

Brown Sabbatical Research Newsletter



Foreword

This is the sixth 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:

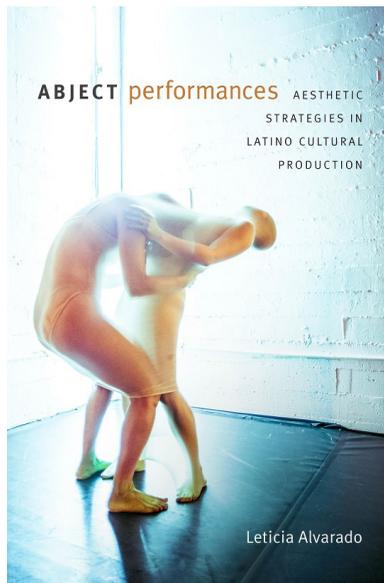
Walter Crosby Eells, “The Origin and Early History of Sabbatical Leave,” *AAUP Bulletin* 48.3 (September 1962): 253-256 (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/40222893>).

**Special thanks are due to Associate Dean of the Faculty Joel Revill, also to Gaby Delaney and Izzy Rodriguez of the Office of University Communications.*

Leticia Alvarado

AMERICAN STUDIES • 2017-18

With a Wriston Fellowship for excellence in teaching and research, Leticia Alvarado spent her junior sabbatical completing the logistics for the publication of several manuscripts, including her first monograph and contributions to an award-winning museum catalog. Alvarado also advanced research on her new book project, completing significant research and a manuscript for an article based on one of the chapters. Alvarado also completed an invited chapter for an edited volume.



Alvarado's book, *Abject Performances: Aesthetic Strategies in Latino Cultural Production* was successfully launched at Brown with the sponsorship support of the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America and the American Studies Department. In *Abject Performances*, Alvarado draws out the irreverent, disruptive aesthetic strategies used by Latino artists and cultural producers who shun standards of respectability that are typically used to conjure concrete minority identities. In place of works imbued with pride, redemption, or celebration, artists such as Ana Mendieta, Nao Bustamante, and the Chicano art collective known as Asco employ negative affects—shame, disgust, and unbelonging—to capture experiences that lie at the edge of the mainstream, inspirational Latino-centered social justice struggles. Drawing from a diverse expressive archive that ranges from performance art to performative testimonies of personal faith-based subjection, Alvarado illuminates modes of community formation and social critique defined by a refusal of identitarian coherence that nonetheless coalesce into Latino affiliation and possibility. The launch featured comments from distinguished scholars Deborah

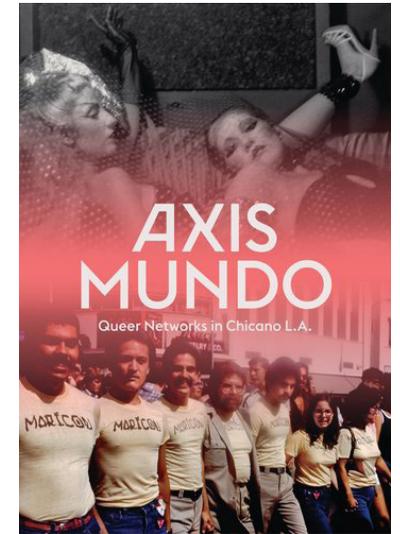
Vargas (Rutgers University), Macarena Gomez-Barris (Pratt Institute), and Patricia Ybarra, who helped usher the book into the fields in which it intervenes including, Latina/o/x studies, queer theory, visual culture, and performance studies. Reception of her book has been enthusiastic, with a number of invited book talks planned for this coming year.

Alvarado was thrilled to contribute to the groundbreaking museum catalog, *Axis Mundo: Queer Networks in Chicano L.A.* A recipient of the *Axis Mundo* centers the work of queer Chicano artists in Los Angeles. Working between the 1960s and early 1990s, the artists profiled in this compendium represent a broad cross section of L.A.'s art scene. With nearly 400 illustrations and 10 essays, this volume presents histories of artistic experimentation and reveals networks of collaboration and exchange that resulted in some of the most intriguing art of late 20th-century America. From "mail art" to the rise of Chicano, gay, and feminist print media; the formation of alternative spaces to punk music and performance; fashion culture to the AIDS crisis—the artists and works featured comprise a boundary-pushing network of voices and talents. *Axis Mundo* is also a finalist for the International Latino Book Awards in the category of "Best Art Book" and "Best

LGBTQ Themed Book." Alvarado's contribution to the catalog reframes existing accounts of artists Judith Baca and Patssi Valdez by theorizing the epithet "malflora" as a queer formation and aesthetic. The catalog accompanies an exhibition by the same name at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles. Part of the Getty Foundation-funded Pacific Standard Time (PST) series LA/LA, the exhibition will now travel to a number of different art spaces.

In addition to completing these works and presenting the research, Alvarado spent her sabbatical year conducting research for her new book project *Cut/Hoard/Suture: Aesthetics in Relation*. This book proposes to analyze pairs of contemporary artists of color from distinctly racialized communities whose work shares both formal qualities and strategies for negotiating a hostile present. In the pairing of artists conventionally siloed along identitarian lines in studies of art and race this project centers theories of affect in its reading of aesthetic gestures to elaborate coalitional possibilities developed in relation across diverse populations. The idea of a relational black and brown aesthetic is articulated with attentiveness to the ways cultural products move through fields of distinction calcified within systems of capital through which taste is established and mounted. Underscoring the co-constitutiveness of racializing epistemologies to global art markets, through what we can refer to as racial capitalism, *Cut/Hoard/Suture* examines supranational circuits of art circulation to query the possibilities of contestation within these same circuits while orienting us to artistic maneuvers of informed and resistant engagement. The tripartite narrative begins with a cut from dominant teleological narratives that culminate in the contemporary supremacy of global north cultural production. Shifting from supranational circuits of cultural production to local histories carved by empire, *Cut/Hoard/Suture* ultimately negotiates the tensions of deploying the aesthetic in radical worldmaking within empire's epistemes.

