines new approaches for analyzing the propagation of seismic waves with novel interpretations of geophysical observations. Her sabbatical allowed for significant progress on both fronts.

A central research area for Dalton is measuring the attenuation, or energy loss, of seismic waves. During her sabbatical, Dalton and postdoc Zhitu Ma completed a study of seismic attenuation in the mantle underlying the middle of the Pacific Ocean. It is the first measurement of its kind, and Dalton showed that it cannot be reconciled with laboratory experiments of attenuation. This unexpected result challenges either long-held ideas about the physical and chemical state of mantle rocks at this location or the widely accepted notion that the laboratory experiments are relevant to the conditions of the real Earth.

The creation and evolution of continents is another key research area for Dalton, and recent work has focused on North America, where the NSF-funded EarthScope project collected a remarkable seismic data set. Together with Ph.D. student Jordyn Cloud (Babikoff), Dalton completed a study of seismic-wave speed beneath North America, showing for the first time that the distribution of magma beneath the western U.S. differs in the shallow and deeper mantle. They initiated a new study of wave amplification in the U.S. and developed a set of computer programs to relate amplification to seismic-wave speed. They also initiated a new study of seismic anisotropy—the dependence of wave speed on the direction of propagation—across the entire U.S. These two new projects will continue to bear fruit in the coming year.

Some new research directions are by design, whereas others are accidental. An example in the latter category is the recent discovery by Dalton and Ph.D. student Anant Hariharan that seismic Rayleigh waves interfere with other types of seismic waves. Synthetic seismic waves generated by computer simulations exhibited strong oscillations in speed that were unexpected and previously unrecognized. Hariharan and Dalton showed that the oscillations are an artifact of interference with faster-traveling waves and that they are also present in

real seismic data. This finding will require seismologists to make changes to how they measure Rayleigh waves and use them in tomographic inversions.

Her sabbatical also allowed Dalton to invest in an important new research direction: how the Earth's interior influences climate and ice-sheet stability. She used reversals of the Earth's magnetic field to show that the speeds of tectonic plates slowed down over the past 20 million years, a time period during which ocean temperature decreased, suggesting that plate tectonics exerts a strong influence over climate on these timescales. And together with Brown undergrad Julia Krogh '19, Dalton used seismic velocity to estimate the rate of heat flowing out of the crust and into the base of the Greenland ice sheet.

This year Dalton and her research group submitted five articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Conference presentations and invited seminars took Dalton to: Yale University; Columbia University (twice); Boston College; Washington, D.C.; San Diego, CA; South Hadley, MA; Florida State University; the University of Connecticut; the University of Louisiana; and the University of Delaware. The final four destinations were part of the EarthScope Seminar Series, a national speaking tour for which Dalton was selected in 2018.

## Gerald Diebold

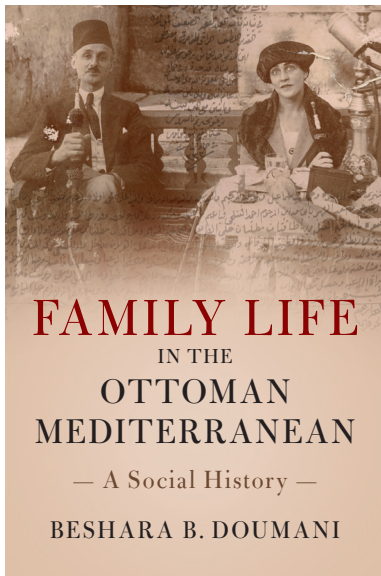
CHEMISTRY • FALL 2018

2018 was one of Professor Gerald Diebold's most productive years in research, at least in regards to the number of papers published. Diebold spent much of the time during the leave working out the mathematics on a paper entitled "Photoacoustic detection of photothermal heterodyning: a method for determination of chromophore distances in aqueous solution", which has just been submitted for publication. This paper represents one of Diebold's most creative ideas: using the heat from amplitude modulated laser irradiation absorbed by one chromophore to diffuse and change the thermal expansion coefficient at the site of a second chromophore, the latter being irradiated by a second laser modulated at a frequency different from the first. Diebold's team showed that resulting heterodyne signal can be used to determine the distance between the two chromophores on a labelled molecule. Such distance measurements are used frequently by biochemists using purely optical means which have a very restricted range of operation. The optical method is known as "FRET." Also during the sabbatical, experiments were initiated to verify the new effect.

Diebold also finished work on a theoretical paper, "Moving photoacoustic sources: acoustic waveforms in one, two, and three dimensions and application to trace gas detection." This paper is an invited review based on the publication of papers on moving optical sources in an absorbing medium giving rise to sound. Diebold and his graduate student found several new facets of the problem of sources moving at the speed of sound which were included in the review paper. The two showed how a moving source could be used to detect trace gases at the parts-per-quadrillion level.

As well, during the sabbatical, Diebold spent time in the laboratory working with students on an optical levitation experiment where a micron sized particle is levitated by an amplitude modulated, focused laser

beam. According to a theory Diebold developed, when the light beam is intensity modulated there should be a “ponderomotive” force on the particle where the moves upwardly in the beam. The effect comes as a result of the nonlinear response of the sphere’s position to changes in light intensity. This has been one of the most difficult experiments Diebold has worked on, as there is a thermal force that causes the particle to drop out of the optical trap, which terminates the experiment. However, all of his effort has resulted in a very good learning experience for his students. He continues to work on this project.



## Beshara Doumani

HISTORY • 2018-19

In residency at the Institute for Advanced Studies (Princeton) as a member of the School of Social Science, Professor Doumani devoted most of his time to conceptualizing a new book project, tentatively titled, “*Look at the Stones!*”: *Modern History of the Palestinians*. Drawing on a wide range of locally generated archival, oral, and literary sources, as well as ethnographic research, the project explores the social and political lives of stone as an organizing device to decolonize and globalize the history of the Palestinians from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present.

Rich in symbolic capital (authenticity and agency), central to material culture (relationship to land and the built environment), and key to political economy (class and capital in the extraction, construction, and export sectors), stone constitutes a connective analytical tissue that inhabits the terrain between the messiness of the quotidian and the awesome homogenizing power of colonial

violence, territorial partition, and forced displacement. Stone testifies to the extraordinary range of social conditions, lived experiences, and worldviews of those who now call themselves Palestinians. As such, it broadens our understanding of what constitutes the political and the social in ways that are not beholden to nationalist constructions of the past, nor fully captured by the structural grip of a settler-colonial paradigm.

Exceeding the colonial frame on our analytical vocabulary — laying bare the rock face of the Palestinian condition, so to speak — raises difficult ethical and moral questions. With agency comes responsibility and with social complexity comes counterintuitive historical ironies such as the pervasive tension between the concepts of Palestine and the Palestinian, as if one could only exist at the expense of the other. How, then, does one narrate the history of a modern native society still actively being colonized during the age of decolonization while, at the same time, critically engaging the notions of indigeneity and self-determination that are central to the political imaginary of that society?



Free from administrative duties as founder and director of the Middle East Studies Initiative (now a center) at Brown, Doumani had time to read what he wanted to read, instead of what he had to read. He also had time during this long-delayed sabbatical, the first in 12 years, to co-edit a special issue of the *Journal of Palestine Studies*, to chair a search committee for a post-doctoral fellow in Palestinian studies, to organize the sixth annual conference of New Directions in Palestinian Studies, and to head the editorial committee for a book series with the University of California Press. In between, Doumani presented talks in Europe and the United States on his recent book, *Family Life in the Ottoman Mediterranean: A Social History*.




## Emily Drumsta

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE • 2018-19

Professor Emily Drumsta devoted her sabbatical leave to finishing the manuscript of her current book project, *Ways of Seeking: The Arabic Novel and the Poetics of Investigation*, which offers a selective history of Arab detective fiction in the 20th century. The book focuses in particular on how the formal features of crime, noir, and detection have consistently enabled Arab authors to explore questions of power, knowledge, and the social in the modern era. The book rejects the conventional Arabic translation of detective fiction—*al-riwaya al-bulisiyya* (literally, “the police novel”)—to focus on a different and more rhetorically flexible Arabic term, *bahth*, which can mean everything from a “criminal investigation” to a scholarly “research project” to a metaphysical or mystical “quest” for divine truth. Its chapters gather a transnational, multilingual corpus of novels by postcolonial Arab authors, all of which center around the investigation of a particular, often criminal, mystery. Far from staging awe-inspiring feats of logical ratiocination or cultivating sympathy for the police, however, these Arab detective novels mock the truth-seeking practices on which modern exercises of colonial and national power tend to be premised, including police surveillance, social science research, psychoanalysis, criminology, and even literary criticism itself. At the same time, they also return to the archives of Arabic folklore, Islamic piety, and mysticism to translate and explore different, less coercive ways of seeing, seeking, and knowing. *Ways of Seeking* tells a different story about the novel’s place in the constellation of Arab modernism, crafting an innovative and hopefully transportable method of open-ended, self-effacing inquiry based on the investigative poetics of the texts themselves.

To pursue the research and writing of this project, Drumsta received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant from the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), where she was a fellow from March to July 2019. She used her time in Egypt to conduct research at the Egyptian National Library, the Library of Alexandria, and in the archives of several literary periodicals. She also spent a good deal of time in Cairo’s less



formal literary “archives”: in the personal libraries of octogenarian authors and collectors, with editors from several publishing houses, and among the used book stalls in the Ezbekiyya Gardens (images 1-2), where she gathered a small corpus of “pocket” detective novels from the 1950s and 1960s, many of them featuring Maurice LeBlanc’s iconic “gentleman thief” Arsène Lupin (image 3). Wiping decades of dust from the covers of these tattered paperbacks and connecting with authors, publishers, and others in the contemporary literary scene proved to be as central to her work abroad as the time she spent in the brutalist halls of Egyptian officialdom.

Before leaving for Egypt, Drumsta also presented portions of this research at the Modern Language Association’s 2019 Annual Meeting in Chicago, where she organized a special session titled “Investigating Middle Eastern Modernisms: Textual Transactions Across Linguistic, Disciplinary, and National Borders.” Her contribution to the session, “This is Not a Story, or Elias Khoury and the Case of the Corpse in the Trash Pile,” presented material from the third chapter of *Ways of Seeking*, on the role of criminal investigation as narrative structure in Lebanese Civil War fiction. She also presented material from the book’s first and second chapters in a paper titled “Dial ‘meem’ for Murder: The Countryside Investigation in Egyptian Fiction from Tawfiq al-Hakim to Sonallah Ibrahim” at the international colloquium “Le Récit Policier Arabe” (The Arab Police Narrative) in Paris, jointly hosted by the Institut du Monde Arabe, PEN Lebanon, the American University in Beirut, and the Université Paris 8.

During her year of leave, Drumsta also completed work on a volume of translations, *Revolt Against the Sun: Selected Poetry of Nazik al-Mala’ika* (Saqi Books, forthcoming 2020). Edited, translated, and featuring an in-depth critical introduction by Drumsta, the book introduces English-language readers to the life and work of Nazik al-Mala’ika, a prolific Iraqi poet and literary critic and one of the pioneering founders the modernist poetry movement in Iraq.

## Jim Egan

ENGLISH • FALL 2018

Professor Jim Egan spent his sabbatical working primarily on a book in progress. *Studying Literature in a Gamified World* examines the implications for literary study of the proliferation of “gamification” techniques in the study, teaching, and production of literature. *Studying Literature* uses the incorporation of learning practices and philosophies adapted from games to the teaching of literature as a way of exploring the economic, pedagogical, and cultural implications of the so-called “gamification” movement in general.

As part of this project, Egan and his collaborator, Naomi Pariseault, an instructional designer in Brown’s School of Professional Studies, presented a paper in Chicago in October at GamiCon 2018, Training Magazine Online Learning Conference. Their presentation, “You Can’t Gamify That: Gamification Where No One Had Gone Before,” won several awards at the conference, including the award for Overall Outstanding Use of Gamification for Learning. Egan is particularly pleased that their presentation, which examined an online-

only course, ENGL0511C, “Fantastic Places, Unhuman Humans,” taught at Brown in Spring 2017, earned top honors given that representatives from, among others, Amazon and the U.S. military, with far greater budgets and much larger groups of employees working on the project, also gave presentations.



## Miled Faiza

LANGUAGE STUDIES • SPRING 2019

During his sabbatical leave, Miled Faiza finished translating into Arabic *Winter*, a novel by Ali Smith that deals with political, social, and artistic themes in modern Britain. This novel is the second book of Smith's seasonal quartet dealing with themes of post-Brexit British society. Miled's Arabic translation of *Autumn*, the first novel in this series, was published in 2018 by Rewayat Publishing House in the United Arab Emirates.

Miled also collaborated with Abdulkareem Said Ramadan of Gettysburg College and Younasse Tarbouni of Washington University in St. Louis on a new Arabic textbook. This textbook uses lessons on culture, folklore, politics, religion, literature, environment, and other topics in a communicative and proficiency-

based approach for intermediate, advanced, and superior, non-native students of Arabic. A proposal as well as several chapters of the book have been completed.

Miled has also been working on a comprehensive anthology of modern Tunisian poetry in Arabic, in collaboration with Karen McNeil. Several translations have been completed and published in *World Literature Today* and *Banipal*. Some texts of this anthology will be used as teaching materials for advanced students of Arabic as a foreign language.

Miled also presented a paper entitled “From Dante to Elena Ferrante: Literary Translation from Italian into Arabic” at the Eighth International Conference on Mediterranean Studies: Encounters and Clashes, in Sicily on May 18, 2019. In this paper, he investigated the reasons behind the surge of translation of Italian literature into Arabic and examined the status of Italian language in the Arab world from 1798—the year Napoleon invaded Egypt, an event that many historians consider the spark that started the Arab *Nahda* (renaissance)—to the present time.

## Alison Field

EPIDEMIOLOGY • FALL 2018

During her fall 2018 sabbatical, Professor Field divided her time between research, mentoring students, and staying actively involved in two committees at Brown. After Maud Mandel left Brown to become the president at Williams, Field was asked to help lead the course feedback form committee until Rashid Zia, the new dean of the College, was able to take it over. Field had been very involved in the process of developing the new course feedback form during spring 2018 and therefore was well-positioned to help with presenting the new form to a variety of audiences. She participated in planning meetings, as well as presentations about the new feedback form at the chairs and center directors meeting, faculty meeting, APC, FEC, CCC, and the Graduate Council. In addition, as chair of Chanelle Howe's promotion committee, Field worked to get letters of support and draft the summary report.

In addition to her service commitments, Professor Field wrote two pilot grants. Both the Dean's SEED grant and Hassenfeld Innovation Awards were funded, so she began work to develop an iPhone app to measure eating behaviors during pregnancy. This included recruiting a Sc.M. student to serve as an RA on the project and starting the planning process with the app developer. This is a new area of research for Field, since her expertise is in older children and adult women and these projects focus on pregnant women and infants.

During her sabbatical Field wrote and submitted an R01 application focused on predictors of developing migraine in a large longitudinal cohort study. Migraine is highly prevalent condition that causes significant impairment and lost productivity, but little is known about modifiable risk factors for becoming a migraineur. The application was not funded, but will be resubmitted. In addition, Field developed a new collaboration with Dr. Olivia Okereke, a psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital, to examine intergenerational effects of mental health using two large cohort studies, the Growing Up Today Study (which Field helped to establish) and the Nurses' Health Study II. After a series of consultations with project officers at NIH, Field and Okereke decided to focus on proposing to examine the mental and physical health consequences to parents on their offspring's substance use and abuse patterns. This R01 was submitted in March 2019.

In addition to writing grant applications, Field forged a new collaboration with researchers at MIT focused on distracted driving. This is a new area of research for Field that fits well with her expertise on adolescent health. The team plans to submit a manuscript later in the spring. Despite being on sabbatical, Field maintained active involvement with her students. She traveled to Australia with one Ph.D. student whose paper was selected as the top student paper at the International Conference on Eating Disorders. She also attended Obesity Week with both of her doctoral students, one of whom received an award for a top poster as voted on by the leadership of the Pediatric Obesity Section.

# Andrea Flores

EDUCATION • 2018-19

Professor Andrea Flores spent her sabbatical year completing her first book manuscript, *Succeeders: Latino Youth Learning to Belong in Nashville, Tennessee*. Educational success has long been imagined by segments of the American public as the key to achieving the American Dream and full membership in the nation for low-income, minority, and immigrant populations—even if in practice it does not. Drawing on long-term fieldwork with Latino immigrant youth participating in a college access program, this book illustrates how educational success continues to be embroiled in the larger ideological struggle over who belongs, who is valuable, and who is an American.

The book argues that the youth featured—the Succeeders—both reproduced national exclusion and resisted it through their academic striving. In contrast to negative controlling images of Latino youth as delinquents and dropouts, the Succeeders sought to distinguish themselves as the “good” kind of Latino through their striving. In that process, they relied on and replicated the very same Latino stereotypes they wished to disprove—demonstrating that structurally-vulnerable youth themselves can be gatekeepers of the dominant terms of inclusion.

However, the Succeeders simultaneously produced new ways of understanding what it means to belong to and be successful in America. Youth positioned their prized academic achievement as dependent on unvalued others, including parents and siblings with stigmatized immigration statuses and friends deemed “at risk.” By claiming that their achievement is only due to the emotional work of unvalued others, youth reclaimed their loved ones’ social value. Moreover, youth defined success not in individual terms, but in terms of how they leveraged their individual academic success toward meeting relational obligations to kith, kin, and community. Ultimately, in conforming to and contesting normative definitions of success, Americanness, and relational obligation youth redrew the bounds of American belonging. This redrawing has consequences for how we all think about what it is to belong in the U.S. today: namely, that meaningful national belonging can be based in caring obligation to others rather than individualistic success. Flores completed the full draft of her manuscript in May 2019 and submitted her book proposal to Duke University Press and the University of California Press in June.

In addition to finishing her manuscript, Flores also co-organized the Migrant Illegality Across Uneven Legal Geographies conference at Brown in October 2018, part of a two-conference series supported by a Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline grant from the American Sociological Association. Stemming from the conferences, Flores and colleagues co-edited a special issue of the journal *Law and Policy* (published January 2019) focused on the role of geography in the production of immigrant illegality. In that issue, Flores and two of her collaborators co-authored the article “Legal-Spatial Consciousness: A Legal Geography Framework for Examining Migrant Illegality,” which develops the concept of legal-spatial consciousness—an individual’s awareness of how law and space are mutually constituted and jointly exert influence over their lives. In June 2019, Flores and her collaborators proposed a second special issue entitled *Migrant Illegality in Shifting Legal Contexts: New Directions in the Study of Immigrant Youth Experiences and Political Activism* to the interdisciplinary journal *Law & Social Inquiry*. For that issue, Flores completed an article entitled “A Secure

Community?: A Case Study of Time, Age, and Legal Geography in Nashville, Tennessee” that argues that time, and the multiple ways it is reckoned, are critical to the production of uneven legal geographies and illegality for undocumented immigrant youth.