Alvarado has presented research from this new project domestically and internationally and has completed an article version of a chapter titled "Flora and Fauna Otherwise: Black and Brown Aesthetics of Relation in Firelei Báez and Wangechi Mutu." In "Flora and Fauna Otherwise" the featured artists responded to racialized hailings from multiple nations and markets, morphing biological taxonomies to imagine flora and fauna otherwise in order to hone a critical lens on colonial encounters that surface, palimpsestically, as an imperial present. Rich in jewel-toned or earthen hues and haptic versatility, the artistic oeuvres of Dominican-born Firelei Báez and Kenyan-born Wangechi Mutu display analogous visual vocabularies in the rendering of eroticized, racialized, and gendered presentations of colonial encounters and their long afterlives. The figures they render are neither wholly human, animal, nor plant but rather organic amalgamations marked as much by race and sexuality as they are by their inhumanity. These are cast into scenes informed by folklore and deep archival invoking genealogies of protection and hexes in equal measure. Setting their works alongside one another, this article develops a theory of relational black and brown aesthetics through the activation of



femme gestures across individual works, as well as those exhibition spaces within which the artists draft practices of informed and resistant engagement.

Alvarado will complete her sabbatical by contributing a chapter to an edited volume honoring the oeuvre of artist Nao Bustamante. Her contribution, “Given Over: The Abject Excess of Nao Bustamante,” explores the sardonically titled performance *Given Over to Want* (2007) to theorize relational convening fueled by sentiment as a consequence of loss and haunting. From *Given Over to Want* (2007) to reflecting on Bustamante’s contribution to *Transnocheo for José* (2014), this essay also explores what it means to be otherwise—in time, corporeality, and relationality—for an always beginning of the simultaneous now and hereafter affectively realized.

Dima Amso

COGNITIVE, LINGUISTIC, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES • FALL 2017

A fall 2017 sabbatical allowed Professor Dima Amso to focus on a novel line of research in her laboratory. The Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory (DCNL) in the CLPS department examines brain and cognitive development from infancy through adulthood. The lab is particularly interested in the development of processes like attention, memory, and executive functions – the ability to regulate one’s actions or emotions. In recent years, the lab has focused in particular on how the developing child’s family socioeconomic status (SES) shapes these systems. Executive functions are impacted by family SES and mediate the relationship between SES and the academic achievement gap. Amso’s lab has made novel contributions to the understanding which aspects of SES affect executive functions development. Their results suggest that cognitive enrichment at home, over and above stress and parenting variables, is key to the impact of SES on the development of executive functions.

During the leave, Amso developed a research program that extended these findings globally. She to assess the impact of a cognitively enriching reading intervention on children’s early literacy and cognitive and emotional development. The We Love Reading program is a community-based living library, where children are offered the opportunity to attend public book readings and borrow books to take home. The key is that they are engaging in reading for pleasure.

This type of expansion of a research program requires training and guiding two research teams, one in Providence and another in Jordan. It requires time to assess cultural sensitivity of measurements and thorough scholarship on the environment that the research is taking place. The sabbatical leave was a boon to developing this global arm of research endeavors and the data collection arm of the work is now complete.

In addition, the sabbatical leave afforded Amso the opportunity to write multiple publications, to present her work at UC Davis, University of Tennessee, and the University of Minnesota, and to write a new NSF grant to examine whether the effects we are observing in SES and executive functions are specific to testing context.

Paul Armstrong

ENGLISH • SPRING 2018

Professor Paul Armstrong devoted most of his semester-long sabbatical to finishing a draft of a book on neuroscience and narrative. Neuroscience cannot, of course, tell us everything we might want to know about stories, but it is also true that our species would probably not produce narratives so prolifically if they weren’t somehow good for our brains and our embodied interactions with the world. The ability to tell and follow a story requires cognitive capacities that are basic to the neurobiology of mental functioning. How plots order events in time, how stories imitate actions, and how narratives relate us to other lives – whether in pity or in fear – these central concerns of narratological theorists from Aristotle to Paul Ricoeur are perhaps surprisingly aligned with a variety of hot topics in contemporary neuroscience: temporal synchrony and the binding problem, the action-perception circuit in cognition, and the mirroring processes of embodied intersubjectivity. The ways in which stories coordinate time, represent embodied action, and promote social collaboration are fundamental to the brain-body interactions through which our species has evolved and has constructed the cultures we inhabit. The book consists of four chapters that explain and explore these convergences: an introductory chapter on neuroscience and narrative theory, followed by chapters on temporality, action, and intersubjectivity. Tentatively entitled *Stories and the Brain: The Neuroscience of Narrative*, this project is a sequel to Armstrong’s book *How Literature Plays with the Brain: The Neuroscience of Reading and Art* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013). Armstrong also spent part of the sabbatical beginning to assemble materials for a new Norton Critical Edition of E. M. Forster’s novel *A Passage to India* (delivery scheduled for January 2020).

Kevin Bath

COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES • FALL 2017

Dr. Bath’s sabbatical allowed him to focus on three main activities: initiating two newly funded NIH research projects, planning and developing a new course, and preparing multiple manuscripts for publication.

During his sabbatical leave, Dr. Bath submitted two separate R01 grant applications to the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) at NIH. The first investigates “early life stress effects on threat-learning,” with the overarching goal of using an animal model to understand how early life stress impacts the developmental programming of neural centers underlying learning about threat signals. In this proposal, Dr. Bath also requested funding to support training of both graduate and postdoctoral fellows. Dr. Bath also applied for and was awarded a second R01 from NIH to investigate “Mechanisms driving sex differences in cognitive outcomes following early life stress.” The overarching goal of that grant was to use an animal model to understand the mechanisms by which early life stress leads to sex disparities in risk for cognitive disturbance. This proposal also included funding for training opportunities across divisions at Brown, supporting trainees in both the CLPS and Neuroscience departments.

During his sabbatical semester, Dr. Bath also began to develop a new introductory course in the CLPS Department, CLPS0150 “Behavioral Neuroscience: Introduction to Biological Psychiatry.” This course will provide an introduction to basic neuroscience principles and explore the neural and genetic underpinnings of pathological behavioral across a variety of neurological and psychiatric disorders.

Dr. Bath also spent a portion of his sabbatical leave continuing to develop his research program. As part of this, Dr. Bath has worked on submitting several manuscripts to peer reviewed journals and has begun to develop multiple manuscripts to review recent work in the field of stress neurobiology.