## Omar Galárraga

HEALTH SERVICES, POLICY, AND PRACTICE • SPRING 2019

Omar Galárraga spent his post-tenure sabbatical semester investigating sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues in Ecuador, in collaboration with Jeffrey Harris from the Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The research collaboration included conceptualization, data gathering, and econometric analysis of adolescent pregnancy trends by ethnic/racial group in the last decade, and the impact of restrictive SRH policies.

Galárraga had the opportunity to travel to Ecuador and present related sexual and reproductive health research at FLACSO (*Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales*): [flacso.edu.ec/portal/en/contenido/eventos/conferencia-efecto-del-bono-de-desarrollo-humano-en-ecuador-en-la-utilizacion-de-metodos-anticceptivos.2246](http://flacso.edu.ec/portal/en/contenido/eventos/conferencia-efecto-del-bono-de-desarrollo-humano-en-ecuador-en-la-utilizacion-de-metodos-anticceptivos.2246) FLACSO is a university system in Latin America, founded in 1956. Its objective initially was to support Latin American countries’ creation of social science institutions to provide spaces for research and analyses. FLACSO engages in academic activities including teaching, research, dissemination, academic extension and technical cooperation through a system of universities, programs and projects with presence in 17 Latin American countries.

Galárraga also had research meetings and gave a plenary talk at Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ), jointly sponsored by the Department of Economics and the School of Public Health. USFQ is a highly competitive private university in Ecuador with over 40 undergraduate concentrations and over 30 graduate programs. He was invited to speak with other faculty members at the USFQ local radio program called *Economics of Daily Life*.

With colleagues at Brown and at the University of Cape Town, Galárraga participated in a retreat for the South African Social Science & HIV Programme (SASH) meeting with master’s-level and doctoral students from South Africa working on social science and HIV research. He continues to collaborate on various grants exploring the use of behavioral economic innovations to improve HIV prevention and treatment programs in South Africa, the country with the largest HIV epidemic in the world. This work presents an excellent opportunity for interdisciplinary and international collaboration in a setting undergoing unparalleled scale up in terms of HIV programming in sub-Saharan Africa.

Galárraga participated in a workshop, at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/Fogarty International Center (FIC), to present results from a modeling project to develop evidence for implementers and ministries of health in sub-Saharan Africa to make informed decisions about healthcare delivery for persons living with HIV (PLWH) and cardiovascular disease (CVD) and/or diabetes mellitus (DM). Using data from Kenya and



South Africa, Galárraga and his team studied the burden of Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) among people living with HIV, and the effects and cost-effectiveness of integrated care that provides treatment for both HIV and NCDs, modelling the burden of comorbidities, the effects of integrated care, and implementing a budget impact analysis.

Galárraga also presented his ongoing applied health and behavioral economics research as a Behavioral Science Working Group (BSWG) webinar on for the Office of HIV/AIDS Network Coordination (HANC) with the title, “Economic Incentives to Improve HIV Prevention and Treatment.” The webinar can be accessed at: [fredhutch.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=c5ado4eb-6d60-4b0c-a64b-aa1b0152ae03](http://fredhutch.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=c5ado4eb-6d60-4b0c-a64b-aa1b0152ae03)

Additionally, he presented project methodology and preliminary findings from Mexico research as part of a plenary session during the Inter-CFAR Antiretrovirals for Prevention Scientific Working Group at Emory University.

A book chapter entitled, “Economic Incentives, Risk Behaviors, and HIV” was finalized and accepted for publication as part of the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Health Economics* by Oxford University Press with Andrew Jones (University of York) as chief editor. Finally, several peer-reviewed scientific journal articles appeared in print during the sabbatical period, including:

- Microfinance Interventions and HIV Treatment Outcomes: A Synthesizing Conceptual Framework and Systematic Review.
- *AIDS and Behavior*
- In-Clinic Adolescent Peer Group Support for Engagement in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Feasibility and Acceptability Trial.
- *Journal of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care*
- Factors affecting linkage to HIV care and ART initiation following referral for ART by a mobile health clinic in South Africa: evidence from a multimethod study. *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*
- Cost-effectiveness analysis of a cluster-randomized, culturally tailored, community health worker home-visiting diabetes intervention versus standard care in American Samoa. *Human Resources in Health*
- Preventive healthcare-seeking behavior among poor older adults in Mexico: the impact of *Seguro Popular*, 2000-12.
- *Salud Pública de México*
- The role of sexual risk behaviors on PrEP [Pre-exposure prophylaxis] awareness and interest among men who have sex with men in Latin America. *International Journal of STD and AIDS*

- Risk Factors for Early Disenrollment from Colorado's Affordable Care Act Marketplace. *Medical Care*
- Trends in Comorbid Conditions among Medicaid Enrollees with HIV. *Open Forum on Infectious Diseases*

## Mary Gluck

HISTORY & JUDAIC STUDIES • SPRING 2019

Professor Mary Gluck spent her recent sabbatical leave in Budapest, exploring the relationship between humor and right-wing politics in contemporary Hungary. The project builds on her recent book, *The Invisible Jewish Budapest*, which focused on the meaning of Jewish humor in Budapest cabarets, music halls and comic magazines at the *fin de siècle*. The present study, while shifting to the contemporary scene, continues many of the cultural and methodological assumptions of the earlier work. It also asks questions about the function of humor in social life, seeking to understand how jokes influence and reflect collective beliefs and behavior. If the classic Jewish joke created a form of minority discourse that exposed the inner contradictions of European liberalism, what task does contemporary humor accomplish in an age of right-wing populism? In attempting to answer this question, she has focused on one of the most important expressions of political humor in present-day Hungary: the so-called Two-tailed Dog Party, or as it is informally called, the Dog Party.

The Dog Party was founded in 2006 and, despite the objections of the government, it succeeded in attaining the status of an official political party in 2014. Its absurdist perspective finds characteristic expression in street art, graffiti, posters, and public performances and provocations of all kinds. Resembling the Dada manifestations of World War I, the Dog Party uses parody, satire, and mimicry to challenge the ideological clichés and propaganda apparatus of the government. In characteristically tongue-in-cheek mode, its campaign slogan promised “Eternal life, free beer, and tax deductions” for everyone. Orban’s anti-immigration posters, warning migrants not to take jobs from Hungarians, provoked the Dog Party’s own anti-anti-immigration billboards, encouraging migrants to “Feel free to come to Hungary, we already work in England.”

While immersing herself in the symbolic politics of the Dog Party, Gluck also taught a course on Jewish humor at the Central European University. Her teaching was not simply an academic exercise, but also a political gesture, expressing her solidarity with the CEU. As is well known, the Hungarian government, flying in the face of international opinion and the direct censure of the EU and the United States, is planning to close the CEU as an institute of liberal education. The students who enrolled in Gluck’s seminar on Jewish humor were from places as diverse as Bosnia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Hungary, and India and their own experiences of political humor provided an invaluable background to the political crisis that has engulfed the CEU. They helped clarify even more starkly the moral and intellectual stakes involved in the subversive nature of humor.

## Dana Gooley

MUSIC • FALL 2018

Professor Dana Gooley's fall sabbatical was devoted to several research projects. Having recently published a monograph about improvisation in 19th-century "classical" music, he wrote a new paper about the recent revival of classical-style improvisation by artists such as Gabriela Montero and Robert Levin. Gooley critiqued the claims of historical authenticity that have often been made about these improvisations and underlined the ways in which the new trend follows from today's conditions of concert presentation and artist branding, and presented this new work at the University of Louisville. He also finished a paper about two late 18th-century musicians, Andre Grétry and Abbé Vogler, who were among the first to advocate for improvisation as a key aspect of music education, and, who in their democratic ideals, anticipated the recent revival of improvisational pedagogy. Gooley presented this paper as a keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Finnish Musicological Society in Helsinki.

Much of his sabbatical was devoted to research for a new book project on visual conventions and staging strategies in modern musical performance. The ambition of this project is to denaturalize forms of musical presentation or staging by tracking their historical emergence and reification. Gooley is especially interested in how the visual presentation of music channels the attention of spectators toward certain aspects of its productive apparatus while concealing other aspects, and in the capacity of staging to generate individual and collective social identities.

## David Henann

ENGINEERING • SPRING 2019

David Henann spent his junior sabbatical working on four research projects related to theoretical and computational mechanics of soft materials and completing several papers related to these projects.

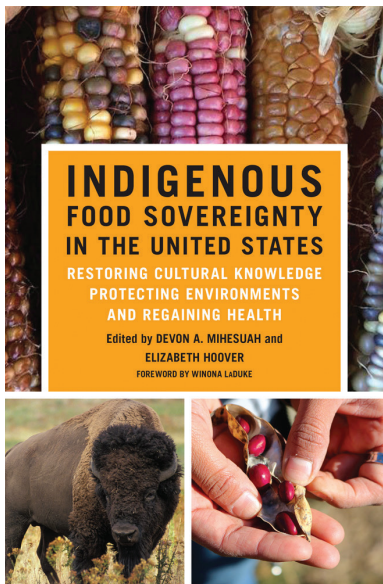
The first project involves developing predictive continuum models for dense granular flow. Granular materials are mixtures of discrete, macroscopic particles and are ubiquitous in nature as well as in everyday life – in forms such as sand, gravel, pharmaceutical pills, food grains, and industrial powders. However, certain mechanical behaviors of these materials remain challenging to predictively model, including flow and size-segregation phenomena. Predictive models are crucial to robust engineering design involving granular media, and the benefits of improved modeling capabilities are numerous. To this end, Henann and his students studied the driving forces of size-segregation using discrete element simulations and proposed a continuum model for coupled size-segregation and flow in dense, bidisperse granular systems.

The focus of the second project was on modeling wave propagation and instabilities in dielectric elastomer composites. One potential application of this work is that of tunable phononic crystals, which are periodic materials that display phononic band gaps – frequency ranges in which elastic waves are prohibited – that may

be tuned through the application of an electric field. The graduate student assigned to this project, Michael Jandron, completed his Ph.D. in April and will be returning to the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport.

The remaining projects involve collaboration with an experimentalist colleague, Prof. Christian Franck, at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Henann spent a portion of his sabbatical in Madison, working on these projects. The first collaborative project focused on large-deformation constitutive modeling of viscoelastic elastomeric foams – which are widely used in equipment for impact protection – over a wide range of strain-rates. The group developed a comprehensive methodology for the experimental characterization and viscoelastic constitutive modeling of elastomeric foams materials, which has been extensively validated and may be utilized to design improved soft, protective equipment.

The second collaborative project relates to inertial microcavitation in soft materials. The motivation for this work is twofold: 1) inertial microcavitation is a novel route for mechanical characterization of soft materials at high strain-rates – a task which is beyond existing experimental techniques – and 2) inertial microcavitation in brain tissue is a potential mechanism of traumatic brain injury. In this work, a numerical modeling capability for inertial microcavitation, incorporating all of the relevant physics, has been developed and in concert with experimental data, used to mechanically characterize several soft gel materials at high strain-rates. This capability promises to provide a simple and robust technique for determining soft matter and tissue properties at high strain-rates as well as a high-fidelity platform for understanding the physics of cavitation in many biological applications.



## Elizabeth Hoover

AMERICAN STUDIES • 2018-19

Professor Hoover spent the 2018-19 academic year as a resident fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center, where she focused on her book manuscript, *From Garden Warriors to Good Seeds: Indigenizing The Local Food Movement*, which is under contract with the University of Minnesota Press. This book explores Native American farming and gardening projects around the country: the successes and challenges faced by these organizations; the ways in which participants define and enact concepts like food sovereignty and seed sovereignty; the role of Native chefs in the food movement; and the fight against the fossil fuel industry to protect heritage foods. In addition to this manuscript-in-process, Hoover also co-edited a volume with Devon Mihesuah titled *Indigenous Food Sovereignty in the United States: Restoring Cultural Knowledge, Protecting Environments, and Regaining Health* (University of Oklahoma Press), featuring an overview of the

Indigenous food sovereignty movement through contributions by Native farmers, chefs, lawyers, policy makers, and food scholars. The book is currently available for pre-order and is going to be featured in the press' fall catalog.

Professor Hoover also wrote an article titled “The Pyropolitics of a Native American Social Movement: The Water Protectors at Standing Rock, from Spark to Smoke,” that will be coming out shortly in *RIAS - Review of International American Studies*, for a special issue entitled “Indigenous social movements in the Americas;” and a chapter, “Whose Citizenship in ‘Citizen Science;’ Tribal Identity, Civic Dislocation, and Environmental Health Research” that will be coming out in the book *Environmental Justice and Citizen Science in a Post Truth Age*, to be published by Manchester University Press this fall. Hoover also has a co-authored paper with Sean Sherman, “‘The answers to our ancestors’ prayers;’ Seeding a movement for health and culture,” which will be published soon in the 2018 conference proceedings for the Oxford Food Symposium. Their paper and presentation won the Oxford Food Symposium Outstanding New Presenter Award at this conference last July. In addition to these imminently published works, Hoover also has two book chapters in progress that have been solicited by editors that she will be completing shortly. “‘She pulls the babies from the earth;’ The life and work of Mohawk Midwife Katsi Cook” will appear in *Junctures in Women’s Leadership: Healthcare and Public Health* with Rutgers University Press, and “Food Justice Requires Environmental Justice” will appear in *Lessons in Environmental Justice* with Sage Press. In addition to working on these publications, Hoover gave 15 invited talks across the country and delivered five conference papers in the U.S., Mexico, and England.

Hoover has also been working with the Native American Advisory Board to redesign the North American Hall at the Field Museum. The new exhibit is expected to open in 2020. As part of this work, Hoover explored the seed collections in the museum and found a substantial collection from the Meskwaki Tribe in Iowa, gathered in 1907. Working with museum curators and research scientists, as well as culture bearers, farmers, and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer from the Meskwaki Tribe, Hoover coordinated a rematriation of some of these seeds back to the community, as part of an effort to regrow some of these lost varieties. This case study will be featured as part of the exhibit redesign, as well as future publications about the seed rematriation movement, and the shifting relationship between museums and Indigenous communities.

Even when Hoover was away from Brown, she continued to serve on the leadership committee to develop Native American and Indigenous Studies at Brown, which was successful in recruiting an associate director, who will begin work this coming fall.

## Stephen Houston

ANTHROPOLOGY • 2018-19

For his leave of absence, Houston held an appointment from the Librarian of Congress as the inaugural holder of the Kislak Chair at the Kluge Center of the Library. He also held a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies.



Maya hieroglyph for war, Tikal, Guatemala.

In the fall Houston prepared *A Maya Universe in Stone*, a book on provincial sculpture as power plays by overlords, just submitted to the Getty Press, and he began another, *Vital Signs: The Visual Culture of Maya Writing*. At the urging of the Kluge Center, he did two blogs, [blogs.loc.gov/kluge/2019/01/the-oldest-idea-in-the-world/](https://blogs.loc.gov/kluge/2019/01/the-oldest-idea-in-the-world/) and [blogs.loc.gov/kluge/2019/04/conflict-fortresses-and-new-threat-environments-in-the-ancient-maya-world/](https://blogs.loc.gov/kluge/2019/04/conflict-fortresses-and-new-threat-environments-in-the-ancient-maya-world/). During his stay at the library, he also submitted five articles. One, “Writing That Isn’t,” for *L’Homme*, explored pseudo-writing in contexts around the world. Other articles were prepared for *L’Homme*, *Antiquity*, *Arqueología Mexicana*, and the *Journal of Field Archaeology*. The first, with Associate Professor Felipe Rojas, dealt with the secondary invention on writing, and

the second reported on the use of lidar technology (a new means of penetrating jungle canopy to see what lies underneath); the third looked at the rediscovery of a “lost” Maya city with colleagues; the fourth at the meaning and use of exotic feathers in ancient Maya society. Along with these articles, a co-authored paper on lidar technology came out in *Science*, garnering international publicity, including a story in the New York Times ([brown.edu/news/2018-09-26/lidar](https://brown.edu/news/2018-09-26/lidar)).

In addition, Houston submitted three edited volumes, one, with Brown Professor John Bodell, for Cambridge University Press on “hidden” writing — scripts made difficult to read by aesthetic embellishments, a kind of “slow writing” that contrasts with cursive, “fast writing” — another on mass production for a special section of the journal *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics*. A third, with colleagues and former graduate students at Brown, was sent to the University of Texas Press on jewelry, ornament, and clothing of the ancient Maya. That volume is now accepted and in press as *The Body Adorned*. The other two have also gone to press and should be out in the coming year. With colleagues, he has also just edited a Spanish-language report on 2018 excavations in the Classic Maya kingdom of El Zotz, Guatemala, to be made available on [mesoweb.com/informes/informes.html](https://mesoweb.com/informes/informes.html).

Houston gave the Distinguished Lecture in Latin American Studies at the University of Kentucky, the Distinguished Lecture in the Art of the Ancient Americas at Johns Hopkins, an invited talk to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and co-organized a three-day seminar at the University of Geneva, in mid-May, that compares Egyptian and Maya hieroglyphs. A formal, public talk for the Kislak Chair reported on how lidar is revolutionizing our views of conflict in the ancient Americas. That research has also just been funded by major grants, to Houston and Professor Thomas Garrison of Ithaca College, from the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. This fieldwork, to be undertaken in the summer of 2019, targets what may be the largest fortifications among the ancient Maya, as features just discovered by lidar technology. These defenses appear to be crucial to understanding imperial intrusions of a Mexican civilization centered at Teotihuacan, Mexico, leading to momentous changes in Maya cities of the time.



Among the most affected was the metropolis of Tikal, perhaps the largest settlement of Classic Maya civilization.


The Kislak Chair requires that the holder give a public lecture. As the inaugural holder, Houston felt more was needed to highlight its rich possibilities. Workshops seemed the best idea: a chance to bring pre-eminent scholars to the Kluge Center for vigorous discussion about topics relevant to the Library of Congress. The first workshop, in January 2019, looked at *things*, in this case a category of special object in the Kislak Collection at the Library. Given the venue, Houston decided to focus on how a “book culture” might involve other kinds of text. The logical targets were the so-called “Codex-style vases” that are among the treasures of the Kislak holdings at the Library: hence “The Cylindrical Codex,” hinting at the paradox of a book that was not, in fact, a book. The second workshop, in February 2019, took an alternative path, examining a *theme* in Pre-Columbian studies. Exhibits on humor at the National Gallery of Art and another on political satire at the Library of Congress inspired Houston to convene a session on similar topics in Pre-Columbian America. The first workshop looked at tangibles; this addressed an expansive topic, in ways not previously studied across the Americas. Accordingly, “Past Laughter” dissected the nature of humor in ancient and modern states, showing that they avoid fun and joking, in what specialists call an “agelastic” (non-laughing) approach to the world. Humor is inherently difficult to control—often, indeed, it is spontaneous and thus unsettling to those who wish to dominate society. Houston’s talks for these workshops will be folded into his volume on the visual culture of Maya writing.

## Margot Jackson

SOCIOLOGY • 2018-19

During her sabbatical Margot Jackson was funded by both Brown and a research grant from the Spencer Foundation. Her primary goal during the sabbatical was to make progress on securing additional funding for a new research project, as well as drafting the first manuscript from the research. She also spent some of her time completing papers in progress and continuing to mentor graduate students.

The new research project examines how public investments in children and families (U.S. state-level funding and investments in major programs serving families) affect class inequality in child investments and academic achievement. The first step of the project involves collecting state-by-state data on local, state and federal spending on major programs affecting children and families. We know little about the context of public goods for children at a more proximate level than the country. Existing databases of state spending on children and families are limited to state and local spending, and do not include states’ spending of federal funds. As a result, it is currently not possible to comprehensively examine the context of public goods available to children over the last several decades. With collaborators at the Urban Institute, Jackson is assembling a state-level database over time, which will then link to household surveys to examine the effects of these investments on inequality in family behavior and child development.




In the fall, Professor Jackson secured additional funding from the Russell Sage Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. These grants, combined with a Salomon grant from Brown, have been instrumental in beginning preliminary research with her collaborators at the Urban Institute and being able to pay for a portion of their time, as the project began last summer. So far, the project has resulted in the construction of a preliminary database (that is being finalized this summer), and a draft manuscript that Jackson recently presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America. She will be presenting the paper at two additional national conferences this August before submitting it to a peer-reviewed journal. Several Brown graduate students in sociology are working with Jackson on various facets of the research, and so she has also devoted a substantial portion of her time this year to training and meeting with Ph.D. students.

## Christopher Kahler

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES • SPRING 2019

During his sabbatical leave in spring 2019, Professor Kahler was able to dedicate additional time to his research projects at Brown. In the area of alcohol and HIV, he completed writing his protocol paper for a clinical trial examining behavioral interventions to reduce drinking in men who have sex with men who are living with HIV. This trial utilizes a Multiphase Optimization Strategy to examine the effects of motivational interviewing compared to brief intervention (both delivered by videoconferencing), extended intervention over nine months compared to more limited intervention duration, and the use of interactive text messaging compared to no text messaging. During his sabbatical, Dr. Kahler was able to analyze the initial results from this trial. Results showed substantial promise for providing motivational interviewing and interactive text messaging over an extended period of time. These results identify an optimized behavioral intervention package to utilize in large-scale effectiveness and implementation studies.

During spring 2019, Kahler led a team of researchers at Brown in submitting the renewal application for the Brown University Alcohol Research Center on HIV (ARCH), a \$7.5 million P01 program project grant funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). A new focus of the ARCH will be on implementation science, given the importance of this topic for impacting public health. The sabbatical afforded Kahler time to become more well-versed in implementation science methods and to develop new collaborations with implementation scientists. In addition, he developed new collaborations with four leading federally qualified health centers that have exceptional experience in delivering HIV care to diverse populations in Washington, D.C., Chicago, Tucson, and Los Angeles. These will serve as sites for a proposed hybrid implementation-effectiveness trial of the behavioral intervention package described above and is the largest project in the ARCH renewal application. The ARCH renewal also contains two other major research projects. One led by Tyler Wray and Peter Monti will extend our work on the role of alcohol use in HIV transmission among men who have sex with men (MSM) by testing the effectiveness of a web-based intervention that addresses both alcohol use and sex risk in MSM completing HIV self-testing. A second led by Sara Becker and Caroline Kuo is an implementation trial that evaluates a cascading training model to promote alcohol screening and brief intervention across HIV care settings in South Africa.



During his sabbatical, Dr. Kahler traveled to Washington, D.C., to discuss the role of alcohol use in HIV transmission with a panel of experts at NIAAA. At NIAAA's invitation, he also will be presenting at the Research Society on Alcoholism's annual meeting in Minneapolis, where he will be outlining the work of the Brown ARCH and the next steps for addressing alcohol use in HIV care. In addition, he presented on the use of technology-enhanced behavioral interventions at Boston University. Finally, he completed work on a paper describing the results of his randomized controlled trial testing a digital smoking cessation intervention for smokers who drink heavily.

## Adrienne Keene

AMERICAN STUDIES • 2018-19

Professor Adrienne Keene spent her sabbatical year as a National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation postdoctoral fellow, working on a new project entitled: *"I just had to be there": Native college student activists and their relationships to the #NoDAPL movement*. The qualitative interview and digital ethnographic project examines the experiences of Indigenous students in the movement against the Dakota Access Pipeline in 2016, looking at the relationships between student activism and their university campuses. She presented the work-in-progress at a poster session at the American Educational Research Association annual meeting and will formally present findings at the Spencer Foundation retreat in early fall.

In addition, Keene worked on the revisions to her first book project, *College Pride, Native Pride: Building Indigenous Futures Through Higher Education*, which is an ethnographic portraiture study of a pre-college access program for Indigenous students, examining the ways Indigenous relationships and Indigenous nation building can create success for Native students in colleges and universities.

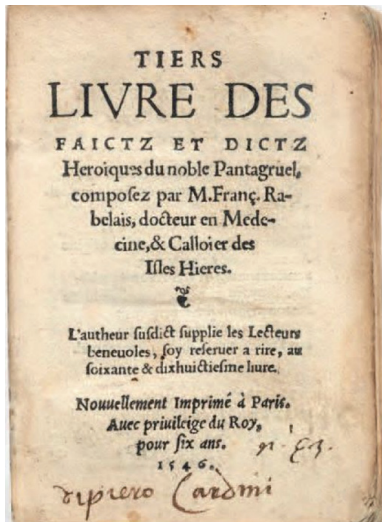
Finally, Keene also launched a podcast, "All My Relations," with her colleague and collaborator Matika Wilbur. The mission of "All My Relations" is two-fold: to create a space in the podcasting arena for Indigenous peoples to hear themselves, as well as the challenges and joys of our communities, reflected; and also to educate the non-Native public on the power of Indigenous knowledges and teachings on relationality, sustainability, education, language, research, gender, feminism, art, and more.

The podcast interviews Indigenous academics, activists, community workers, artists, lawyers, and more, to create an accessible space that is grounded in research and honoring multiple forms of knowledge. In the four months since the debut, the podcast has received nearly 200,000 downloads and climbed to the top 100 of iTunes Society and Culture Podcasts, the first Indigenous podcast in the U.S. to do so.

## Daniel Kim

ENGLISH & AMERICAN STUDIES • FALL 2018

During his sabbatical, Daniel Kim completed his book manuscript, provisionally titled *The Intimacies of Conflict: A Cultural History of the Korean War*, which is now under contract with NYU Press. This book examines cultural representations of the Korean War in an interracial and transnational framework, focusing on depictions of Asians, Asian Americans, Mexican Americans, and African Americans. One of its primary aims is to help remember this forgotten war by returning us to the 1950s, revealing how novels, films, and journalism from the period developed an integrationist narrative of race and empire. A second goal of this book is to evoke a multiracial and transnational archive of cultural memory. It examines recent novels about the war by U.S. authors—Rolando Hinojosa, Chang-rae Lee, Toni Morrison, and Jayne Anne Phillips—as well as the work of the South Korean novelist Hwang Sok-Yong. He also completed an essay that will be a chapter in *The Cambridge History of World Literature* titled “Korean Worlds and Echoes from the Cold War.” This essay explores how novels that center on the Korean War provide a corrective to the Eurocentrism of much of the scholarship on world literature by illuminating the networks of conflict that connect countries in East and Southeast Asia to each other and to the wider world.



Title page from Rabelais' *Tiers Livre*, examined in “Composé par M. François Rabelais: Author, Title, Page”

## Virginia Krause

FRENCH STUDIES • SPRING 2019

Virginia Krause devoted her spring sabbatical to her book project titled *The Rise of the Novel in Renaissance France*, which examines an enigmatic moment in the history of a major genre. In contrast to the ubiquity and seeming self-evidence it currently enjoys, the novel occupied an elusive place in the literary landscape of Renaissance France. There are several reasons for this persistent elusiveness, the first and most obvious being the lack of a single term for what we would term “the novel” in this period. Contemporaries termed the period’s long prose narratives *histoires*, *chroniques*, *narrations*, *livres*, *contes*, and also occasionally *romans*, but with little apparent systematization. The second factor conspiring against what could be termed the rise of the novel was the absence of formal theorization, which would take place primarily in the second half of the 17th century. Before this time, and for all of the 16th century, one can at best identify fleeting moments of self-reflexivity in paratexts or occasional parenthetical observations. *The Rise of the Novel* attends carefully to these moments, examining a corpus of rarely studied works (*Amadis de*

*Gaule*, *Les Angoysses douloureuses qui procedent d'amours*, and others) as well as classics from the period (Rabelais' *Pantagruel* books).

To date, Krause has completed drafts of two chapters. During her sabbatical, she finished partial drafts of two additional chapters. The first returns to Michel Foucault's famous question "What is an author" in the context of Rabelais's works of fiction. "Composé par M. François Rabelais': Author, Title, Page" will be published in a Festschrift for John Lyons edited by Michael Meere and Kelly McConnell (forthcoming). The second, titled "Making them Speak: Characters, Direct Discourse, and *Prosopopoeia* in the Early Novel" is nearly finished and will be submitted to *Renaissance Quarterly* in the fall.

## Sylvia Kuo

ECONOMICS • SPRING 2019

Sylvia Kuo spent her scholarly leave in spring 2019 by thinking more deeply about her own teaching pedagogy while also getting involved in the broader economics teaching community. First, she traveled to other universities and observed some of the most well-known and innovative economics lecturers in the U.S. in the context of their own classrooms to inform her own teaching practice. She visited Cornell University and observed Doug McKee (senior lecturer of economics) teaching large upper-level economics classes using active learning techniques. Then, Kuo went to Penn State and saw Bill Goffe (associate teaching professor of economics), who is a leading scholar in evaluating student learning and retention of economic concepts as well as fielding active learning methods within the classroom, and Jadrian Wooten (associate teaching professor of economics), a popular lecturer who teaches economics topics courses with significant student participation.

Second, Kuo – having taught the introductory economics course (one of the largest courses on campus) – has worried about student engagement within a large auditorium. Thus, she wanted to document the ways in which the faculty at Brown who teach large courses engage students. With guidance from the Sheridan Center, she sat in and observed the courses at Brown offered in spring 2019 with an enrollment of 200 or more students in order to try to develop "best practices" for large courses; she is especially grateful to the instructors who opened up their classes and gave her permission to sit in, and found them inspirational in their own ways even when she didn't quite understand the topic of study. Kuo has concluded from all of these teaching observations that effective teaching involves being true to oneself and using methods that are in line with one's personality, but also continues to reflect on other lessons learned.

Finally, Sylvia Kuo analyzed the data from her classroom intervention of interleaving homework problems from the prior academic year (2017-18), using her course, "Investments I." Interleaved (or spaced) practice is known to improve learning by requiring the brain to retrieve prior learning after a time delay, thus expending extra effort, which strengthens memory. Consequently, the purpose of the study was to evaluate whether the simple practice of repeating prior troublesome homework problems on the following homework assignment

improved student learning and exam performance compared to solely providing individualized student feedback with no other follow-up. Fall 2017 was the baseline while spring 2018 was the intervention period that added the extra interleaved homework questions.

The preliminary results suggest that making this simple small change could improve student exam outcomes and their learnings. Although the magnitude of the estimated effect is small, at a gain of 2 percent on the final exam, translating to 0.6 percent for the final score for the course, it is impressive that anything could be detected for such a small scale intervention, even at the 90 percent level of significance.

This work (“The Impact of Interleaving Homework on Student Outcomes”) was presented at the annual Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education (CTREE), sponsored by the American Economic Association, in St. Louis on May 30, 2019. An abstract has also been submitted to the Allied Social Sciences Association/American Economic Association (ASSA/AEA) Annual meeting for January 2020. Kuo plans to revise the work and submit it for publication by the end of the calendar year.

Kuo is grateful to Brown for the opportunity for this scholarly leave which allowed her to step back and be metacognitive about her own teaching, to be inspired by watching other great teachers teach economics, and to jump start her involvement in the economics education literature.

## David Lindstrom

SOCIOLOGY • FALL 2018

Professor David Lindstrom divided his sabbatical between two lines of research, one focused on migration in Latin America, and a second on adolescent health in Ethiopia. In collaboration with colleagues from El Colegio de Mexico, Princeton University, and the University of Guadalajara, he worked on an edited volume of papers that use survey data from the Mexican Migration Project (MMP) to analyze trends in the determinants, patterns, and consequences of Mexico-U.S. migration. The volume will be published by El Colegio de Mexico Press. Lindstrom completed a paper for this volume, and he has forthcoming in the *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* an article on trends in Mexican migrant integration into the United States. The article provides evidence that over time, Mexican migrant linguistic and social integration has steadily increased, whereas integration in other family and economic domains changed little or not at all. Lindstrom identifies the concentration of Mexican migrants in low-wage jobs as a structural impediment to economic integration. Lindstrom also co-authored an updated and revised book chapter on internal migration for the second edition of the *Handbook of Population*. In addition, Lindstrom worked on organizing with colleagues from El Colegio de Mexico and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) the Advanced Research Institute on International Migration (ARIIM). ARIIM, which was held in Mexico City in May, 2019, brought together 30 young scholars from Central America and southern Mexico for a one-week intensive workshop on south-north migration in Central American and southern

Mexico. The institute was supported by Santander Universities, El Colegio de Mexico, UNAM, Princeton, the PSTC at Brown University, the United Nations, the Ford Foundation, and the Mexican government.

Lindstrom also spent time during his sabbatical on research from the Jimma Longitudinal Family Survey of Youth, which he co-directs in Ethiopia. The study followed a cohort of youth and their families for eight years in southwest Ethiopia through two household survey waves and four adolescent survey waves. In the fall, Lindstrom completed an article, that is forthcoming in the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, on the role of parents and family networks in adolescent health-seeking. The article reveals that fathers, as well as mothers played an important role in all phases of adolescent health-seeking behavior. Fathers' involvement was especially common in rural areas and more so with boys than girls. Extended kin and exchange networks also played a role and were even more important for boys in female-headed households, suggesting they may have substituted for absent fathers. The findings have important implications for efforts to increase youth utilization of health services. Public health campaigns tend to focus on the role of mothers in child health and not fathers. Lindstrom also completed and submitted for review papers on the effectiveness of radio serial dramas in Ethiopia for promoting more egalitarian gender attitudes, and on the effectiveness of school-based clubs for increasing adolescent reproductive and sexual health knowledge.

## John R. Logan

SOCIOLOGY • 2018-19

Professor John Logan's principal activities during his leave year involved two ongoing projects.

The first is a study of urban development in the U.S. in the period 1880-1940. In this project Logan takes advantage of a transcription of census data for all U.S. residents in each decade, including their address. Once he has created historically accurate street maps of cities, Logan will be able (in principle) to geocode all city residents and analyze patterns of residential segregation over time, involving African Americans (the early years of the great Migration), Latinos (mainly Puerto Ricans and Mexicans in different regions of the country), and European immigrants. In the past year his research team made considerable progress in mapping the historical street grids, dealing with considerable difficulty in standardizing street names across sources.

This work resulted in one published article and one conference paper that is now being rewritten for journal submission during the academic year:

- John R. Logan, Chris Graziul, and Nathan Frey. 2018. "Neighborhood Formation in St. Louis, 1930" *Environment and Planning B* 45:1157-1174.
- Trajectories of Segregation in U.S. Cities, 1880-1940 (with Benjamin Bellman and Elisabeta Minca). Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, August 2018. Also Social Science History Association, Phoenix, November 2018.



A second major project involves research in a confidential census Research Data Center (RDC), where Logan's research group has access to the original census data for all Americans for 2000, 2010, and various years of the American Community Survey. The principal goal is to link records for persons over time, creating the possibility to study how the residential mobility of different kinds of people results in overall net changes in the composition of neighborhoods. For example, in a gentrifying neighborhood, did more affluent people enter, were poor people displaced, or was there some other combination of shifts?

Logan successfully revised a grant application to support this work, funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Logan has also used the RDC to make progress on another project related to the measurement of income segregation in metropolitan regions. Last year, with Brown professor Andrew Foster and others, Logan published a study showing that the observed recent increase in income segregation is at least partly due to the greater upward bias in segregation measures in the American Community Survey (post 2000) which replaced the decennial census on which we used to rely for income data. In the past year the two have confirmed, using techniques that require access to the original sample data for each year, that in fact there was no increase in income segregation since 1990. This study is now under journal review. This project has gained the support of NSF.

In addition, Logan has made progress toward another goal relating to the public data infrastructure for census research. Some time ago he developed a database that provides census tract data for 1970-2010 using harmonized 2010 tract boundaries. This overcomes the problems of studying tract change over time caused by frequent boundary changes. The approach is fairly standard in geography, combining areal and population interpolation to create estimates. Logan is now using confidential data to calculate the true characteristics of tracts in constant boundaries for 2000-2010. This work will support an analysis of the degree of error in interpolated estimates, which are often the best available for use. And it will potentially lead to public dissemination of these new, more accurate data.

Finally, Logan maintained his involvement in urban China research, editing a special issue of *Urban Studies*, based on much-revised articles by doctoral students that were originally prepared for a conference at Brown three years ago. Logan wrote an introduction to that special issue, "People and Plans in Urbanising China: Challenging the Top-Down Orthodoxy" *Urban Studies* 55: 1375-1382.

## Laura López-Sanders

SOCIOLOGY • 2018-19

Laura López-Sanders spent her research leave focused on the completion of her book manuscript tentatively titled *Displacement: Racialized Hiring Practices in New Immigrant Destinations*. In this project, López-Sanders examines how employers get away with racial and gendered discriminatory hiring practices in the post-civil rights era. The book asks three main questions: 1) How do employers' hiring practices lead to racial- and

gender-based turnover in organizations; 2) How do workers respond to employers' racialized hiring practices and behaviors; and 3) How does immigration policy pattern the degree and nature of racial displacement in organizations. The book draws from 300 interviews and 15 months of participant observation where López-Sanders worked in low-wage jobs and as a supervisor of a large manufacturing organization in efforts to understand racial turnover in workplaces.