Timothy Bewes

ENGLISH • SPRING 2018

Timothy Bewes is working on a book entitled *Free Indirect: The Idea of Twenty-first Century Fiction*. He spent a spring semester of sabbatical leave securing an advance contract for the book from Columbia University Press and writing the fourth and fifth chapters. Each of these chapters is framed by a question: “How Does Immanence Show Itself?” and “What is a Sensorimotor Break?” The purpose of both is to introduce and substantiate the governing hypothesis of the project: that Gilles Deleuze’s work on cinema – and its historical claim of a transition from the “movement-image” of classical cinema to the “time-image” of modern cinema – enables a new assessment of contemporary fiction in terms of the thought of which such fiction is capable and that it makes possible.

In addition to working on these chapters, Bewes completed several smaller projects including the organization of a session at the Modern Languages Association annual convention in New York City in January entitled “A Postfictional Turn? Transformations in the Novel and Novel Criticism.” The session featured Toril Moi and Gerald Prince (in addition to himself). His own paper for the meeting was entitled “What does it mean to write fiction? What does fiction refer to?” and is part of a longer project under way entitled “Recent Experiments in American Fiction.”

Other activities undertaken during the sabbatical included an assessment of the work of the late British musician Mark E. Smith for the journal *Radical Philosophy*; an essay entitled “A Swarm of Locusts Passed By’: A Return to Leiris’s *LAfrique fantôme*” for an anthology on the topic of postcolonial shame (the subject of his previous book); the co-organization of a “keyword seminar” at the Society for Novel Studies biennial conference at Cornell University in June on the term “Contemporary.” Lastly, Bewes’s energies were mobilized by an edited special issue of the journal *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* on the topic of “International Fiction: Frontiers, Thresholds, Systems.” The issue is forthcoming in November 2018 and includes six essays by literary critics on various topics connected to the theme.

Daniel Björkegren

ECONOMICS • 2017-18

Daniel Björkegren spent a year on leave as a W. Glenn Campbell and Rita Ricardo-Campbell National Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. It was a rich and productive year. Professor Björkegren revised his paper “Behavior Revealed in Mobile Phone Usage Predicts Loan Repayment” (with Darrell Grissen), which develops a method to create credit scores for unbanked populations in the world’s poorest countries. Combined with mobile money, this makes it possible to lend to the poor at a fraction of the cost of traditional methods. Björkegren wrote and published the follow-up article, “The Potential of Digital Credit to Bank the Poor” (also with Darrell Grissen) in the *American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings*, which scopes the potential for this emerging technology to expand access to financial services. He presented these projects at the AEA Annual Meeting, CEQA/World Bank Artificial Intelligence for Economic Development, and the National Bureau of Economic Research Digitization workshop.

Many modern technologies have network effects and, as a result, lead to industries with natural monopolies (for example, consider Facebook and Google). Policymakers currently have little guidance on how to manage these network industries: Should firms be given free rein, be split up, or be forced to interconnect with competitors? Björkegren finished his paper, “The Adoption of Network Goods: Evidence from the Spread of Mobile Phones in Rwanda,” which was accepted for publication at the *Review of Economic Studies*. This paper develops a method to simulate the effects of policies for a classical network good. He wrote a follow-up paper, “Competition in Network Industries: Evidence from Mobile Telecommunications in Rwanda,” which uses this machinery to analyze the impact of introducing competition into a network industry and determine the effects of different competition rules. He was invited to present this project at UC San Diego, UC Berkeley, Stanford, University of Washington, University College London, and the Federal Communications Commission; as well as at the Berkeley-Stanford IO Fest, PacDev, and the World Bank Annual Bank Conference on Africa.

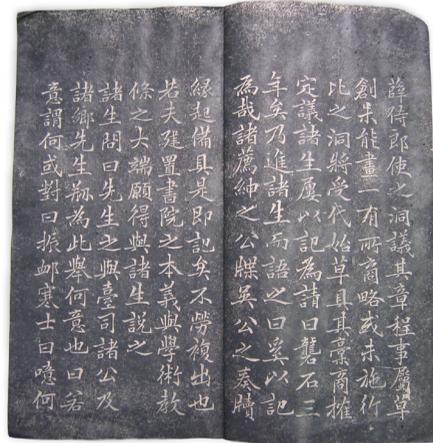
Björkegren and collaborator Joshua Blumenstock (UC Berkeley) used the year to design their project, *Making Decisions with Manipulable Data*, which develops and tests new algorithms that continue to work when made transparent to users. This project has received seed funding from Brown.

Professor Björkegren also finished a working paper, “Hidden Quality,” which develops a coherent theory for why consumers increasingly demand differentiating attributes (such as local, small scale, heirloom, artisanal, handpicked, free range, cage free, pasture raised, vegetarian fed, free trade) among many goods that were once considered commodities (such as milk, eggs, potatoes).

Björkegren also used the proximity to the Bay Area’s tech industry to explore research partnerships with startups and established tech firms.

Cynthia Brokaw

HISTORY • 2017



Imprint of a rubbing from a stele recording the founding of the Zunjing Academy in 1875.

During her 2017 calendar-year sabbatical, Professor Cynthia Brokaw divided her time between two projects. The first is a book-length study of elite reading practices and their impact on political thought and reform in the late nineteenth century. Brokaw uses the history of an academy of higher education, the Zunjing Academy, founded in 1875 in the provincial capital of Sichuan, to treat these topics. The academy's first two directors, Zhang Zhidong and Wang Kaiyun, promoted two very different approaches to the reading of the Thirteen Classics and study for the civil-service examinations. Zhang, more conventionally, saw the Classics as sources of practical guidance and justification for imperial policy; and his guide to examination study, completed during his official stint in Sichuan, explicated this approach. Wang, in contrast, was committed to a radically different reading of just one Classic, the *Spring and Autumn Annals*. Convinced that this work contained – albeit in a difficult, coded text – the true

plan that Confucius had developed for the attainment of the perfectly ordered society, Wang taught his students a method of “breaking the code” of this work so that they might uncover Confucius’ plan and offer assistance to the beleaguered Qing ruler in his efforts to stave off Western imperialist encroachment on the empire.

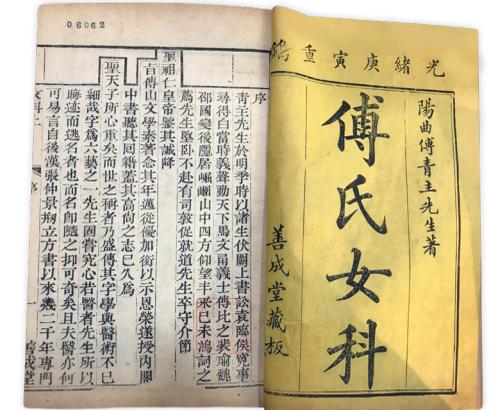
Students at the academy succeeded brilliantly under both these teachers; graduates of Zunjing Academy were among the most active leaders of the reform programs of the late nineteenth century. They helped to draw Sichuan elites, hitherto largely isolated from imperial politics and mainstream intellectual currents, into the major statecraft controversies of the 1880s and 1890s. This newly won prominence on the imperial stage allowed them to assert some degree of regional intellectual difference, even autonomy: They proclaimed their membership in a distinctive school of “Sichuan learning” that, while focusing on provincial reform, was contributing to the regeneration of the imperial state.

Crucial to this exercise was the method of reading they had learned in particular from Wang Kaiyun. A reform journal published by the academy in 1898, in addition to very practical essays on the development of mining and the construction of modern roads in the province, published essays applying the “subtle meanings” of the *Spring and Autumn Annals* to what was understood of Western international law. Thus passages from the Classics were juxtaposed with those from *Wanguo gongfa*, the Chinese translation of Henry Wheaton’s *Elements of International Law*, largely to the end of demonstrating how the former had anticipated the latter. The approach to reading taught by Wang Kaiyun provided ways in which his students could not

simply domesticate foreign concepts but also reinterpret them and adapt them to the particular needs of the Qing empire/Chinese nation.

In fall 2017, having been awarded an Overseas Visiting Scholarship at Shandong University, Professor Brokaw pursued research on a long-term project on the geography of publishing, particularly popular commercial publishing, in early modern China. She is particularly interested in how the spread of woodblock publishing and the development of empire-wide networks of textual transmission contributed to cultural integration and the rise of nationalist sentiment in the early twentieth century.

Brokaw’s previous research focused on publishing in south China, which witnessed an impressive proliferation of commercial publishing sites over the course of the sixteenth through the nineteenth centuries. Studies of publishing operations in the great cities of Jiangnan, in northern and western Fujian province, in Xuwan (Jiangxi), and in eastern Sichuan all suggest that, in the south at least, inexpensive imprints were widely accessible to much of the population by the beginning of the nineteenth century.



Medical text published in Shandong in 1890 by the Shancheng tang publishing house.

But little is known of popular book culture in north China, which, on the basis of anecdotal evidence, seems to have suffered from a dearth of publishing industries outside of the capital, Beijing. During her semester in Jinan, Brokaw began research on late-Ming and Qing commercial publishing. Preliminary results suggest that the north (or at least Shandong province) was heavily dependent on the import of books from the south until at least the middle of the nineteenth century. When publishing operations were finally established in Shandong, they were often founded by sojourning merchants from outside the province; thus, the two largest publishing houses of the late Qing, the Shuye de and the Shancheng tang, were established by book merchants from Shanxi and Sichuan respectively. Although no longer reliant on imports of books from the south, these and other publishers tended to reprint earlier imports and continued to draw on texts from the dominant book culture of the south for their booklists. Local book culture was represented almost exclusively by cheap songbooks that reproduced the products of Shandong oral performance literature in print. The picture that emerges from this study – although it clearly has to be expanded through research in other areas of the north – is of a process of a cultural integration characterized by the growing dominance of southern book culture in the north, rather than a balanced circulation of works between north and south.

Brokaw presented some of the results of this research in lectures at Shandong University, Liaocheng University, and the University of California, Berkeley.

Stephen Buka

EPIDEMIOLOGY • SPRING 2018

Dr. Buka devoted his sabbatical leave to advancing his work on the etiology of major mental disorders and translating this research scientific into new prevention efforts.

Professor Buka completed several peer-reviewed articles on early risks for autism, schizophrenia, learning disability, and depressive disorders. In response to an invitation from the publishers of the American Public Health Association, he has also developed an outline for a new edited book on *The Social Determinants of Health: An Introduction and Guide for Public Health Practitioners*.

A good portion of the sabbatical leave was devoted to several major NIH research proposals. Along with Brown faculty member William Heindel he has developed and submitted new proposals on the causes and prevention of Alzheimer's disease, focusing on the combined influence of genetic risk and environmental challenges during early childhood. Drawing upon the New England Family Study, a major prospective cohort study of 17,000 individuals followed from the prenatal period through age 60, Buka and Heindel aim to investigate the impact of apolipoprotein E (APOE) ϵ_4 allele, early learning disability, and markers of cognitive reserve and resilience across the lifecourse on risk for midlife cognitive decline. Given national interest in Alzheimer's disease research, several related projects are planned with the New England Family Study, including new randomized trials designed to prevent cognitive decline and the onset of Alzheimer's among at-risk individuals.

Dr. Buka also collaborated with several hospital-based Brown faculty members to use the New England Family Study (NEFS) to investigate the onset and course of cardiopulmonary disorders. This was in response to a large RFP request for novel adult cohorts initiated by the Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of NIH.

Drawing upon his experience directing the NEFS, Dr. Buka continued his collaboration with Brown faculty member Tong Zheng and medical and public health colleagues at Tongji University in Wuhan China. This has resulted in a major new cohort of 3000 pregnant women, enrolled in the first trimester of pregnancy and seen throughout pregnancy with state-of-the-art assessment protocols – with plans to follow offspring neurodevelopment for the upcoming decades. Their grant proposal “Joint effects of maternal depression and heavy metal exposure during pregnancy on child neurodevelopment: Epigenetic mechanisms” will be submitted to the Environmental Health Sciences branch of NIH.