The book tells a story of ethnic succession orchestrated by managers with the assistance of labor market intermediaries. It explains how organizations with a Black and White demographic can quickly transform into workplaces staffed with primarily undocumented immigrants. Additionally, the book shows that ethnic succession results not only from market forces, but also from organizational directives to use protected categories (e.g., race, gender, and nationality) to change the demographic composition of the labor force. In contrast to other studies that have inferred, after the fact, the existence of displacement processes, this book provides a clear view into the inner workings of this process as it was occurring. One of the key unknowns when looking at organizations after they categorically segregate (be it by race, ethnicity, or gender) is whether the redefinition and revaluation of the jobs caused the segregation or was caused by the segregation. In that light, a key contribution of the approach used in this study is that it provides a window through which one can view the actual dynamics of segregation in an organization, a process that is typically unobservable. Furthermore, the book expands conventional theories explaining shifts in the racial composition of workplaces based on employer demand and contributes to the growing body of research on racialized organizations.

The sabbatical leave provided Professor López-Sanders with the opportunity to write and disseminate selected book chapters. She presented her work at Brown University's Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA), where she is also a faculty fellow. The feedback garnered from participants at the seminar helped López-Sanders share her book proposal with three academic presses and she will be submitting the manuscript at the end of this summer.

While on leave, Professor López-Sanders also devoted time to her second research project. She presented her research on health care access and utilization for undocumented immigrant patients at the Population Studies and Training Center (PSTC). Additionally, in collaboration with Professor Ronald E. Aubert, a visiting Professor at CSREA, López-Sanders began working on a paper: "Forced Out? Vulnerable Populations and Healthcare Coverage in the Age of the ACA," which seeks to understand why some eligible populations opt out of health care coverage, and the potential indicators associated with opting out.

## Eric B. Loucks

EPIDEMIOLOGY • SPRING 2019

During his sabbatical, Eric Loucks focused primarily on fostering collaborative relationships with colleagues in the United Kingdom and the Brown Global Mindfulness Collaborative (GMC), along with writing grant applications and manuscripts about impacts of mindfulness on health with a strong mechanistic focus.

Much of the sabbatical was spent at Oxford University's Mindfulness Centre in the United Kingdom, with travel to collaborative sites throughout Europe, including meeting with many members of the GMC. The GMC is a relatively new professional organization, coordinated by the Mindfulness Center at Brown, that is creating the infrastructure for evidence-based, standardized, high quality Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) teacher training worldwide. As governments and health insurers are either now providing reimbursement for MBSR, or considering doing so, it is vital to have a strong, methodologically robust, transparent infrastructure to ensure high quality MBSR teaching globally. Loucks co-led the annual GMC meeting in Padua, Italy, and extended collaborative relationships with GMC members.

There were two primary goals while Loucks was onsite at The University of Oxford. These were firstly, to develop a manuscript with colleagues there that details a framework by which mindfulness-based programs can be skillfully adapted to specific health conditions (such as depression and hypertension) and demographic groups (for example, race, socioeconomic status, and age). Secondly, as the Brown School of Public Health is on track to develop the first master's in public health (MPH) concentration in mindfulness, likely worldwide, Professor Loucks explored best practices for mindfulness masters training programs with two of the United Kingdom universities that have (non-MPH) mindfulness master's programs, specifically the University of Oxford and Bangor University. Faculty at the three universities (Oxford, Bangor, and Brown) are currently exploring more formal collaborative relationships, such as through student placements to attend each other's universities for terms of courses and/or research.

Grant applications included one focused on developing and evaluating high- and low-dose MBSR, evaluated with rigorous scientific methodology. In addition, two initial grant proposals were approved by the National Institute of Health's National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health to move forward to full grant submission.

Professor Loucks completed manuscripts showing the quantitative and qualitative findings of the Mindfulness-Based Blood Pressure Reduction study clinical trial, which demonstrated a 15 mmHg reduction in systolic blood pressure for participants with stage 2 hypertension. These effects held through one-year follow-up. Another manuscript was completed on the primary findings of the Mindfulness-Based College randomized controlled trial, which demonstrated significant protective effects on an emerging adult health score, with particularly strong and significant findings on depressive symptoms, loneliness, sleep quality, and sedentary activity.

Loucks provided public- or university-based talks in Italy, France, England, Wales, and Denmark, including at King's College (U.K.), the University of Oxford (U.K.), Bangor University (Wales), University of Padova (Italy),

University of Strasbourg (France), and Aarhus University (Denmark), along with addressing a British parliamentary hearing on mindfulness and aging.

In summary, new collaborations, grant applications and manuscripts were developed that should serve Loucks' research and teaching agendas, along with serving the Mindfulness Center at Brown, and Brown University, in the coming years.

## Karan Mahajan

LITERARY ARTS • 2018-19

Karan Mahajan spent the academic year as a fellow at the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. While in residence, he wrote and researched a substantial portion of his third novel, *Colony*. *Colony* centers on two journeys that happen within a single Indian family. In 1987, the Kukrejas, professional Indian immigrants who have been living in the U.S. for a decade, decide to return to socialist India, shortly after they have children. The decision is a disaster for various reasons. Then, in the 2000s, their own children make the reverse journey back to the U.S., to their past—a disaster for another set of reasons. The novel dramatizes the way in which immigration and assimilation have changed between these two eras—between the immediate aftermath of the 1965 Immigration Act, a period of relative immigration innocence, and after 9/11, which seeded mistrust and paranoia. The novel is also a meditation on the decline of the Kukreja family and the rise of Hindu nationalism in India.

In August 2018, Mahajan traveled to South Africa and India to write about the takeover of the South African government and President Jacob Zuma by a corrupt Indian family known as the Guptas. His 5,000-word reported feature, “‘State Capture’: How the Gupta Brothers Hijacked South Africa Using Bribes Instead of Bullets” was published in *Vanity Fair* in March 2019: [vanityfair.com/news/2019/03/how-the-gupta-brothers-hijacked-south-africa-corruption-bribes](http://vanityfair.com/news/2019/03/how-the-gupta-brothers-hijacked-south-africa-corruption-bribes). He also published an essay on the films of Ingmar Bergman for the Criterion Collection's Ingmar Bergman Centenary Box Set ([criterion.com/current/posts/6022-the-touch-and-the-serpent-s-egg-foreign-tongues](http://criterion.com/current/posts/6022-the-touch-and-the-serpent-s-egg-foreign-tongues)); an extensive interview with Siddhartha Mukherjee, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Emperor of All Maladies* and *The Gene* in the anthology *Peerless Minds* (excerpted in the *Mumbai Mirror*: [mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/others/sunday-read/my-indian-identity-is-incidental/articleshow/67007878.cms](http://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/others/sunday-read/my-indian-identity-is-incidental/articleshow/67007878.cms)); and reviewed Pakistani author Mohammed Hanif's novel *Red Birds* for the *New York Times Book Review* ([nytimes.com/2019/05/18/books/review/mohammed-hanif-red-birds.html](http://nytimes.com/2019/05/18/books/review/mohammed-hanif-red-birds.html)).

Mahajan gave talks and readings at the MFA programs of the University of Michigan, NYU, Sam Houston State University, and Syracuse University and moderated book events for the authors Aatish Taseer, Jennifer DuBois, and Jamil Jan Kochai. He participated in a special live taping of NPR's “Selected Shorts” (dealing with literature in translation) and in a panel on immigration at the Center for Fiction. In June he interviewed Brian Lehrer at the New York Public Library about his reading life for the National Book Foundation's “Notes from the Reading Life” series.

In March 2019, Mahajan was awarded the 2019 Jeannette Haien Ballard Writer's Prize, given annually to "a young writer of proven excellence in poetry or prose." He will be a writer-in-residence, along with poet Natasha Trethewey, at the Disquiet Residency in the Azores in July 2019 ([disquietinternational.org/disquiet-azores-residency/](http://disquietinternational.org/disquiet-azores-residency/)). In addition, Mahajan traveled extensively for work and pleasure—to India, to Scandinavia, and Vietnam. He also took advantage of his sabbatical to, finally, get married.

## Bertram Malle

COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS & PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES • FALL 2018

Professor Bertram Malle had three goals for his sabbatical: to devote time to research and writing, to cultivate existing and new collaborations, and to represent the Humanity Centered Robotics Initiative at select events.

On the research and writing front, Malle's lab conducted half a dozen new studies (e.g., on the mental and moral capacities people infer in robots; on trust in robots; on the challenges older adults face in everyday life). Malle wrote two new book chapters, revised a previous chapter for a new edition, and completed one journal article and four peer-reviewed conference papers that were accepted. To ensure continued funding for his social robotics work he also submitted two grant pre-proposals and one full proposal to the National Robotics Initiative (NRI).

To further his collaborative goals, Malle visited a former Ph.D. student to work on new projects, including a potential joint grant proposal. He also spent two weeks at Carnegie Mellon University to give three talks in three different departments (Social and Decision Sciences, Philosophy, and Robotics) and to build new collaboration opportunities. Indeed, the NRI grant proposal mentioned above was the product of a new collaboration, with Jean Oh from CMU's Robotics Institute. Malle also visited Japan to continue his collaboration with Takanori Komatsu, Professor at Meiji University, and they co-organized an International Workshop on Morality and Robots. At this workshop Malle met a researcher, Jamie Banks, with whom he now has continued contact about shared research interests, and she is using measurement instruments in her robotics work that Malle's lab has developed. He also visited his collaborator at Tufts University, Matthias Scheutz, and they co-wrote one of the mentioned conference papers together with Paul Bello, Office of Naval Research; subsequently, Paul Bello invited Malle to jointly write a new handbook chapter on "Models of morality, norms, and responsibility."

Representing the HCRI, Malle gave a talk on "Machines as moral agents" at the University of Massachusetts at Boston and participated in an "Ethics and robotics" roundtable with congressional staffers in D.C. and as well as in a dinner meeting with journalists at the National Press Club. Professor Malle also wrote the second annual report on the HCRI's project on "Teaching robots norms," which is competing for the IBM Watson XPRIZE in AI ([ai.xprize.org/prizes/artificial-intelligence](http://ai.xprize.org/prizes/artificial-intelligence/)), for which the Brown HCRI team is now a quarterfinalist. The team also submitted a funding proposal to Google on this project.

## Brandon Marshall

EPIDEMIOLOGY • FALL 2018

Brandon Marshall dedicated his sabbatical leave to his research program at Brown University. During this time, Professor Marshall submitted two R01 grant applications to the National Institutes of Health, both of which are now funded. One application will support a randomized clinical trial to evaluate a fentanyl drug checking program to prevent overdose: the first study of its kind in the nation. Preliminary data for this project was obtained from a \$50,000 seed grant from the Brown University OVPR, which was awarded in 2017.

Marshall also spent sabbatical time working on PreventOverdoseRI ([preventoverdoseri.org](http://preventoverdoseri.org)), a collaborative overdose surveillance dashboard with the Rhode Island Department of Health. The project allows stakeholders and members of the general public to monitor all overdose surveillance activities in the state of Rhode Island, and to track progress addressing this crisis. He serves as scientific director of this overdose surveillance program. In the fall of 2018, he resubmitted an R01 application that would greatly expand this important work. In brief, this project aims to predict overdose outbreaks before they occur by combining the wealth of surveillance data being collected by his research team with sophisticated geospatial machine learning methodology. The predictions would then be tested in a statewide randomized controlled trial, in which interventions are targeted to communities with the highest risk of future overdose outbreaks.

The fall 2018 sabbatical also allowed Professor Marshall to contribute to the national conversation on—and federal strategies focusing towards—addressing the overdose crisis. He was appointed to the FDA Drug Safety and Risk Management Committee, for which he attended two meetings in the fall of 2018. He was also appointed to the Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health Opioid Task Force. Finally, he was appointed as co-chair of the National Quality Forum's Technical Expert Panel on opioids and opioid use disorder.

As part of Prof. Marshall's program of research, a total of 16 articles were published during his sabbatical. Reflecting the public health impact and national importance of this research, work produced during his sabbatical was widely cited, including articles in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal* and *Nature*.

## Felipe Martínez-Pinzón

HISPANIC STUDIES • 2018-19

Felipe Martínez-Pinzón spent his 2018-19 in Bogotá (Colombia) conducting writing and archival research in the Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia, Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango, and Archivo Yerbabuena for his book, *Patricians in Contention: Sketches of Manners and Liberal Reform in 19<sup>th</sup> century Latin American*. As part of his book research, he also made trips to Caracas, Venezuela, and Quito, Ecuador. In the fall 2018, he worked in the Academia Nacional de Historia (ANH) and the Biblioteca Nacional de Venezuela in Caracas to assemble materials on the José Antonio Páez presidency (1830-1835; 1838-1843) and the intellectuals that wrote the first

books about Venezuela as an independent nation (Agustín Codazzi, Rafael María Baralt, and Fermín Toro). During this time he also gave a talk at the Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV) about the representation of General Páez in the memoirs of his son Ramón Páez. During the spring of 2019, Martínez Pinzón visited the Jijón y Caamaño archives at the Archivo histórico de Quito del Museo Nacional del Ecuador and the Aurelio Espinosa Pólit Jesuit Library. From these two archives he recovered mid-19<sup>th</sup> century periodicals dealing with the Liberal Reforms sweeping Ecuador in the 1850s. In particular he focused on two writers central to these reforms: Miguel Riofrío and Dolores Veintimilla. While in Quito he gave a talk at the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar entitled “Pueblos en disputa: álbumes, museos literarios y periódicos ilustrados en la polemica sobre las costumbres” (Disputes About the People: Illustrated Periodicals, Literary Museums and Albums in the Polemics about National Customs in Ecuador, Venezuela, and Colombia). Professor Martínez was also invited to give talks at Stanford University, Universidad Javeriana (Bogotá), and Los Andes University (Bogotá) about his book in progress.



In addition to the above-mentioned book research and attendant public presentations, Martínez-Pinzón finished the re-edition of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Latin American classic, *Museo de cuadros de costumbres y variedades* (1866) [Museum of Sketches of Manners and Varieties] by Colombian José María Vergara and Vergara. Forthcoming in a co-edition between Los Andes University and Rosario University, this re-edition is a two-volume collection of 97 sketches of manners and one novel. It will also contain 32 illustrations, extensive notes, and an introductory study by Martínez-Pinzón. The aim of the re-edition is both to rerelease this vital volume, securing its place in the global genre of the sketch of manners, and also to re-examine the original author's position in relationship to Liberal Reforms in Colombia. *Museo de cuadros de costumbres y variedades* is due to come out in October of 2019.

During fall 2018, Professor Martínez-Pinzón worked on two separate academic articles. For the *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies* (JLACS) he wrote “A People for the Patricians: Cuadros de Costumbres and State-Making on the Frontier in Colombia and Venezuela.” This article was published in May 2019 in a special issue entitled “Social Romanticism in the Americas.” Also, Martínez-Pinzón wrote and revised the article “Jorge Isaac’s Diasporic Novel: *María* between National and World Literatures” for the compilation he was invited to participate in entitled *The Companion to World Literature* (to be published by Wiley-Blackwell in Volume Four [1771-1919] in fall 2019).

Finally, professor Martínez-Pinzón finished the revisions of the co-edited volume he compiled with professor Javier Uriarte (Stony Brook). The book, entitled *Intimate Frontiers: A Literary Geography of the Amazon*, came out with Liverpool University Press’ collection “American Tropics” in May 2019.





## Barbara Meier


COMPUTER SCIENCE • 2018-19

On her first sabbatical after 15 years of teaching computer animation at Brown, Barbara Meier focused on three areas.

When Meier first fell in love with animation as a teenager, she was captivated by loose hand-drawn fine art animation: literally moving sketchy drawings. However when choosing a major in college, a future career in animation was a fantasy that gave way to the order and problem-solving of science, and eventually computer science. But then Meier discovered art and science could happily coexist in the then-nascent field of computer graphics (CG). Meier found her home in creating visual effects for feature films and, eventually, teaching those techniques at Brown. While CG techniques have evolved to allow nearly photographic creation of imagined worlds, Meier has missed the loose and often emotionally raw animated films she first loved. Much of her CG research work has explored techniques for rendering computer graphics images and animation in styles that mimic natural media like oil paint or pastels or “painterly rendering,” but these techniques have not trickled down as production quality tools she could use in her own films. The lack of good CG tools at the present and a desire to get back to looser animation styles prompted her to circle back to her

initial interest in drawing and painting. While Meier has painted in oils for several years, the sabbatical offered the time to experiment broadly and deeply in this medium.

Painting, like learning to master a musical instrument, requires daily practice which was made possible during the sabbatical. One major exploration was finding ways to abstract the natural world into shapes and then transform those shapes into marks with brush or painting knife that could represent a scene accurately and economically. The desired result would be representative, but also painterly—a close up detail might appear nearly abstract. Meier began her experiments with many types of brushes, knives, and painting mediums (mixtures of oil and turpentine) to make deliberate marks that would represent simple objects like fruit. The intense observational painting practice migrated beyond the studio with painting outdoors *en plein air*. Previously Meier worked mostly from photographic reference from travels, but the paintings felt like “copies.”



In contrast, painting outdoors, to places she visited dozens of times, Meier moved away from predictable landscape compositions we might think of as “postcards” to ones that seem ordinary at first, but in which the artist’s interpretation becomes the statement. So again, like music, Meier was able to focus on fundamentals of mark-making, but also artistic expression.

The highlight was attending a painting workshop in Staithes, England, with David Howell, an acclaimed painter and watercolorist. Staithes is a tiny fishing village that has drawn artists for decades to its colorful cottages perched on a cliff overlooking a tidal harbor. Through one-on-one tutoring with a sage guide, Meier finally understands the value of some practices she previously eschewed—a lesson to remember when she returns to the classroom that sometimes the student isn’t ready to absorb the lesson!

In a second area, Meier visited the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems in Tübingen, Germany, the inaugural visit of a recently created Brown-MPI exchange program. She delivered a comprehensive talk to researchers and students that covered highlights of her research and production career and then proposed areas for collaboration. Meier toured the state-of-the-art motion capture facility and learned about specific projects in progress through one-on-one meetings. The preparation for the career-spanning talk gave her an airplane view of her work and research trajectory that rekindled interest and inspired new explorations, particularly in the area of painterly rendering, also newly fueled by the hands-on painting practice.

Finally, Meier attended two animation festivals and FMX, a conference on animation, visual effects, and multimedia. After a two-year absence from the Ottawa International Animation Festival, Meier returned with fresh eyes to this edgy festival. At FMX, Meier met with former colleagues from the film industry and had several deep exchanges of ideas. They introduced her to a young entrepreneur who is in the process of commercializing his own painterly rendering software which looks promising. At the International Trickfilm Festival in Stuttgart, Germany, Meier found films that embodied some of the “loose and raw” animation style that has been a theme throughout her career.