Along with this basic scholarship, Dr. Buka has worked with public health leadership at the state (RI) and national level to develop new population-level strategies to reduce the prevalence and burden of mental disorder in early childhood. He has met regularly with the directors of the major child-serving state agencies in RI through the monthly meetings of the Rhode Island Children's Cabinet. He heads the Practice component of the Early Childhood Health initiative through the partnership between Brown University and the RI Department of Health Academic Center. Through this he has developed new prevention paradigms that have been submitted to the RI Foundation and national foundations (in preparation) for funding and implementation. National work along these lines have been advanced through his work on the steering committee of the UCLA-based “Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities” and his role on

their Maternal and Child Health Life Course Research Network (LCRN). During this sabbatical leave he has planned and will chair a meeting of leading scientists and clinicians regarding evidence-based population practices to prevent child mental disorder. He has been asked to serve as the mental health lead on a new Life Course Intervention Research Network (LCIRN). The goal of this Network is to advance national multi-site trials on the early prevention of childhood disorders, using models similar to those that Dr. Buka has been developing in RI.

Dr. Buka is greatly appreciative of the opportunity to devote this spring semester to expand his program of research through new collaborations nationally and internationally, and to work at the state and national levels to translate this research into new strategies to lower the prevalence and burden of mental disorders across the life course.

Stephen Bush

RELIGIOUS STUDIES • FALL 2017

In the fall of 2017, Stephen S. Bush took a sabbatical for newly tenured professors. During that semester, his second book, *William James on Democratic Individuality* was published by Cambridge University Press. This book examines the intersection of James's moral philosophy, political theory, and philosophy of religion, providing an original interpretation of the political significance of individualism for James.

As that book was going to press, he devoted the majority of his time to work on his third book project, “Visions of Humanity: Religion, Ethics, and the Perception of Value.” This manuscript examines ethical and political questions concerning how we attend to our fellow human beings. Following the lead of philosopher and novelist Iris Murdoch, it regards attention and how we cultivate our habitual ways of attending to each other as a central moral problem. It examines three attitudes that keep us from attending to each other properly: our egocentric and ethnocentric fantasies, our need to control our natural and social environment, and our tendency to instrumentalize others. All of these distort our ability to properly perceive the value of others, and as a consequence, foster ethical and political harm. Bush investigates these themes through attention to three philosophers. Murdoch speaks of the problem of fantasy, and she proposes attention to moral beauty as the antidote to fantasy. Emmanuel Levinas addresses our disposition to control others, and he proposes a certain notion of responsibility to the other instead. Georges Bataille is concerned with instrumentalization and how it affects our perception of value. He advocates an ecstatic break from our everyday habits of attention. In the fall, Bush wrote a chapter and did substantial research and writing toward the rest of the book. He also wrote a chapter, focused on Murdoch and Levinas, for an edited volume on the theme of love and hatred.

As a side project, Bush wrote an essay on the sculpture of Doris Salcedo. Salcedo is a Colombian artist whose work deals with political violence, and Bush's engagement with her work explores the themes of mourning and despair in her work and how those themes relate to the possibility of political agency.

In the fall of 2017, Bush presented aspects of these projects at the American Academy of Religion annual conference, at the Boston University Institute for Philosophy and Religion, and at annual conference of the Association of Political Theory. In December, he was elected as Secretary of the William James Society.

Kate Carey

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES • SPRING 2018

Professor Kate Carey spent her sabbatical in residence at Brown, advancing several active research projects, and devoting time to writing and grant submissions. Her research program focuses on developing and evaluating novel brief interventions to reduce risk related to alcohol misuse by young adults; she also studies the co-occurrence of alcohol use and sexual risk behavior and sexual assault.

The sabbatical was timely with regard to making progress on three funded research projects, at different stages of maturity. First, WomenSHARE (Sexual Health, Alcohol, and Relationships) is supported by an R34 from NIAAA. With collaborators from the Miriam Hospital and Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, Dr. Carey has been conducting a small RCT to evaluate an integrated alcohol and sexual risk reduction brief intervention for young women who seek services at Planned Parenthood. Her role includes providing clinical supervision to interventionists and manuscript writing. She took the lead in the writing of a qualitative manuscript from this project (described below), which has now been submitted for publication. Second, Dr. Carey is Principal Investigator of Project AIMS (Alcohol Intervention for Mandated Students), which is supported by an R01 grant from NIAAA. This spring she and her collaborators launched a randomized controlled trial (RCT) at Binghamton University; the goal is to recruit 300 students sanctioned for alcohol violations by university officials to test methods of optimizing the effect of online alcohol interventions. This spring the team finalized baseline and follow-up assessments, trained RAs, and recruited the first 20 participants. Third, she also leads the TAN (Texting Alcohol Norms) Project, supported by an R21 grant from NIAAA. This spring was devoted to formative work needed before launching a small RCT at Brown in fall 2018. Specifically, the team finalized a library of text messages on topics related to normative alcohol use, soliciting several rounds of feedback from students to ensure the acceptability and relevance of the messages.

Two grant submissions were submitted during the sabbatical. In April Dr. Carey submitted an R01 to conduct a multi-site evaluation of a novel alcohol prevention intervention using principles of counter-attitudinal advocacy to engage heavy drinkers in risk reduction. This proposal uses a non-inferiority design to demonstrate that the new approach is at least as good as an established brief intervention (personalized normative feedback), and tests theory-based mechanisms/mediators and effect modifiers. If funded, this would provide four years and \$2.6 million of research support. Also, in April-May, she took an active supportive role in the development of a new R01 proposal submitted by a former postdoctoral fellow and current faculty colleague who was submitting her first R01. This five-year project proposes using EMA methods and a longitudinal burst design to identify predictors and consequences of high intensity drinking and blackouts. The time released by the sabbatical allowed Dr. Carey to be available to brainstorm ideas and to edit multiple drafts in a timely fashion.