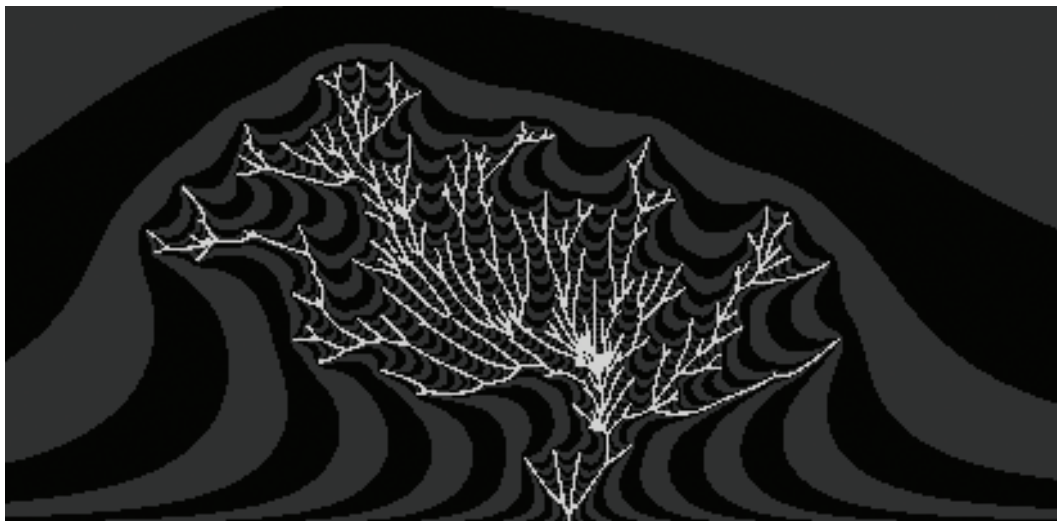
This sabbatical gave Meier the time to freely explore and revive several passions through hands-on painting, an academic visit, digesting hundreds of films at the festivals, and conference networking.

## Govind Menon

APPLIED MATHEMATICS • 2018-19


Professor Govind Menon spent the academic year as a Simons Fellow and member of the School of Mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. This visit was also supported by the Charles Simonyi Foundation at IAS and the National Science Foundation.

Menon’s primary goal during this period was to understand a mathematical anomaly — a strange and unexpected link between the foundations of geometry and the unsolved problem of turbulence in fluids. The geometric context here is the work of John Nash on the embedding problem for Riemannian manifolds. In the



1950s, Nash showed the equivalence between an abstract “intrinsic” definition of space (a Riemannian manifold) and extrinsic measurements by constructing an “isometric embedding” of the manifold into Euclidean space. These results are a watershed in mathematics, yet they remain poorly understood. After some improvements of Nash’s work, the fundamental domain of enquiry was thought to have been settled by the 1970s. All of this changed about ten years ago, when De Lellis and Szekelyhidi used Nash’s techniques to construct counter-intuitive solutions to the equations of fluid mechanics. At first sight, these problems have nothing to do with one another. Thus, this unexpected link points to deeply troubling questions about our understanding of the equations of mathematical physics and the foundations of Riemannian geometry.

Professor Menon has spent the past year developing a new approach to both the embedding problem and turbulence that he hopes will provide a conceptual and technical explanation for these links. The main new idea in his work is to use information theory and statistical physics to reformulate both these problems as a gradient descent of entropy. The devil lies in the details and Menon has spent much of the past year grasping at straws — exploring many different notions of gradient flow and entropy and testing his ideas on simpler model problems. A holistic picture has slowly emerged. Menon’s main discovery has been a new class of stochastic dynamical systems with a gradient structure that builds on developments in the 1990s on the theory of mass transportation. Once the mathematical structure of the dynamical system has been established, several new connections and applications emerge, especially to learning theory, geometry and continuum physics. While he still does not have new proofs of Nash’s theorems or a solution to turbulence, Menon does have a completely new set of insights and models and a clear research agenda for the next decade. The work has now turned to numerical simulations in collaboration with Andy Sageman-Furnas (’11 Sc.B ). The first draft of their work has been shared with several colleagues and students. Menon expects to publish results on the model by the end of the year as the numerical simulations yield more insights on the model.



The sabbatical was also a good opportunity to complete two papers in the pipeline. The first (with Joe Klobusicky '14 Ph.D and Bob Pego) is on kinetic theories for grain boundary growth. This work has been submitted and is under review. A second paper, with former student, Vivian Olsiewski Healey '17 Ph.D., introduces a new model for conformal processes with branching, which we call the Dyson superprocess. This paper is also good for cocktail party conversation, since (amongst other things) it provides a model for the shape of lightning (image attached)!

While he did not travel very much during the year, Menon delivered a few colloquia (Penn State, U. Penn, Delaware) and was a keynote lecturer at Applied Math Days 2019 — a grad-student centered conference at RPI. Menon also served as a member of the review team for the Department of Mathematics at UC, Berkeley in Fall 2018. He found it inspiring to support and recognize the dedication of these colleagues to their educational mission.


The Institute for Advanced Study is a haven for scholars and it brought Professor Menon great joy to be a member for the year. While he dedicated most of the year to a single-minded attack on the embedding problem, he participated regularly in seminars at IAS and gave talks in the analysis seminar and a workshop on turbulence. He attended workshops on Deep Learning and a memorial meeting for Jean Bourgain. Menon took great pleasure in getting to know several colleagues outside his areas of research, including distinguished humanists, physicists, and social scientists. Menon hopes to carry the spirit of inquiry at IAS — the pursuit of truth and beauty — on his return to Brown.

## Vincent Mor

HEALTH SERVICES, POLICY, AND PRACTICE • SPRING 2019

Professor Vincent Mor spent almost two months of his sabbatical away in New Zealand on an Erskine Fellowship at Canterbury University in Christchurch, New Zealand. The rest of the time he was lecturing in Australia as well as throughout the U.S. As importantly, during this sabbatical break Mor spent an inordinate amount of time planning for and beginning the process of implementing a large new grant which he expects to receive focusing on promulgating pragmatic clinical trials of non-pharmaceutical treatments for persons living with dementia that are embedded in functioning health care systems.

Under the Erskine Fellowship at Canterbury University in Christchurch Professor Mor lectured in undergraduate and graduate classes, consulted and advised masters and doctoral students' thesis research and worked closely with research colleagues at Canterbury and with their colleagues at Otago University Medical School at Christchurch. His host, Professor Philip Schluter, is a statistician in the Department of Health Sciences so Mor was working with his students as well as lecturing in classes taught by his departmental colleagues. As part of the Erskine Fellowship program, scholars are to give a major lecture to the university community. Mor's lecture was on the importance of translating the results of Phase III efficacy trials of behavioral and/or cognitive interventions into programs that can be integrated into functioning health care



systems. This talk reflected Mor's thinking on the topic at the time which was relevant to his pending large grant on promulgating non-pharmaceutical interventions attempting to improve the lives of persons living with dementia and their caregivers.

After the time in New Zealand Mor spent a week in Australia where he gave the same lecture he had given for the Erskine seminar, this time in Melbourne and Sydney to regional groups associated with the National Institute for Dementia Research, all working together to address the future needs of the population of persons living with dementia and their caregivers. In addition, while in Sydney, Mor met with and described other cluster randomized trials of influenza vaccines that he had done with faculty and staff at the George Institute, a world-class group of investigators that conduct large-scale international cluster randomized trials of medical treatments and programs.

Upon returning to the U.S., Professor Mor lectured at the University of Florida Public Health Research Day as a plenary speaker, at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health as the inaugural Robert L. Kane memorial lecture, at the Leonard Davis Institute of the University of Pennsylvania, and at grand rounds in the Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at Mt. Sinai Medical Center. In most of these talks he continued to focus on the role of translating findings from efficacy trials into embedded pragmatic trials, a topic which is consistent with the work of his new large grant.

Last summer, with colleagues at Brown and across the country, Mor submitted a large grant proposal to the National Institute on Aging designed to solicit, advise, shape, fund, and then monitor the performance of large-scale pilot project interventions embedded in functioning health care systems designed to improve the quality of care that persons living with dementia and their caregivers experience. The group expects the award notice on this project to be received any day. This work will be the focus of Mor's research and teaching activities for the next five years. Having used the sabbatical period to prepare for and refine his thinking on this topic has been very useful.

## Rolland Murray

ENGLISH • SPRING 2019

With the support of a Cogut Institute Faculty Fellowship and a term of sabbatical leave, Rolland Murray was able to make substantial progress toward completing his second book, *Blackness Incorporated: Market Culture, Institutionalization, and African American Literature*. This work considers an evolving tension between African American literary writing and historical developments that have recently granted this corpus greater visibility and esteem in American culture. Beginning in the 1980s, two distinctive yet interdependent currents powerfully refashioned the style and politics of black literary art: the expansion of a distinctive market for African American literature and the consolidation of African American literary studies as an institutionalized academic field. In ways at once strategic and unconscious, polemical and aesthetic, writers have negotiated these changing material conditions. These authors elaborate robust counters to the protocols that define black

literary texts as legible commodities in the marketplace, while also inventing aesthetic strategies that trade in these same commercial paradigms. No less crucially, they articulate profound challenges to the theoretical models that scholars have employed to legitimate African American literature as a field of study, even as their work is constituted by these same principles. By probing such contradictions, *Blackness Incorporated* advances the first sustained analysis of this cultural history in relation to literary works by Paul Beatty, Suzan-Lori Parks, Colson Whitehead, Claudia Rankine, Percival Everett, Reginald Shepherd, and others. Attending to literature across genres (fiction, poetry, drama, and non-fiction) as well as the institutionalized critical discourses that are coeval with this writing, this book reckons with the social processes that have reconstructed the world of black letters in our time.

While scholars have started to assess the more centralized position of African American cultural expression in the marketplace and mainstream institutions, this research has been less attentive to the interplay between these two spheres. Paul Gilroy and Mark Anthony Neal offer generative accounts of the broad ways that various forms of black culture—rap music, hip-hop fashion, and cinema—have been increasingly privileged on Madison Avenue and other mainstays of the capitalist marketplace. In a related vein Herman S. Gray underscores that black cultural production has enjoyed pride of place in events like the Whitney Museum’s “Black Male” exhibition and such enduring cultural institutions as Jazz at Lincoln Center. Building upon these insights, *Blackness Incorporated* contends that our understanding of this development requires a more sustained analysis of the interdependence between the capitalist marketplace and liberal institutions. This book addresses this lapse by attending more fully to the sway of market values in such matters as the canonization of African American literary criticism, the theorization of black aesthetics, the conception of black personhood, and the politics of racial resistance.

During this leave Professor Murray worked to develop this manuscript’s overarching account of the dynamic interaction among market values, the liberal academy, and literary expression— a cultural process that he terms “incorporation.” As a case in point, in one chapter Murray rethinks the distinctive preoccupation with the blackface minstrel tradition among both the scholars who worked to legitimate an African American critical tradition in the academy and contemporary writers who have placed a premium on revising blackface aesthetics. In establishing these relays he contends that both the institutional legitimacy of black letters and the literary esteem of these literary figures turns on their mutual trade in the commodified racial signifiers of minstrel representation. The primacy of the minstrel sign as a commodity that mediates between the capitalist marketplace, the institution, and the literary work is indicative of the historical process of incorporation that animates this project.



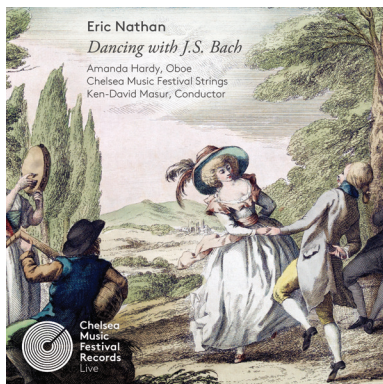
## Eric Nathan

MUSIC • 2018-19

Eric Nathan has been on a full-year sabbatical leave made possible in part by a Henry Merritt Wriston Fellowship.

Professor Nathan composed “*Missing Words IV*” for chamber sextet, commissioned by Boston Musica Viva for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, and “*Missing Words V*” for piano trio, commissioned by Coretet for the Neave Trio. These two works were premiered in Boston by Boston Musica Viva and the Neave Trio, respectively. These works complete Nathan’s hour-long series, “Missing Words.” These compositions are composed in homage to the newly created German words presented in Ben Schott’s book, *Schottenfreude*. These words illuminate everyday experiences for which English has no synonyms. Nathan uses the wit and humor of these words as starting points to create music that is both serious and unusual, and as a whole speaks to the complexity of life and human creativity, and how all the little bits of the everyday “present” can help us find deeper meaning in our own, whether what we find is beautiful, humorous or devastating. The Longy School of Music will present the premiere of the full series in 2020.

Nathan also completed “*Double Concerto*” for solo violin, solo clarinet, and string orchestra, co-commissioned by the New York Classical Players and the New England Philharmonic for violinist Stefan Jackiw and clarinetist Yoonah Kim. The work premiered in New York in May 2019 and the New England Philharmonic will give the Boston premiere in April 2020 as part of Nathan’s inaugural season as the Philharmonic’s newly appointed composer-in-residence.




CD Cover of *Dancing with J.S. Bach* on Chelsea Music Festival Live.

final recording of a full portrait CD of Nathan’s large ensemble music to be released on the BMOP Sound label (likely in early 2020).

In summer 2019, Professor Nathan will be completing the largest project of his sabbatical leave, “Concerto for Orchestra,” commissioned by the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The BSO and Music Director Andris Nelsons will premiere the work on the BSO’s *season-opening concerts* on September 19-21, 2019. Nathan is engaging with the concerto tradition by focusing on the collective individuality of the orchestra. The concerto explores ideas of division and unity, thinking about the role of the orchestra in society today.

This year professor Nathan also worked to advise the recording process for his orchestrations, *Dancing with J.S. Bach I and II*, for oboe and string orchestra with oboist Amanda Hardy, conductor Ken-David Masur, and Chelsea Music Festival musicians. It was commercially released in June 2019. Nathan also worked with conductor the Boston Modern Orchestra Project to complete the





Professor Nathan gave invited talks on his music at Brandeis Department of Music, Boston University School of Music, Longy School of Music, Aspen Music Festival and School, and the Yellow Barn Young Artist Program, where he was also guest composition faculty. In June 2018, Nathan participated in a panel discussion at the Library of Congress preceding a performance of his orchestral composition, “Paestum,” at the library with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project. He also moderated a discussion with Brown professor Theresa Ganz as part of a Gallery Conversation at the RISD Museum.

Nathan attended the premiere of his and librettist Mark Campbell’s song cycle *Some Favored Nook* (composed in 2017) at the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas, performed by pianist Gilbert Kalish, soprano Tony Arnold, and baritone William Sharp. The cycle is based on the correspondence of Emily Dickinson and Thomas Wentworth Higginson, focusing on Dickinson’s struggle as a woman poet in a patriarchal society and Higginson’s struggle for abolition as commanding officer of the first black regiment in the Civil War. With the support of a Marshall Woods Foundation of Fine Arts lectureship grant awarded from the Dean of Faculty’s Office, Professor Nathan organized a residency in collaboration with the Providence-based arts presenter First Works and the Department of Music to curate a concert presenting the New England premiere of *Some Favored Nook*. As part of the residency, the John Hay Library presented a talk Nathan gave about his composition process. Nathan also organized the guest performers to give a vocal master class for Brown students. The premiere and residency were profiled feature articles in the Providence Journal and Brown’s news website.

Nathan additionally traveled to attend performances of his music with the Louisville Orchestra, American Brass Quintet and the Richardson Chamber Players at Princeton University and the premiere of “Missing Words III” at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Music. Nathan’s trip to New Delhi in November yielded field recordings of the beautifully cacophonous traffic sounds of Old Delhi that have inspired music in “Missing Words V” and Concerto for Orchestra, and his trip to Leipzig took him to pay respects to J.S. Bach’s grave at Thomaskirche. Nathan also performed on trumpet at the SEAMUS Conference in Boston with the BEK Trio, formed with Brown professor Butch Rován and pianist Keith Kirchoff, in a performance of a new composition collaboratively composed by the trio.

## Saul Olyan

JUDAIC STUDIES • 2018

Professor Saul Olyan used his sabbatical to complete a new book entitled *Violent Rituals of the Hebrew Bible*. The book, to be published by Oxford University Press in October of this year, is the result of many years of research and reflection on ritual violence, a topic that has been of interest to Olyan since he began to work on honor and shame, disability, and shaving rites in the mid- to late- 1990’s. Although seldom studied by biblical scholars as a discrete phenomenon, ritual violence is mentioned frequently in biblical texts, and includes ritual actions such as disfigurement of corpses, destruction or scattering of bones removed from a tomb, stoning and other forms of public execution, cursing, forced depilation, the legally sanctioned imposition of physical

defects on living persons, coerced potion-drinking, sacrificial burning of animals and humans, forced stripping and exposure of the genitalia, and mass eradication of populations. Olyan's book, the first to focus on ritual violence in the Hebrew Bible, investigates these and other violent rites, the ritual settings in which they occur (e.g., the temple, the royal court, the battlefield), their various literary contexts (e.g., legal texts, narrative, visions, dreams, and oracles), and the identity and aims of their agents in order to speak in an informed way about the contours and social aspects of ritual violence as it is represented in the Hebrew Bible.

Violent rites, like other, non-ritualized forms of violence, are intended by an agent to cause injury to a patient physically and/or psychologically in the socio-cultural setting in which they occur. Not infrequently, ritual violence is represented as motivated by the hostility of agents toward their victims and it often has a punitive aim, although these characteristics are not always evidenced, as the examples of animal and human sacrifice demonstrate. The ritualized nature of many violent acts is brought into relief by an examination of their character: What is routine, whether it be eating norms, the conduct expected of allies, family members, or friends, or aspects of commonplace, beneficial rites such as those of interment or mourning, is often inverted in some manner, creating contrasts that serve to achieve strategic ends such as the painful, physical punishment of a domestic offender, a political rival or a foreign prisoner of war, the intimidation of a dead enemy's surviving relatives and non-familial affiliates, or the enhancement of a hostile agent's honor at the expense of his humiliated or even animalized victims. Rites of burial or ritual acts of creation associated with the making of altars or icons might be undone through their step by step inversion; agents are transformed into victimized patients by means of punitive ritual reversals undertaken by enemies, persons in positions of authority or even coerced family members; commonplace rites might be manipulated by an antagonist in order to intimidate, terrorize, and/or humiliate a victim. What Olyan calls mitigating rites are used by victims and their affiliates to diminish the negative impact of acts of punitive ritual violence: abused, abandoned corpses are protected from predators and buried with honor; the dead are mourned; previously interred remains are moved to improve entombment.

The social dimensions of ritual violence are a central focus of the book. Violent rites are portrayed generating new social relationships, terminating established bonds, and perpetuating other associations, all the while communicating either social change or continuity. Ritual violence plays a not insignificant role in shaping many of the social relationships represented in the biblical text, particularly those with significant public dimensions (e.g., treaty relations).

The study of ritual violence in the Hebrew Bible enhances our understanding of both biblical ritual and biblical manifestations of violence and has implications for the cross-cultural, interdisciplinary study of both ritual and violence. The extent to which violence in the Hebrew Bible is ritualized, the non-punitive dimensions of several types of ritual violence, the role that mitigating rites might play in addressing the damage done by violent rites, are all striking and enrich our understanding of the depiction of violence in the Hebrew Bible. The degree to which biblical representations of ritual action might include violent components and the role of inversion in generating violent rites and the mitigating rites meant to address them, are all quite salient and deepen our comprehension of biblical representations of ritual.

## Benjamin Parker

ENGLISH • 2018-19

Ben Parker spent his sabbatical year in New York City, completing his book *The Awful Victorian Plot: Recognition Scenes and the Narrative Critique of Capital*, to be submitted to presses in summer 2019. The book argues that recognition scenes in Victorian novels—which are usually derided as contrived, implausible, and labyrinthine—make a narrative critique of the misrecognitions at work in 19th-century capitalism. George Orwell famously laments these recognition scenes as a defining feature of “the awful Victorian ‘plot.’” *The Awful Victorian Plot* contends that this salient aesthetic form is not just a black mark on Victorian novels. Rather, recognition scenes plot out the inversions of agency and temporality that take place in, particularly, the mechanisms of commodity fetishism (where economic value is mistakenly taken to originate from things themselves rather than from social production relations) and reification (where the antagonistic social relations between capital and labor in industrial production—namely the expropriation of surplus-value—are concealed by capital’s purchase of labor-power as if it were any other commodity exchange). Victorian recognition scenes illuminate and unveil the mystifications of capitalism because they figure capital as a narrative process: plot. Capital itself thus comprises, in Samuel Johnson’s definition of plot, “an artful involution of affairs, unraveled at last by some unsuspected means.”

Parker also completed and submitted for peer-review an article, “In Search of Reality in *Our Mutual Friend*.” The article considers Charles Dickens as a realist author not by an external rubric, but in light of his own use of “unreal” and “real” as evaluative terms in his novels’ social criticism. Drawing on the psychoanalyst D.W. Winnicott’s conception of “reality” as attained through environmental illusion, Parker argues that Dickens’s realism is a space where reality distinctions can be drawn, rather than a fixed mode of representation. In *Our Mutual Friend*, socioethical responsibility takes on more reality than in unreal projective modes, on the basis of a narrative facilitation of illusion. This research was originally presented at the Modern Language Association in New York, 2018.

Parker continued to present new work at conferences during this time. He delivered a paper on free indirect discourse and character in Jane Austen’s *Mansfield Park* at the North American Society for Studies in Romanticism, which was held at Brown in June 2018. Both this research and the Dickens article belong to Parker’s second book project, *Workshops of Conscience*. The basic idea there is that novels do not step forward as *representations* of the world and society, but that social forms are already structures of representing, determining, valuing, judging. Novels do not just repeat that activity or allow access to it, but they are an ironic distance from those forms. Especially interesting to Parker is the difference that novels define for themselves vis-à-vis commodity fetishism as such an (unconscious) structure of representing.

## Miniature and the English Imagination

Literature, Cognition, and  
Small-Scale Culture 1650–1765

Melinda Alliker Rabb



## Melinda Alliker Rabb

ENGLISH • 2018-19

Melinda Rabb's sabbatical began with completion of the final stages of a new book, *Miniature and the English Imagination: Literature, Cognition and Small-Scale Culture 1650-1765* (Cambridge University Press), which was published in February 2019. The book focuses on the phenomenon of miniaturization and questions of size and scale drawn from three interconnected areas of scholarship: the evidence of a flourishing material culture of small-scale objects produced between approximately 1660 and 1765; the representation of miniaturization in literature of the same period; and theories of cognition and aesthetics that support an analysis of these phenomena in order to understand how we know the world and interact with it. Creating small-scale objects (like a miniature microscope in the eighteenth-century or a smartphone in the twenty-first) and using them as technology for knowing the world has played a significant role in human history, art, and cognition.

The phenomenon of scaling objects down—objects as various as a teapot, a pile driver, a bureau, a spoon, a globe, a bucket, a battlefield, and a diving bell—has a relationship to large-scale events that challenge old modes of representation and demand new ones. Individual chapters take an interdisciplinary and integrative approach to cultural history and textual analysis in order to answer questions about the attraction of little things. Works by Swift, Pope, Gay, Johnson, Sterne, and others inform chapters organized around concepts: symbol-making, globalization, the marketplace, war and dominion, and scientific experimentation.

Next, Professor Rabb completed work on four articles for journals and collections. “No Quarter: Swift, Defoe, and the Meaning of (Bare) Life” was published in the volume *Reading Swift* (Wilhem Fink, 2019). This essay, as part of a general argument about the importance of the English Civil Wars in the works of Jonathan Swift and Daniel Defoe, focuses on the inherited memory of war atrocities, particularly the decision of victors to grant no quarter after a battle or siege. This practice, all too common before the protocols and laws of the Geneva Convention, becomes a burden literature tries to process. Texts are analyzed within a theoretical frame provided by Giorgio Agamben's concept of the *homo sacer* and Michel Foucault's concept of biopolitics.

“Satire and Domesticity” will appear in *The Oxford Handbook of Eighteenth-Century Satire* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2020). The domestic sphere increases as a target for satire in the latter half of the eighteenth century. Literary histories, traditionally emphasizing the rise of Romanticism, have asserted satire's decline after 1750 when creative energy shifts toward home, family, nature, individual subjectivity, and private feelings. But this apparent shift does not simply displace but rather offers new opportunities to satire which insinuates itself into new modes of writing almost as soon as they are formed and changes the shape they ultimately assume. Domestic satire turns to families and households, and to the precarious lives of dependents, servants, spinsters, illegitimate offspring, and other persons of socially ambiguous standing. These figures exert new pressures during an age of colonialism, economic competition, class struggle, and industrialization.

“Swift, Secret History, and War” will appear in the *Eighteenth-Century Life* (Duke University Press, forthcoming 2020). This essay argues that the relationship between Jonathan Swift’s writing, reading, and his abiding interest in the English Civil Wars produced a distinctive contribution to the discourses that arose after the re-establishment of monarchy, called secret histories. These narratives claim to expose clandestine acts, to pull away veils that hide petty motives, and to expose abuses underlying the exercise of power. In Swift’s work, however, the impulse to dig up embarrassing or disillusioning secrets serves yet another purpose; it allows more painful realities to remain buried and thus provides a means of displacing, postponing, and avoiding direct confrontation with the devastation caused by war. Framed by theories of history by Walter Benjamin and Judith Butler, the essay identifies and analyzes some of the ways in which traumatic conflict—especially within a nation in which neighbor has fought neighbor—requires indirection, delayed response, and the transference of the burden of representation onto succeeding generations.

“Samuel Johnson and the Grandfather of All Wars” will appear in *The Oxford Handbook of Samuel Johnson* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2021). This essay investigates the ways in which cultural trauma is inherited and exemplified by Johnson’s works. Although during his lifetime, England was engaged in many conflicts, all were fought on foreign soil. Yet memory of the devastating civil struggle of two generations earlier is the filter through which all war must be comprehended. Johnson’s anti-war and anti-colonial writing ensues from the unfinished business of a prior century. His political writings, moral essays, personal writings, and even the dictionary are rethought in the context of recent trauma theory by Judith Lewis Herman, Jonathan Shay, Elaine Scarry, and Laura Di Prete.

Last, but certainly not least, was research and writing devoted to a new book-project, from which three of the above articles are drawn and of which three chapters are now complete. *Parting Shots: Eighteenth-Century Displacements of the Trauma of War* focuses on questions about language, war, bodily and emotional trauma, generated by the unprecedented disaster of the English Civil Wars. This conflict initiates decades of literary representations that indirectly re-enact an irreversible cultural rupture. Literature participates in a process of displacement, but often through strategies of indirection and transference by which texts negotiate ideas too difficult to confront whole and entire. During sabbatical, extensive research into trauma theory allowed a revision of the introduction and the writing of a chapter Tobias Smollett, Samuel Johnson, and Oliver Goldsmith. New research also laid the groundwork for a chapter-in-progress on women and war.

During this year, Professor Rabb also reviewed a book manuscript for McGill-Queen’s University Press and a book proposal for Cambridge University Press, a professional service not always possible during a teaching semester but gladly done.

## Thangam Ravindranathan

FRENCH STUDIES • SPRING 2019

BEHOLD AN ANIMAL | THANGAM RAVINDRANATHAN

FOUR EXORBITANT READINGS



This spring Thangam Ravindranathan completed work on her book *Behold an Animal: Four Exorbitant Readings* (forthcoming, Northwestern University Press, January 2020). This book is a meditation on the question: As animals vanish from our world, what tale is being told by literature's creatures? The animals appearing in much of today's prose fiction may seem at first glance poignantly "real." Indeed, they are preceded and overlaid by all that we think we know about them, and by the portraits they have left through natural and cultural history. Yet upon closer examination these animals are weird flickering things, seemingly incomplete, narrative and conceptual "knots" demanding patient unraveling. *Behold an Animal* contends that reading itself needs to become more capacious and painstaking, "exorbitant," if it is to process adequately the hidden work of literature's most exquisite, ironic "characters." In these figures, placeholders for bits of thought difficult

to think, we are faced with—and haunted by—our (near unbearable) quandaries and accommodations over allotments of life, mortality, place, predicament, flesh, meaning. Ravindranathan argues that it is in its animals that literature may today be most ruminative, and closest to philosophy. In addition to four major contemporary French novelists—Jean-Philippe Toussaint, Éric Chevillard, Marie NDiaye, and Marie Darrieussecq, she engages the work of Jean de La Fontaine, Eadweard Muybridge, Edgar Allan Poe, Lewis Carroll, Francis Ponge, Samuel Beckett, and Jacques Derrida.

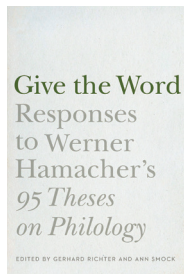
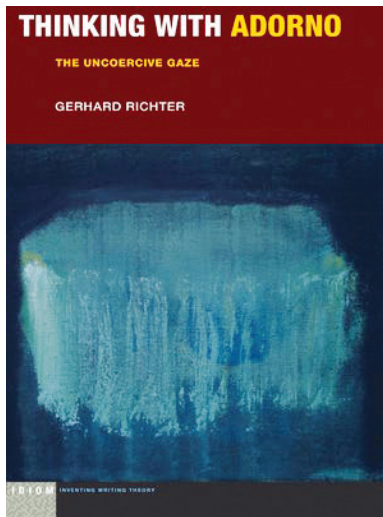
In another project in its early stages, Ravindranathan has been investigating the ways in which modern and contemporary French literature—and, more broadly, the novel as a modern genre—may be registering the impact of anthropogenic climate change and ecological degradation on earthly life and human narrative. She presented some of this work in April in an invited lecture at New York University titled "The Rise of the Sea and the Novel." An extended version of this talk will appear in a special 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* (30.2, September 2019).

## Gerhard Richter

GERMAN STUDIES & COMPARATIVE LITERATURE • FALL 2018

During his sabbatical semester, Professor Gerhard Richter wrote *Ästhetische Eigenzeiten und die Zeit des Bewahrens. Heidegger mit Arendt, Derrida und Kafka* (Hannover: Wehrhahn Verlag, 2019). The book analyzes the problem of aesthetic time—the experience and concept of time proper to a work of art—in relation to



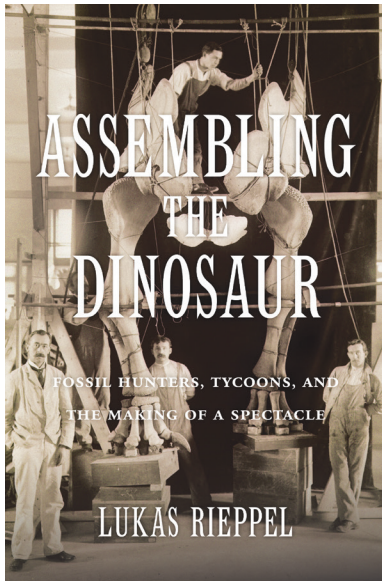


Heidegger's as-yet little understood notion of “preserving” a work. It appeared in a series published under the auspices of the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG), the German Research Society. He also completed *Thinking with Adorno: The Uncoercive Gaze* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2019), which examines the influential critical theorist's highly suggestive—yet often overlooked—concept of a specific kind of comportment toward one's object of critical analysis, whether it be an idea, a thought, a concept, a text, a work of art, an experience, or a problem of political or sociological theory. In this book, Adorno emerges as a thinker in dialogue, whether with long-deceased predecessors in the German tradition such as Kant and Hegel, with writers such as Kafka, with contemporaries such as Arendt and Benjamin, or with philosophical voices that succeeded him, such as those of Derrida and Agamben. Together with his co-editor, Professor Ann Smock of UC Berkeley, Richter put the finishing touches on a collected volume entitled *Give the Word: Responses to Werner Hamacher's 95 Theses on Philology* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2019). He also completed five articles on topics in European aesthetic thought, literary theory, and the problem of intellectual “inheritance.”

Richter served as a visiting professor of German studies for two months at the University of Cologne in Germany and, for one week, as a visiting fellow in comparative literature at the University of Vienna in Austria. He gave invited guest lectures on his research at the University of Leipzig (Germany), the University of Vienna, and

the University of California, Davis, where he also contributed to a seminar for graduate students in the Critical Theory Program by leading a discussion of Derrida's classic essay “Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences.” Richter presented the keynote address at a multi-day interdisciplinary conference on the problem of “tradition” organized by the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany). He also conducted a three-day seminar on Adorno's and Benjamin's theory of literature at the University of Frankfurt's Institute for Social Research (the “Frankfurt School”), at the invitation of a group of students affiliated with the *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*, a national foundation that furthers the academic careers of especially talented German university students and young researchers. The seminar took place in the very room at the Frankfurt School Institute where Adorno himself taught until his death in 1969.





## Lukas Rieppel

HISTORY • SPRING 2019

Lukas Rieppel spent the spring 2019 semester as a visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, Germany, where he completed his first major book project, *Assembling the Dinosaur*. In addition, he began research on a new book, tentatively entitled *The Industrial Organism*.

*Assembling the Dinosaur* provides a lively account of the way fossil dinosaurs were discovered, collected, and put on display during North America's Long Gilded Age, a period that spans from the end of Reconstruction after America's Civil War to the stock market crash that touched off a major depression in 1929. Although dinosaur fossils were first found in England, a series of dramatic discoveries during the late 19th century turned North America into a world center for vertebrate paleontology. At the same time, the United States emerged as the world's largest industrial economy, and creatures like tyrannosaurus, brontosaurus, and triceratops

became emblems of American capitalism. Large, fierce, and spectacular, American dinosaurs soon dominated the popular imagination, making front-page headlines and appearing in feature films. *Assembling the Dinosaur* follows these remarkable creatures from their point of discovery in the American West to large philanthropic museums in urban centers such as New York to explore how the science of vertebrate paleontology was entangled with the culture of North American capitalism during the Long Gilded Age. Business tycoons like Andrew Carnegie and J. P. Morgan made common cause with vertebrate paleontologists to capitalize on the widespread appeal of dinosaurs, founding a new generation of natural history museums to cement their own reputations as generous benefactors of science and demonstrate that modern capitalism could produce public goods in addition to profits. Behind the scenes, these museums adopted bureaucratic management practices to streamline the conversion of economic wealth into cultural capital while mounting spectacular exhibits designed to bring a large and socially diverse audience into their public galleries. In these exhibitions, philanthropic museums inserted dinosaurs into a teleological narrative of evolutionary progress that naturalized the period's controversial transition from a fiercely competitive form of free-market capitalism to a more managed and organized political economy dominated by large corporate firms.

In addition to completing his first book, Rieppel also used the opportunity afforded by his sabbatical stay in Berlin to begin research on a new project about the history of organization. Tentatively entitled *The Industrial Organism*, this book will probe into the historical epistemology of organization during the long nineteenth century. Rieppel hopes to learn what it meant to describe something as organized, and how ideas about organization impacted the way that all manner of social assemblages were understood, managed, and operated. His hypothesis is that a powerful "logic" of organization took shape during this period, one that was predicated upon a distinctly hierarchical vision of progressive development. Moreover, this logic of organization was deeply informed by the life sciences, which elevated questions about the organization of living bodies into a pressing problem of knowledge during the nineteenth century. Rather than writing a

conceptual history, however, Rieppel is interested in the way that ideas about organization were leveraged to intervene in the world, how they were implemented through a range of progressive reform efforts that sought to create a more organized world.

## Ellen Rooney

MODERN CULTURE AND MEDIA • FALL 2018

Professor Ellen Rooney began her 2018 sabbatical with editorial work, editing *Novel 52:1*; this volume was a special issue on “The Victorian Novel Now” and appeared in May 2019. While putting together the issue, she also worked through the late summer and the fall term, with her co-editor Elizabeth Weed at *differences: a journal of feminist cultural studies*, on one special issue (“Black Marriage,” guest edited by Ann du Cille) and one open issue (Volumes 29:2 & 29:3). Rooney also continued with her regular editorial duties for both journals, attending a novel board meeting and symposium at Duke and the Society for Novel Studies conference on “Novel Theory” at Cornell and organizing contributors for the *differences* 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue, due out later this year.

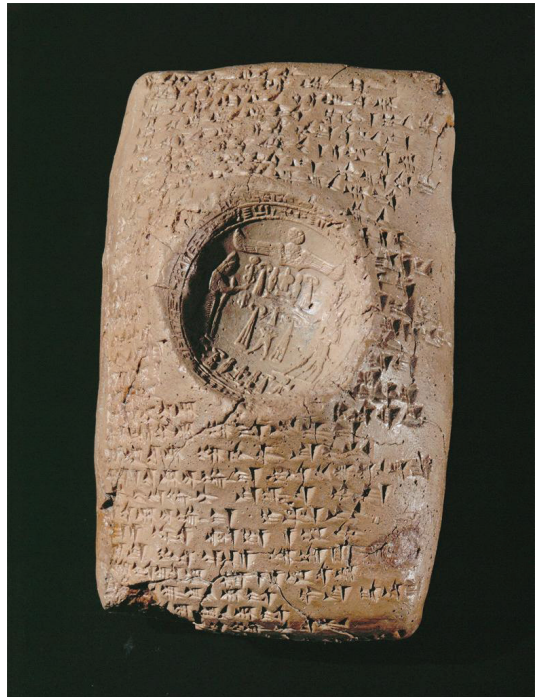
The main scholarly work Rooney undertook during her sabbatical continued to be on the problem of reading and debates about form, which are the focus of her manuscript, *The Reading Effect and the Persistence of Form*. Practically speaking, this meant composing two essays addressing these topics that have been solicited for publication, one on Pierre Macherey, “Spoken and Unspoken,” for inclusion in a collection on Macherey’s *A Theory of Literary Production* edited by Warren Montag and Audrey Wasser for Northwestern University Press, and the other, “Darkness Visible: The Contingency of Critique,” for a collection edited by Anirudh Sridhar and Mir Ali Hosseini on “Returning to the Artwork,” which is under consideration at Fordham University Press. Rooney also wrote lectures to give in the spring term, included a talk on a panel at the American Comparative Literature Association, an invited lecture for the Visual and Media Cultures Colloquium at the University of California at Santa Cruz, and a keynote address at a conference at the Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany, on the topic of “Reading in the Age of Trump: The Politics and Possibility of Literary Studies Now.” She presented versions of these talks in the Cogut Institute Seminar and in the English Department’s faculty colloquium (Current Preoccupations) in the spring. Portions of these pieces form the backbone of the fourth chapter of *The Reading Effect*.