In addition to making progress on the aforementioned research projects, the sabbatical allowed Dr. Carey the time to play a leadership role on three distinct papers. Specifically, she first-authored a paper that was accepted for publication and recently appeared online in the Journal of American College Health on “Mental Health Consequences of Sexual Assault among First-Year College Women.” This study adds to a growing segment of her research portfolio that documents the prevalence, predictors, and consequences of sexual assault in young adult samples. She also revised and resubmitted a first-authored manuscript titled “Using Email Boosters to Maintain Change after Brief Alcohol Interventions for Mandated College Students: A Randomized Controlled Trial.” This paper describes a multi-year study with 568 participants that tested the effect of following a face-to-face brief alcohol intervention with a series of email boosters. This study showed that boosters did not prevent the loss of intervention gains over a year of follow-up, calling into question their value after brief interventions. She just recently submitted a first-author paper for publication titled “Alcohol Use and Sexual Risk Behavior in Young Women: A Qualitative Study.” This study summarized data from focus groups with young women engaging in episodic heavy drinking and risky sexual behavior; the paper offers insights into their experiences from the perspective of alcohol expectancy and alcohol myopia theories, with the goal of informing alcohol use and sexual risk reduction programs. Overall, the sabbatical has facilitated productivity in collaborative writing as well, as Dr. Carey contributed to an additional nine articles submitted for publication with former and current postdocs and doctoral students.

Jonathan P. Conant

HISTORY • FALL 2017

Professor Conant spent the fall of 2017 on leave, working on his second book, *The Carolingians and the Ends of Empire, ca. 795–840*. This project seeks to rethink early medieval perceptions of the nature, aims, and responsibilities of empire in light of contemporary interactions across the religious, cultural, and linguistic boundaries of eighth- and ninth-century Europe and the Mediterranean. Under the Carolingian royal family, the Frankish kingdoms – roughly the territory of modern France, western Germany, and northern Italy – witnessed the first effort to rebuild a complex society on a large scale in Western Europe after the collapse there of Roman imperial power three hundred years earlier. Conant’s research centers on the interests and ambitions of the first two members of the Carolingian house to lay claim to the imperial title: Charlemagne (768–814) and his son and successor Louis the Pious (814–840). Though the story of Carolingian rulership has long been told as the story of the lands under immediate Frankish domination, Conant contends that their connections to the Islamic world, Byzantium, the Christian kingdoms of northern Spain and Anglo-Saxon England, and pagan Northern and Central Europe were also central to the Carolingians’ understanding and exercise of imperial power. Even more, Charlemagne and Louis understood that in laying claim to the imperial title, they were also shouldering the burden of defending the universal Christian community, irrespective of the frontiers of effective political power. In the early Middle Ages, Conant argues, empire was no longer simply a matter of territorial control; it was a question of ideological authority, even across political boundaries, above all within the scattered communities of the Christian faithful.

Conant spent the fall of 2017 conducting research on this project in the rich manuscript and print holdings of the Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris. Being based in Europe also allowed him to visit in person a number of sites in France, Italy, and Switzerland that provide iconographic, architectural, or archaeological evidence of the Carolingian ideology of empire or of the political, economic, cultural, and religious contacts between the Frankish kingdoms and their neighbors. Conant was furthermore invited to deliver a number of lectures on his research, including a keynote address on “Conflict, Trauma, and the Formation of an Early Christian Identity” to the Asia Pacific Early Christian Studies Conference in Melbourne, Australia, as well as presentations at the University of Oxford; the Universidad de León, Spain; and the Université de Lorraine in Nancy, France.

Joan Copjec

MODERN CULTURE AND MEDIA • SPRING 2018

During the spring 2018 semester – in addition to acting as the main advisor for an undergraduate honors thesis, which won the award for best honors thesis in her department (MCM); serving on the committees of two Ph.D. preliminary exams (one in MCM, the other in English, both passed in May); and one independent study with a Ph.D. student in MCM) – Professor Joan Copjec delivered a keynote lecture, “Correlation, Iranian Style,” at the “Illumination in Islam and the Arts: Mysticism and Cinema” conference, sponsored by the Program in Islam Studies and the Center for Advanced Media Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Copjec also wrote and revised for publication an essay, “Cloud: Precinct of the Theological-Historical,” which will be published in a special issue on “Psychoanalysis and the Middle East: Discourses and Encounters,” in the journal *Psychoanalysis and History*. The special issue, with Copjec’s essay, will be published in fall 2018.

Copjec completed her latest book manuscript, tentatively entitled *Between Paris and Tehran: Kiarostami, Corbin, Lacan*, to be published by MIT Press. She plans to submit the manuscript to the press by September.

Leo Depuydt

EGYPTOLOGY AND ASSYRIOLOGY • FALL 2017

During his 2017 sabbatical, Professor Leo Depuydt was able to update and edit two texts completed years ago and lingering in no-man’s-land. As a result, both were published in early 2018. “The Calendars and Year-counts of Ancient Egypt” appeared in the Belgian journal *Chronique d’Égypte*. It is a description that Depuydt has always wanted to write explaining from first principles what is perhaps Egyptology’s most pesky subject principles. It presents a comprehensive and, Depuydt hopes, final account of the evolution of the Egyptian calendrical system. “The Science and the Medicine of the Ancient Egyptians: A Synopsis” appeared in the

Dutch journal *Bibliotheca Orientalis*. Depuydt has also secured *Bibliotheca Orientalis* as the place of publication of his much longer “Dating First Millennium BCE Egypt: The Elements.” This third text was 90 percent finished five to 10 years ago.

Professor Depuydt’s second topic is infinity. In his celebrated history of mathematics, Carl Boyer notes that the great “Galilei had intended to write a treatise on the infinite in mathematics, but it has not been found.” It is no secret that mathematicians abhor infinity. So do physicists. To take symptom of this: dividing 1 by 0 is now universally described as “undefined.” Yet, the most prolific mathematician of all time, Leonhard Euler, had no problem with defining the same as infinity. Nor does Depuydt. What is more, he thinks it is time to write the treatise that Galileo Galilei, the father of modern science, intended to write about infinity (if he did not do so himself). Depuydt has laid the foundations of such a treatment in his article entitled “Apropos $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + \dots = B_{1/12}$: Mapping Infinity in light of the Number Circle (or Cycle), in L. Euler’s Footsteps and with the Aid of Two Dimensional Infinite Series, and Replacing Negative Infinity and Positive Infinity with Just Infinity,” for *Advances in Pure Mathematics*. The article positively proves, for the first time, that the greatest positive numbers are followed after infinity by the smallest negative numbers.

In a similar vein, Depuydt is writing an article on “The Geography of Infinity” of which one section is entitled: “Beyond J. C. Maxwell, A. Einstein, and the Speed of Light: Infinity in Physics as Derived from Its Behavior in Number Theory.” It is time for human intelligence to take more control of infinity. Depuydt’s principal and initial interest in it has always been from the perspective of rational human intelligence. Infinity is a concept that is real. But the brain can ultimately not comprehend what it means to do something forever and produce a precise result, as in the infinite series $1 + 1/2 + 1/4 + 1/8 + 1/16 + \dots$. There is no mathematician who doubts that the result of this series is exactly 2. Likewise, the universe is infinite and its structure can be much better understood by incorporating infinity. As said, physicists and mathematicians prefer to avoid infinity like a hot potato.

And third, Depuydt has begun the study of Chinese. The three oldest civilizations of the world are Egypt, Mesopotamia, and China. The first two are taught in Depuydt’s department. He took advantage of a sabbatical to become acquainted with the third. The first thing that always comes to mind when comparing ancient Egypt and China is script. Depuydt has written six or seven times at length about the structure of Egyptian hieroglyphic writing and recently participated in a conference pertaining to the world’s oldest scripts held at the Confucius Institute of Rutgers University. The acts, which include his contribution entitled “Toward a Scientific Theory of Hieroglyphic Writing in Boole’s, Saussure’s, and Maxwell’s Footsteps,” are in press. The study of Chinese should allow Depuydt to compare Egyptian and Chinese hieroglyphic writing in depth and write about it. Lecturing in Chinese in China would also further his academic exchanges with Chinese colleagues. But that will have to wait for 2021.

Jamie Dreier

PHILOSOPHY • FALL 2017

During his sabbatical leave, Professor Jamie Dreier wrote (or in some cases completed work on) four papers. One is “World-Centered Value,” which is about an unexplored structure that a theory of value can have, in which the state of the world can matter not just as a field of evaluation but as the evaluative standpoint; this structure resolves a couple of mysteries of common-sense value judgment, although Dreier doesn’t claim it is the only way to resolve them. (This paper will be published in an *Oxford University Press* volume, edited by Christian Seidel, *Consequentialism: New Directions, New Problems?*) A second is “A supervenience problem for robust naturalism?” which is a kind of companion piece to his 2015 *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* paper; it isolates the question that is supposed to be a challenge to metaethical realism and shows why attempts to answer it so far really answer some other question. (This paper will be published in a special issue of *Philosophical Studies*.) The third is “The normative explanation of normativity,” which is about the threat of circularity in certain kinds of metanormative theories if a widely-believed thesis about the normativity of meaning is true; it will be published in a collection of papers dedicated to the work of Allan Gibbard. And last, “The Real and the Quasi-Real,” which is now published in *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*; this paper articulates and develops Dreier’s metaphilosophical theory of what “realism” is supposed to be.

Professor Dreier also gave papers at a pragmatism conference, “Representation and Evaluation,” at the University of British Columbia; at the University of North Carolina Workshop in Metaethics, in Chapel Hill; at the University of Vermont regular philosophy colloquium; at the Annual Meeting of the Edinburgh Philosophical Society, in Scotland; at the philosophy department and Murphy Ethics Center at Tulane, in New Orleans; and as the keynote address at the Princeton-Michigan Graduate Student Workshop in Metanormativity in Ann Arbor.

Dreier also attended the Madison Workshop in Metaethics, although he did not present a paper; and he attended the annual meeting of the associate editors of *Ethics*, in Washington, and the Executive Board Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (of which he is a member), in Newark, Delaware.

Dreier worked on the organization of the Brown-Princeton Workshop in Moral Epistemology, which he co-organized with Professor Sarah McGrath of Princeton; the workshop came to fruition in May 2018, but most of the organizing took place in the fall of 2017.

Wendy Edwards

VISUAL ART • 2017-18

The intention of Professor Edwards’s sabbatical was to investigate new ideas for a series of paintings stemming from images relating to abstracted organic floral forms, which had been adapted from well-known historical paintings. Edwards was invited to travel to China in August and to participate in a group of exhibitions along with four other American artists and faculty members from the Ivy League and several art schools. With the paint barely dry on her first 10 new sabbatical paintings they were swiftly exhibited in Beijing, China and Urumqi and Karamay in the province of Xian Jiang. One painting was selected for inclusion into the permanent collection of the Karamay Museum. Edwards participated in a symposium at The National Academy of Art in Beijing where she gave a talk about her new work and compared it to her earlier paintings from the mid-eighties that were based on her return from a trip to China in 1984. It was unusual for Edwards to have the opportunity to look back and see her visual responses to the southern Chinese landscape in the ‘80s during her first junior sabbatical and to visit China 33 years later. The exchange of ideas at The Academy between a group of Chinese painters and the American artists lasted longer than any other previously held symposium at the Academy. Most of the dialogue was based on the premise that traditional Chinese art is so old and that American art is so young that Americans have less history to react to and are free to experiment more widely. In Urumqi Edwards was able to work in a master calligrapher’s studio using traditional papers and inks for the first time and she absolutely loved it and even got up on the felt covered table in order to reach the top and the bottom of the extended vertical length of the rice paper.

In the fall Professor Edwards began a series of paintings indirectly related to her China experience focusing on vertical canvas formats and more abstracted broken shapes that may have been in reaction to exposure to Chinese characters. In the fall she had an exhibit of three large-scale paintings at The Mystic Museum of Art in an inaugural project space and gave a gallery talk about the work in relation to her husband’s sculpture that was also in the exhibit.

In the spring she was invited to collaborate with a master printer in Brooklyn to make monotypes. After three intense long days of painting and drawing on the plates, she managed to complete 35 prints, not all of which were of the same quality, but she got the hang of it. Since returning to her studio the impact that Edwards experienced layering and ghosting on the prints has been significant. She was able to pull light out of the paper that simply does not happen so easily on an opaque canvas and she is very aware of trying to attain more light and layering through the application of more lines. A catalog of the prints will be published this summer and Edwards hopes that the prints will be shown at the New York print fair in the fall. In June Edwards will travel to Lisbon and Valencia to study tiles and ceramic ware in museums.

Throughout the year she has painted on a variety of size canvases trying to figure out the right proportion to best relate to the imagery. Edwards just completed 10 new oil paintings on paper to take to China in August once again for three exhibitions and another symposium and discussion in Beijing. Overall Edwards produced a good body of work in the studio while on sabbatical and treasured the time she had to visit museums, read, and reflect on the importance that painting has had in her lifetime.