Finally, Rooney worked in the fall (along with Brown Professor Tim Bewes, *Novel*’s editorial assistants, and a small graduate student reading group) to plan another novel symposium, *Novel Life-Forms*, which will take place in November 2019, writing two successful funding applications for the event. She continued meeting with her English and Modern Culture and Media graduate student advisees (dissertators and those preparing for preliminary exams), worked with two senior thesis students in MCM (both received honors and one received the MCM thesis prize), and designed a new humanities course (“Is that a fact? The function of interpretation at the present time”). She taught the course in Spring 2019, as part of her appointment as a faculty fellow at the Cogut Institute.

# Matthew Rutz


EGYPTOLOGY & ASSYRIOLOGY • 2018–19

Supported in part by a multiyear grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Professor Rutz spent his sabbatical working primarily on his project “Digital Preservation of Archival Tablets from the Syrian Kingdom of Ugarit,” which he co-directs with Jacob Lauinger (The Johns Hopkins University). The project’s purpose is to create digitally marked-up editions of the rich corpus of archival cuneiform tablets from the Late Bronze Age Syrian kingdom of Ugarit (c. 1350–1185 BCE) and make the contents of these texts freely accessible as searchable online texts with English translations and extensive glossaries. To date 2,061 archival clay tablets written in the alphabetic and syllabic cuneiform (“wedge-shaped”) scripts have been excavated at the site of Tell Ras Shamra, ancient Ugarit, about 10 km north of the modern Syrian city of Latakia. The texts, which include letters, economic and administrative documents, legal contracts, as well as treaties, edicts, and records of state, provide unparalleled documentation on the political, social, and economic life of a cosmopolitan Syrian city that flourished over three millennia ago. These witnesses to an important era of Syria’s ancient history are under threat by the ongoing conflict that has engulfed that nation: the tablets are divided among three Syrian museums (Aleppo, Damascus, and Latakia) and the tablets’ current state of preservation and whereabouts are uncertain.



<p>0 1 a-na pa-ni <sup>4</sup>UTU<sup>3</sup>          0 2 <sup>m</sup>tu-ud-<sup>ha</sup>-<sup>la</sup>-<sup>ia</sup> LUGAL GAL          0 3 LUGAL KUR <sup>ha</sup>-<sup>at</sup>-<sup>ti</sup> <sup>m</sup>a-mis-tam-ri          0 4 LUGAL KUR <sup>u</sup>-<sup>ga</sup>-<sup>ri</sup>-<sup>it</sup> DUMU.MUNUS <sup>m</sup>ZAG-ŠEŠ          0 5 LUGAL KUR a-mar-ri a-na DAM<sup>4</sup>.<sup>u</sup>-<sup>šu</sup>          0 6 il-te-qe, a-na mu<sup>3</sup>-<sup>hi</sup> <sup>m</sup>a-mis-tam-ri          0 7 ma-ri-us SAG.DU-<sup>šu</sup> ub-ta-i-i          0 8 <sup>m</sup>a-mis-tam-ri LUGAL KUR <sup>u</sup>-<sup>ga</sup>-<sup>ri</sup>-<sup>it</sup> ■</p> <p>object 1 = -Bilingual stamp-seal of Tudhaliya IV-</p> <p>0 9 DUMU.MUNUS <sup>m</sup>ZAG-ŠEŠ          0 10 e-te-zi-ib-ši          0 11 a-di-da-na-a-ti          0 12 <sup>u</sup>3 mi-ni-me-e          0 13 Šu          0 14 Šu          0 15 <sup>u</sup>3          0 16 <sup>u</sup>3          0 17 E          0 18 li-i          0 19 Šu          0 20 DUMU.MUNUS KUPU-<sup>u</sup>-<sup>mu</sup>-<sup>pi</sup> li-<sup>te</sup>-<sup>mu</sup>-<sup>u</sup>-<sup>ma</sup></p>	<p>(6 1) Before the Sun, Tudhaliya (IV), the Great King, king of Hatti: Ammistamru (II), king of Ugarit, took the daughter of Pendi-šena, king of Amurru, as his wife, (but) she sought out trouble for Ammistamru. Ammistamru, king of Ugarit, has divorced the daughter of Pendi-šena, forever.</p> <p>(6 12) Let the daughter of Pendi-šena take (back) whatever possessions she brought into the house of Ammistamru, and let her leave the house of Ammistamru. The citizens of Amurru shall swear an oath concerning whatever Ammistamru contests, and Ammistamru shall pay them off in full.</p>
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After having cataloged the 2,061 published and unpublished archival cuneiform tablets from Ugarit and integrated the data into the Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative (CDLI: [cdli.ucla.edu/](http://cdli.ucla.edu/)), Rutz and the team (which included six Brown Ph.D. students in Egyptology and Assyriology) transliterated the 1,887 published archival texts in Unicode format following well-established scholarly conventions for transcribing the cuneiform script into the Roman alphabet. The catalog provides a complete and easily accessible digital record of the cuneiform archival tablets from Ugarit that will enable investigators to determine as efficiently as possible which tablets remain in their assigned museum, which were distributed elsewhere, and whether any tablets are missing due to destruction or looting. The transliterations preserve the historical data inscribed on



the published tablets in order to mitigate loss from potential destruction and to hedge against future risks. Rutz's project has also begun its next phase: to use standards-based methods to digitally mark up or tag the morphological, syntactic, and semantic data of each word in the corpus of transliterated texts and then translate them into English in order to make the texts freely accessible and widely available on a well-established digital platform, The Open Richly Annotated Cuneiform Corpus (ORACC: [oracc.org/](http://oracc.org/)) workspace. The marked-up text editions and translations (271 completed thus far; see the international divorce document pictured and edited here) allow users to easily navigate a complex text corpus and eventually bring to the texts the tools of digital humanities scholarship (e.g., data mining, visualizations), enabling multi-scalar explorations of ancient Syria and its place in the wider Mediterranean world and Near East during the late second millennium BCE.

While this digital text corpus project occupied most of Rutz's sabbatical, he also co-organized an international conference at Brown, Babylonian Scholarship in Nippur, and he gave lectures at Charles University (Prague) and the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), where he also conducted research on the cuneiform tablets in the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and worked with collaborators.

## Kate Schapira

ENGLISH • SPRING 2019

During her spring 2019 leave, Kate Schapira held extensive conversations (mostly in person, a few by phone) with people whose ideas and experiences about displacement, transformation, grief, and participation in the ecosystem and community will form the core of an as-yet-untitled guidebook for living in climate change. This book will contain stories from people who have survived, and/or are making ways for others to survive, the kind of dislocation that climate change is likely to impose on more people, and sets of questions and practical exercises for readers to practice and share. The stories illustrate what it is possible to do; the question and the exercises allow readers to imagine doing it.

These interviews will augment the conversations and stories gathered through Schapira's Climate Anxiety Counseling project ([climateanxietycounseling.wordpress.com](http://climateanxietycounseling.wordpress.com)), now entering its sixth year: a public conversation project inviting passersby to share their anxieties and concerns about climate change. These conversations have built up a picture of isolation, guilt and feelings of helplessness in anticipation of tremendous change and loss. They have also revealed a great desire to act—to participate in resisting damage to the ecological and ecosocial world—without a sense of what effective action might be.

Throughout the sabbatical, Schapira also learned about the connections that other researchers have made and are making among climate change, grief, and trauma. The work of Renee Lertzman, Ashlee Cunsolo, Kari Norgaard, and Ron Reed, and others suggests that addressing these states of mind and spirit is a necessary component of taking the kinds of action—political and social—that is necessary to live in this time of ongoing and predicted strain and sorrow, with less trauma and more care. Thinkers who range from the Out of the





Woods Collective, who investigate capitalism and climate change, to champion of Indigenous science Kyle Powys Whyte, have written and spoken about the ways that fear and panic about climate change, as well as the displacement and depletion it causes, can be politically manipulated to control and exploit people, and consolidate power. The Center for Transformational Resilience and Joanna Macy's Work that Reconnects, among others, have for many years acknowledged both of these realities and sought to provide tools and methods for countering them with practices of mindfulness, connection; Schapira's work builds on and adds to theirs, particularly through the use of shared stories and lived examples.

During the months of her sabbatical, Schapira visited northern and central California to speak with, among others, a rancher who came through the Camp Fire of 2018; an Indigenous fire scientist in the same region; water policy and water justice workers in the Central Valley. In New York, Schapira spoke with professional composters, members of the Haitian diaspora, and grief workers. In Rhode Island, conversations with farmers, environmental justice activists, and people living on the coast are ongoing.

Part workbook, part reflection and part history, *Unsettling* draws on conversations with activists, lifelong inhabitants, state and local policymakers, workers in imagination, dwellers on the front line, farmers, scientists, and researchers, residents in the aftermath of their apocalypse. Readers will encounter people they may recognize, or who may resemble their future selves; people who have studied large patterns and asked large questions; people who seek to transform a destructive present into a livable future; and people who have already had to learn what all of us are likely to need to know, sooner rather than later.

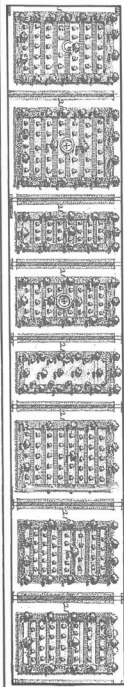
## Cole Swenson

LITERARY ARTS • 2018-19

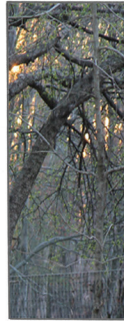
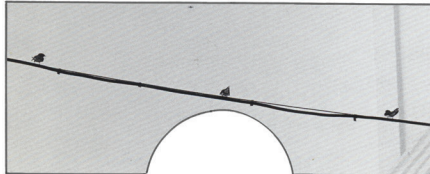
Cole Swenson spent most of her sabbatical year in Paris, working on two creative projects and one administrative one. The first creative project was the completion of a book titled *Art in Time*. Composed of texts that fuse the genres of the essay and the poem, it focuses on works by visual artists who engage in landscape from a phenomenological perspective, with a broad understanding of the term; these are artists whose works, in many different ways, overflow the frame and complicate linear perspective, tending to transform the viewer into a participant. The book includes pieces on Agnes Martin, Tacita Dean, Willem de Kooning, Robert Smithson, Chaïm Soutine, Rosa Bonheur, Joan Jonas, David Hockney, Christo & Jeanne-Claude, Agnes Varda, and ten others. A number of these pieces have been published or are forthcoming in the journals *Berkeley Poetry Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *The Commons*, *Conjunctions*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Free Verse*, *Interim*, *The Literary Imagination*, and *Ploughshares*, and one was featured in the Academy of American Poets Poem-a-Day series. Some of them are also online, though often with incorrect page arrangement (the Internet presents technological constraints). Some can be found on the following websites: [academic.oup.com/litimag/article/20/3/279/5193501?guestAccessKey=170ce56a-36dd-42a7-901c-6adfecf438d5](http://academic.oup.com/litimag/article/20/3/279/5193501?guestAccessKey=170ce56a-36dd-42a7-901c-6adfecf438d5) and [freeversethejournal.org/issue-28-summer-2017-cole-swensen/](http://freeversethejournal.org/issue-28-summer-2017-cole-swensen/). The book is scheduled for publication in the spring of 2021.

The second creative project was facilitated by a grant Professor Swenson received from the École nationale supérieure du paysage de Versailles and Le Potager du Roi (the French national school for landscape studies and the king's kitchen garden) to create a series of 15 works in text and image in collaboration with a French writer and photographer, Suzanne Doppelt. These works take the original late 17th-century map of the Potager du Roi as a template and fill in its spaces with texts and images that try to evoke the contemporary garden as infused by its history. The 15 finished pieces were exhibited at the Potager in conjunction with a multinational and multicultural conference on landscapes issues, the Biennial of Architecture and Landscape, held at the Potager du Roi and other sites in Versailles from early June to late July, 2019. Swenson's texts have appeared or will be appearing in the journals *Big Other*, *Chicago Review*, and *Tupelo*. Two of them can be found at [bigother.com/2019/02/06/two-poems-by-cole-swensen/](http://bigother.com/2019/02/06/two-poems-by-cole-swensen/). And one of the 15 plates can be seen at [coleswensen.com/carr-s-magiques.html](http://coleswensen.com/carr-s-magiques.html).

The third project for her sabbatical was administrative. The French “Center of Excellence,” a program at Brown sponsored by the French government, chose her project “Paysagisme: Art and Eco-Responsibility” as their project to fund for the fall of 2018. The project was co-funded by the BAI and the Université de Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne. The project centered around the three-week residency of Gilles Tiberghien, a prominent theorist of paysagisme, a field that blends a number of disciplines, including landscape studies, landscape architecture, public space use, and sustainable gardening. She organized a series of events that addressed three constituencies—students, faculty, and community. These included lectures, presentations, and workshops, and she and Tiberghien co-taught a half-credit course on the subject.



SEAGULL-FAR-FROM-SEA. LIKE MOST BIRDS, THEY HAVE TWO PHYSICAL FORMS: THE FORM OF THE INDIVIDUAL BODY AND THE FORM OF THE FLOCK. FLUNG UP SHOCKED INTO THE SHAKEN AIR, AN INSTANTANEOUS CHOREOGRAPHY UNCANNILY POISED WITH EACH BIRD OFF-SET FROM THE NEXT BY THE SAME EXACT DECLINATION AT THE EXACT SAME SPEED.



Why will the crow always win? Why is the crow always older than man? Older, in fact, that anything else in sight? What makes a crow always right? One perched on a streetlight just coming on and became the night.



la corneille fait un krack profond et le moineau vocalise en tchip tchip

on juge l'arbre à ses fruits et le potager un peu à ses oiseaux qui pourraient être de l'espèce corneille ou moineau, au dessus c'est une danse aérienne, au sol ils se posent toujours le bec au vent dit Léonard et traent d'autres figures de point en point ils associent un végétal au suivant, une carte aussi variable que le lièvre. Tout bouge, le liseron s'enroule à droite et les feuilles du haricot ont des mouvements journaliers mais rien ne s'élance autant au milieu de ce silence relatif, la corneille fait un krack profond et le moineau vocalise en tchip tchip, on ne peut les compter, ce sont les mêmes ou d'autres

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**l'arbre a pendus, a dit, de transmission ou a palabres, lumiere, d'helice, arbre a s' u - cis s e s, des pilosophes, l'arbre a sa i e t e r, elles ou a l'arbre a boutons, l'arbre a hulle, a beurre ou l'arbre a bougies, a poines, a encens, l'arbre de fer, a rievre, a gr i v s a de ludas, aux i s ou l'arbre a**

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## Hye-Sook Wang

EAST ASIAN STUDIES • 2018-19

Hye-Sook Wang spent her sabbatical in residence at Brown and devoted her leave time to two main scholarly activities; completing unfinished projects that had been on hold and working on a few new research articles. As a result, she published “Gender Bias in KFL (Korean as a Foreign Language) Textbooks” in the journal *Teaching Korean as a Foreign Language* (co-authored with J. Kwa), vol. 52 in March and submitted “Comprehension of Honorifics by Learners of Korean” to the journal *Korean Language in America*, 22 (2), which was accepted and is scheduled to be produced in June 2019. The paper entitled “Genre-based Approach to Korean Language Teaching: A Curriculum Application” is in the professional editing process, to be included in *The Cambridge Handbook of Korean Linguistics* edited by S. Cho and J. Whitman, forthcoming later in 2019 by Cambridge University Press. The final version of Wang’s other co-authored article (with Y. Cho and A. Lee), “KFL Program Building and Professional Development,” was also submitted in May and is expected to be published by Routledge in 2020 as a chapter in the book titled *Teaching Korean as a Foreign Language: Theories and Practices*. Another paper entitled “Classroom-based Assessment Practices of College Korean Language Teachers: A Qualitative Study” was submitted to be published in Jeon et. al. (Eds.) *Globally Informed Design and Praxis in Languages, Literatures and Linguistics Curricula*.

While working on these papers, Professor Wang also made a presentation on the effects of Korean popular culture known as “Hallyu” (translated as “Korean Wave”) on Korean language learning at the World Congress of the World Association for Hallyu Studies held in Japan in November 2018 with her colleague. In February 2019, she delivered an invited talk at the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia seminar on Korean culture. She also attended a textbook workshop in March held at Harvard University where she served as a reviewer/discussant of a chapter of the book *Teaching Korean as a Foreign Language: Theories and Practices*.

This leave provided Wang with much needed time to focus on her research and she is grateful for the time off that was productive and fruitful.

## Lu Wang

MUSIC • 2018-19

During Professor Wang Lu’s sabbatical leave she was a fellow at the American Academy in Berlin, taking full advantage of the diverse intellectual community and embracing Berlin’s vibrant cultural and musical life.

Professor Wang had three portrait concerts featuring her music as well as commissions from major contemporary music ensembles. Her Miller Theatre Composer Portrait Concert in February was previewed by the New Yorker and reviewed by the New York Times and National Sawdust. This concert included her works from 2008 to a world premiere co-commissioned by the Koussevitzky Foundation at the Library of Congress. Titled “A-PPA-Aratus,” it is scored for two pianists and two percussionists using both live and pre-recorded



sounds as a commentary on global capitalism and the mechanization of textile factory and assembly line workers' livelihoods. Her second portrait concert took place at Columbia University's Global Center in Paris, with the world renowned new music group Ensemble Recherche. At this concert, a new work, "Movable Set," was premiered. This event also included a conversation with novelist Xiao Lu on the subject of cross-cultural interpretations and the environment. Wang's last portrait concert was sponsored by the American Academy in Berlin as part of her Berlin Prize residency, and featured Ensemble Mosaik. The concert was the culmination of her work at the Academy and introduced a large-scale multimovement piece titled *Transplant, Transpose*. Imitations of European architectural monuments and towns in China provoked the idea for this piece, which has clashing styles, contrasting movements, and improvised parts for the traditional Chinese sheng as well as the saxophone.

As her sabbatical year drew to an incredibly fruitful conclusion, Wang has been developing a new course on music in China since 1900. She is looking forward to returning to teaching with rejuvenated energy and new perspectives.

## Yang Wang

EAST ASIAN STUDIES • FALL 2018

In the late summer of 2018, Yang Wang wrote an article, "The Battle Between Taobao and eBay over the Chinese Market – A Lesson on Chinese Business Culture from eBay's Failed Localization Strategies (淘宝与eBay中国市争 – 从eBay企'本土化'案例看中国商文化)." This article has been selected to be published in the book *Tradition and Transition: Teaching Chinese Culture Overseas* 《与代：海外中文文化教学》(Beijing University Press) which will come out by the end of 2019.

In November, upon the request of the CLTA newsletter editor Yang Xiao-Desai, Professor Wang also wrote a short article, "Discussing Big Topics with Small Stories – An Example of Using the Documentary *My Fancy High Heels* in a Business Chinese Class on Globalization 用小故事大 – 以片《我高鞋》'全球化'件例." This article was published in the January 2019 issue of the CLTA newsletter (pp. 4-7, newsletter.clta-us.org).

On October 6, she gave a conference presentation entitled "Designing an Effective Writing Curriculum for Upper-Intermediate Chinese Learners 中高 教学提升学生写作 趣的一些" at the New England Chinese Language Teachers Association (NECLTA) Annual Meeting held at Tufts University.

In October, Professor Wang submitted a panel proposal “Establish the Scaffold of Meanings Between Images and Written Language 建立 像与文字的意 框架:以 片 媒介的 外 言和文化教学”with two colleagues, Jing Wang from Princeton University and Man He from Williams College, to the Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA) 2019 Annual Conference in Seattle. This panel was accepted, and she gave a presentation “高 中文 片与文本材料的差 与互” in April 2019. This panel also won the CLTA Cheng & Tsui the Special Interest Group (SIG) Award.

When Professor Wang was on scholarly leave, she also started a research project with Professor Yu Wu from the University of Rhode Island to examine the factors that affect Chinese learners’ listening skills development. Listening comprehension is critical for language learning; however, it is the least understood and least researched skill. The research project aims to seek answers to three questions: 1) What factors contribute to Chinese learners’ varying performance in listening comprehension at different proficiency levels;? 2) What is the correlation between listening and other skills (speaking, reading and writing)? 3) What needs to be done to improve students’ listening comprehension?

The data are being collected from the Chinese Language Flagship Program at the University of Rhode Island. Students enrolled in the Chinese flagship program are required to take a series of proficiency tests including ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interviews, ACTFL Writing Proficiency Test and the Brigham Young University Listening Test and Reading Test. Data collected from these tests will help us discover the correlation between the four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing). In the fall of 2018, Yu Wu and Wang finished the preliminary literature review, and designed their own Vocabulary Size Test, listening strategy questionnaire and post-exam interview questions. Data collected from the Vocabulary Size Test, questionnaire and the interviews will help them find out what factors contribute to Chinese learners’ varying performance in listening comprehension. In May of 2019, they had already finished the data collection from beginning-level students. The two plan to collect more data from intermediate-level students in August. Their goal is to analyze the data in the fall semester of 2019, and publish a journal paper based on this research project.

## Arnold Weinstein

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE • SPRING 2019

Much of Arnold Weinstein’s sabbatical semester was spent working in Scandinavian literature and culture. To that end, he spent two months – January 31 to April 2 – in Stockholm, in order to conduct research and carry out specific projects.

Professor Weinstein earlier published *Northern Arts: The Breakthrough of Scandinavian Literature and Art from Ibsen to Bergman* (Princeton University Press: 2008), as well as a significant number of scholarly articles on Scandinavian culture. In addition, he teaches “Introduction to Scandinavian Literature” to Brown undergraduates every other year, including next spring 2020. Being in Stockholm enabled him to re-immense himself in Swedish literary culture.

One of Professor Weinstein's ongoing research projects entails close investigation involving the painter Eugene Jansson, whose major works are on display at the Thiel Gallery in Stockholm. He is especially interested in the dialectic between Jansson's "nocturne" depictions of fin-de-siècle Stockholm on the one hand, and the fascinating "sunny" celebratory renditions of male bodies performing great athletic feats, on the other. Current interest in Jansson is much drawn to the largely undiscussed homo-erotic features of his art. Jansson figures in Professor Weinstein's ongoing work on 'city culture,' and he has included Jansson's paintings both in his 'Scandinavian Literature' course, as well as in 'The City and the Arts.'

Professor Weinstein's other Swedish projects revolve around translation. He and his Swedish wife co-translated Bodil Malmsten's novel *Nästa som rör mig* (*The Next One Who Touches Me*), originally published in 1996, but uncannily prescient for the "MeToo" issues so much in today's cultural conversation. Malmsten is a major Swedish novelist, but only one of her books is available in English (*The Price of Water in Finistère*). *Nästa* is a radically different text from the more anecdotal work she is known for, and the Weinsteins feel that its concern with gender comeuppance and rage makes it a book for our moment. They are currently in communication with a number of American publishing houses – New Directions, Archipelago, Other Press – who have expressed interest in the translation of *Nästa*. In addition, while exploring publishing options, Professor Weinstein plans to assign this text to his students spring semester 2019-20, in his "Introduction to Scandinavian Literature" course.

The second translation project, also done jointly with Ann Weinstein, is of Carl-Magnus Stolt's *Svåva mellan Liv och Död* (*Hovering Between Life and Death*), a series of some 365 short pithy poems relating a doctor's daily account of patients, illness, hospital care, and the like for one entire year. Dr. Stolt is a highly esteemed expert in the field of humanistic medicine in Sweden – he has authored some four books on the subject – as well as being a prolific poet, essayist, and documentary novelist. In addition, he is a close friend of Professor Weinstein, who intends to assign this translated text to his students this fall in his "Literature and Medicine" course.

In addition to this Scandinavian fare, Professor Weinstein has also a completed book-length study, on the order of a plenary account of his career as a scholar/teacher, tentatively entitled *The Art of Life: Teaching, Literature, and the Cost of Knowing*, currently under contract at Princeton University Press.

## Terrie (Fox) Wetle

HEALTH SERVICES, POLICY, AND PRACTICE • 2018

Professor Fox Wetle spent her sabbatical leave primarily developing and working on research in four areas.

### **Tunable LED lighting in nursing homes: impact on sleep and disruptive behaviors**

This project is a collaboration among the Pacific Northwest National Laboratories, the Center of Design for an Aging Society, and Brown's Center for Long Term Care and Innovation. The project builds upon anecdotal evidence that exposure of nursing home residents to lighting that approximates natural daylight improves

sleep and reduces disruptive behaviors. Working with a nursing home in Sacramento, California that had recently installed tunable LED lights Wetle's team developed a proposal to test the feasibility of conducting an evaluation of the impact of these lights on resident health. Funding to support the project was provided by the Jim H. McClung Foundation.

Working with the project team, a protocol for a double cross-over design was implemented with the control condition being static lights and the treatment group lighting programmed to change three times each day in order to encode circadian rhythms. The Brown evaluation team made three visits to the facility in order to collect data via interviews with direct care staff focusing on sleep and on disruptive behaviors. Interviews were also conducted with leadership and administrative staff. Wetle made two trips to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Portland, Oregon, to discuss the study design, and the preliminary measurements conducted by lighting engineers from the national lab. Preliminary data indicate that the tunable lighting reduces resident sleep disturbances as reported by staff.

#### **Italian collaboration on Mediterranean diet**

Professor Wetle has continued work on studying and promoting the Mediterranean diet aimed at improving population health. Relevant to this work, she was invited to give a talk at the University of Padova, Department of Comparative Biomedicine and Food Science. In addition, she consulted with the Istituto di Neuroscienze, National Research Council Office at the University of Padova, School of Medicine on a project to measure health outcomes of diets that incorporate components of the Mediterranean diet. In Genoa, Wetle met with leadership of Aristeia, an entity that organizes international meetings. The purpose was to plan a European Conference on the Mediterranean Diet that will be co-sponsored by the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR). Later in the year, Wetle presented this Mediterranean Diet conference proposal to the AFAR Board of Directors and the proposal was approved.

#### **Caregivers reactions' and experiences: imaging dementia evidence for amyloid scanning**

In 2015, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services established that amyloid PET scans to be used in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease would be covered for reimbursement, if the patient participated in research evaluating the impact of the test results for patients with cognitive impairment or dementia. Between March of 2016 and January of 2018, the Imaging Dementia-Evidence for Amyloid Scanning (IDEAS) study enrolled 18,295 Medicare beneficiaries. A sub-study focused on Caregivers' Reactions and Experiences (CARE) was launched in 2018. As a part of this study, 2,228 telephone interviews were conducted with IDEAS patients, and 1,872 interviews were conducted with those patients' care partners.

Professor Wetle serves as a co-Principal Investigator on this project and also chairs the publications committee. During her sabbatical, Wetle chaired a scientific symposium at the Gerontological Society Meetings that reported on preliminary analyses. In addition to leading the analyses of the first wave of interviews, she led the project team in the design of the next wave of interviews to be conducted in 2019.

### **Social determinants of health and Medicare Advantage**

A project funded by the national Meals On Wheels organization examined the potential impact of new CMS regulations that allow greater flexibility in addressing social determinants of health for managed care organizations serving older persons. Wetle's role in this project was to assist in the design of the interview instrument and development of the recruitment protocol, and to provide consultation on qualitative analysis of interview transcripts.

In addition to the above activities, she published two peer review papers and four abstracts, and three more papers have been submitted for review.


## Ira Wilson

HEALTH SERVICES, POLICY AND PRACTICE • FALL 2018

Ira Wilson spent the first two months of his sabbatical finalizing the Rhode Island application for a \$20 million Clinical Translational Science Award (CTSA), of which he was a Multiple Principal Investigator (MPI, with Sharon Rounds and Jim Padbury). Work began in earnest on this resubmission in January of 2018. This was a tremendously complicated 1,000-page application that involved Brown University, the University of Rhode Island, Lifespan, Care New England, the Providence VA, the Rhode Island Quality Institute, and multiple other state organizations. The complexities of this particular award were scientific, organizational, political, and managerial. As MPI, Dr. Wilson was involved in the writing and editing of the Administrative Core, the overall section of the grant, and nine other different cores, and all of the management tasks which that involved. These CTSA-related activities occupied nearly all of his time through the end of September.

The second thing that occupied Wilson's time was the surprise receipt of a grant from the Peterson Center on Healthcare. This project was a collaboration between a team that Anya Wallack and Wilson organized at Brown, the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) of Rhode Island, Governor Raimondo's office, and a team from Bailit Health (Massachusetts-based consultants). The purpose of the project (a one-year project, which ended in June 2019), was to develop and implement a plan for a cost growth target for the state of Rhode Island and to use the state's All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) to better understand the drivers of costs and cost growth. They convened a set of state-wide stakeholders who agreed to a set of principles about how to implement such a cost growth target, and Governor Raimondo came to the Brown School of Public Health in February to announce an executive order committing the state to a cost growth target of 3.2 percent for the next three years. The project has gone very well, and the team is optimistic that the Peterson Center will shortly approve a two-year, \$1.5M extension of the project. The very difficult groundwork for this project was all done during the fall sabbatical.

To improve and update his methodologic skills Wilson took (with the second-year students in the Ph.D. program) the course taught by Issa Dahabreh called "Health Services Research Methods I." The course is an intensive dive into the theory and practice of methods and techniques used for causal inference with



observational data. Most of the topics in the course had not yet been developed when Wilson was trained, and he does not have a Ph.D. Wilson describes the tremendous effort he had to put in to keep up with Brown's second-year students, but it was a valuable and stimulating time, and he is working on trying to integrate these methods into his own work.

In addition to the above efforts, Wilson wrote and submitted an Ro1, completed the preparatory work for two other proposals, and submitted multiple papers.

## Kenneth Wong

EDUCATION, POLITICAL SCIENCE, & PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS • SPRING 2019

During his sabbatical Professor Kenneth Wong focused on two research projects. First, he conducted research on the effects of "Providence Talks" on language development of children who have completed the program and are now beginning to enter kindergarten. "Providence Talks" is a free, early intervention program that enrolls children between 2-30 months of age from families living in Providence. The program helps caretakers learn about the importance of speaking with their children and supports them in their ability to improve the language environments within their home.

Wong led the Brown research team to examine both the immediate term and the longer-term effects of program completion. The study found that "Providence Talks" improved the home auditory environment for parents and primary care takers. Further, based on self-assessment, parents experienced an increase in measures of self-efficacy, thereby indicating that "Providence Talks" may serve as a strategy to promote parental engagement.

The early cohorts of "Providence Talks" participants have now begun to enter formal schooling. To understand the longer term effects of the program, Wong worked with the Providence Public Schools to gain access to student information for those who went through "Providence Talks." The research also compared academic and social measures for "Providence Talks" students with their peers who had not been exposed to the program. While the results remained preliminary in spring 2019, the project design enables the research team to conduct a longitudinal analysis in the near future. Understanding the effects of "Providence Talks" at the citywide scale will inform policy makers on this important initiative.

Wong's second project was to collaborate with colleagues at Michigan and Rutgers to develop a book proposal on policy changes from Obama to Trump. The group is particularly interested in the use of presidential administrative power in shaping education and other social policies. This collaborative project has resulted in a book proposal and a draft chapter one. Upon reviewing these materials, a publisher with a strong focus on public policy has offered a book contract. The team plans to spend the next year to complete this project.



# Tongzhang Zheng

EPIDEMIOLOGY • SPRING 2019

During his sabbatical, Professor Zheng expanded his research program through national and international collaboration by 1) consolidating his on-going research activities, 2) developing new research projects by writing and submitting major NIH research grants as Principal Investigator or Co-investigator, and 3) writing and submitting peer-reviewed publications.

## **Consolidate ongoing research activities**

Metal Exposure and Diabetes.

March 15 NIH funded a research project: R01 ES029082. Zheng is the Principal Investigator of this four-year research study entitled “A nested case-control study of exposure to toxic metals, essential metals and their interaction on the risk of type 2 diabetes (T2D)” The main goals of the study are to determine whether specific toxic metals are independently or jointly associated with T2D risk; to determine whether imbalanced levels of specific essential metals are independently or jointly associated with T2D risk; and to determine whether the diabetic effects of toxic metals can be mitigated by essential trace metals. The study could lead to simple, safe, readily available, acceptable and highly affordable nutrition intervention for the prevention of T2D that will have both clinical and public health significance worldwide.

A Prenatal Cohort Study of in Utero Exposure and Children's Health.

In both the U.S. and worldwide, better understanding of the potential effects of in utero exposures and children's health is of marked public health significance. Impaired fetal growth is one of the greatest public health threats to this generation of children. It is now widely accepted that impaired fetal development and rapid catch-up growth in early childhood predispose to high morbidity in infants and subsequent risk of adult diseases. Zheng has collaborated with colleagues at Tongji University in Wuhan China to build a prenatal cohort of almost 4000 pregnant women and children, enrolled in the first trimester of pregnancy and seen throughout pregnancy with state-of-the-art assessment protocols. They have been using the critical mass as a platform to study environmental exposures and maternal adverse pregnancy outcomes, fetal development, birth outcomes and early childhood growth.

## **Develop new research by submitting several major NIH research grant applications**

A Nested Case Control Study of In Utero DDT/DDE Exposure and Breast Cancer Risk

This proposed study will utilize the New England cohort (NE cohort), which now has nearly 60 years of follow up, for the first time, to directly and quantitatively test the breast cancer fetal origin hypothesis and to determine if in-utero exposure to isomers of DDT (o,p'- and p,p'-DDT) and their metabolites of DDE (o,p'- and p,p'-DDE) is associated with an increased risk of breast cancer in adult offspring. This work may define a critical window of vulnerability to breast cancer and enable us to refine strategies for preventing this deadly disease. If funded, this research will be conducted in collaboration with the U.S. CDC, Massachusetts Cancer Registry, Rhode Island Cancer Registry, and collaborators at Brown University.

Mechanisms of Hexavalent Chromium-Induced Chromosome Instability

This R01 grant application will support and dedicate efforts to transform and revolutionize our understanding

of metal-induced lung cancer by studying the relationship between metal exposure and CIN. The Jinchang Metal Cohort Study presents a unique opportunity to extend cell culture and animal model results to population-based study of the mechanism and provide a unique opportunity to evaluate the outcomes in this unique population. This research would be conducted with scientists at Louisville University and Lanzhou University in China.

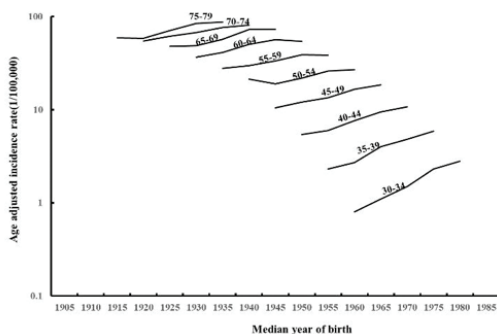
### Chromosome Instability in Metal-Induced Lung Cancer

This eight-year R35 proposes to build on an NIEHS-funded scientific foundation and consolidate our current efforts into a transformative R35 research program that deepens our knowledge of mechanisms that will lead to major scientific breakthroughs in understanding: 1) how normal human lung cells become neoplastic; 2) how to detect this transformation when it occurs; and 3) how to prevent the change from occurring. This proposal is being prepared in collaboration with scientists at Louisville University and Lanzhou University in China.

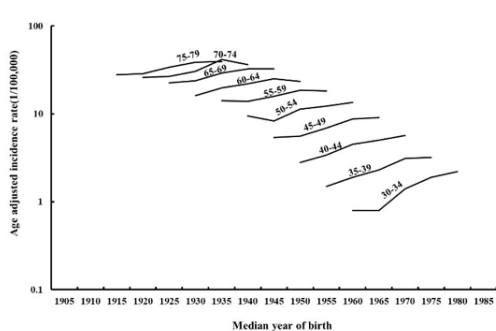
### Writing and submitting peer-reviewed publications

Zheng published six papers, including one that will appear in International Journal of Epidemiology. In this study, Zheng and his collaborators found that the incidence of kidney renal cell carcinoma has been increasing in the U.S. during the past decades, and the known risk factors of kidney cancer cannot fully account either for the observed increase or for the birth cohort pattern (see Figure A and Figure B). Population-based epidemiologic studies are urgently needed to identify the risk factors for kidney cancer that can be used to explain the observed increase and the birth cohort pattern of kidney cancer, prompting the need for additional etiologic hypotheses (such as environmental exposures).

**Figure A**



**Figure B**







BROWN