Claudia Elliott

INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS • FALL 2017

Professor Claudia Elliott dedicated the fall of 2017 to two interrelated research projects. The first, “Democratization as Metaphor,” is an intellectual history of the scholarship on democratization combining perspectives and approaches from the humanities, physical and natural sciences, and social science. Her interest is in the thought processes underlying and produced by metaphors, analogies, and associated imagery in the formation of theory—particularly in the potential for producing misconceptions and in the point at which the metaphor breaks down. Throughout the semester, she made progress on creating a metaphorical mapping of thought on political transitions from 1986-2017.

The first iteration of this research is a junior-level seminar taught through the International Relations Program (IR) at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs. The course is inspired by a similar approach to her comparative politics course in the spring of 2012 and the successful use of research metaphors in the IR thesis preparation seminar. The seminar is a true *integration* of various disciplines with the goal of helping students develop deeper and creative understandings of complex socio-political processes and, more broadly, global challenges.

The second project was to update and expand her research, *The Negotiation of Political Representation: Crisis and Democratization in Latin America*, given the global saliency of the topic as well as recent political developments in her comparative case study of Venezuela and Mexico (1958-98). This entailed reexamining the study’s methodological approach through the latest scholarship on causal cases and process-tracing as well as engaging with recent scholarly debates on the global decline of democracy, typically framed as a growing gap between political parties and citizens. Elliott argues that the crisis of representation goes beyond political parties and is best understood as an all-encompassing struggle over the very means and meaning of representation.

In November 2017 Dr. Elliott attended sessions on the crisis of representation at the XVIII Ibero-American Forum in Buenos Aires, Argentina, a meeting of current and former presidents from Latin America and Spain, business executives, journalists, and intellectuals. Hosted by Argentinian President Mauricio Macri and the CLARIN press organization, the conference covered the theme of a global crisis of political representation from the angles of corruption, social media, narco-traffic, fake news, rule of law, the global economy, migration, populism, and independence movements. Several of the participants have ties to Brown through participation in conferences or as professors-at-large: Juan Luis Cebrián (political sociologist and founding editor of *El País*, Madrid); Natalio Botana (political scientist, Universidad Torcuato di Tella, Buenos Aires); Ignacio Polanco (president, Grupo PRISA, Madrid); and Presidents Ricardo Lagos (Chile), Fernando Henrique Cardoso (Brazil), and Felipe González (Spain).

Dr. Elliott also travelled to Havana, Cuba, as part of an ongoing interest in the relationship between Cuba, Venezuela, and the United States. This was her fifth trip to Havana, creating the opportunity to explore local perspectives on the country’s socio-economic situation prior to and post-President Obama’s restoration of diplomatic relations with Cuba in 2014 and, then again, after President Trump’s reversal of aspects of that policy. She interviewed colleagues from the Universidad de la Havana and faculty at Casa de las Américas as well as Cuban citizens.

Ani Eloyan

BIOSTATISTICS • 2017-18

Ani Eloyan spent her junior sabbatical primarily at Brown writing and developing groundwork for research projects. Her research interests include development of statistical models for understanding brain anatomy and functional organization using medical imaging data. She has focused mainly on statistical methods for dimensionality-reduction and machine learning for disease prediction.

One project in this area is statistical analysis of brain connectivity to study functional associations among brain regions. Her work focuses on building targeted statistical approaches for analyzing fMRI data from populations to learn about connectivity patterns, identify meaningful differences between disease populations, and estimate changes in brain functional organization during a task-based fMRI session. She is using these methods to learn about differences in brain function between people with autism spectrum disorders and their neurotypical peers and gain insights into functional connections between brain regions of healthy adults during various tasks.

A major project that Eloyan worked on during the sabbatical is starting the Biostatistics Core of the new Early Onset Alzheimer’s Disease Consortium LEADS grant. This is a multi-site award from the National Institutes of Aging aimed at collecting clinical, imaging, and genetic information from patients with early onset Alzheimer’s disease to build a reach database of early onset Alzheimer’s patient information, learn about their disease progression, and develop disease biomarkers. The biostatistics core lead by Eloyan will develop statistical models and analyses of the data to gain new insights on clinical testing of early onset Alzheimer’s disease, identify imaging and genetic biomarkers for future clinical trials.

A third project is aimed at developing mathematical models to learn about brain tumors and to predict disease progression and survival for brain cancer patients. Specifically, she is building statistical methods for dimensionality reduction and analysis of anatomical images of brain tumors, by developing extensions of principal curve analysis for dimension reduction of manifolds – high-dimensional surfaces with desirable mathematical properties. This is a generalization of the well-known linear principal component analysis, widely used for dimensionality reduction. The tumor features learned by these dimension reduction techniques are then used in machine learning algorithms for disease prognosis and prediction of treatment outcomes.

Eloyan continued her work on developing imaging based biomarkers of disease progression for patients with multiple sclerosis. Magnetic resonance imaging of patients with MS can be used to learn about lesion development and effects of treatment on lesion recovery. Her work in this area focused on developing functional principal component analysis methods for characterizing the longitudinal lesion development process and testing for treatment effects.

Pedro Felzenszwalb

ENGINEERING • 2017-18

During his sabbatical Professor Felzenszwalb spent four months visiting the computer science department at UC Berkeley and the Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing at Berkeley.

In the fall of 2017 the Simons Institute hosted a special program on optimization algorithms, bringing together researchers from discrete and continuous optimization communities in order to stimulate

interaction at this interface. Felzenszwalb participated in two workshops associated with the program.

During his visit to Berkeley Felzenszwalb started a new collaboration in the intersection of computer vision, combinatorics and non-linear algebra. He also continued to work on two ongoing research projects involving computational methods for clustering and bayesian inference with graphical models and belief propagation.

Linford Fisher

HISTORY • 2017-18

For the 2017-18 academic year Professor Linford Fisher was on leave as an American Council of Learned Societies Ryskamp Fellow. The main purpose of the fellowship was to make substantial progress on his book manuscript, tentatively titled “America Enslaved: The Rise and Fall of Native Slavery in the English and American Atlantic World,” which is under contract with Oxford University Press. When finished, it will be the first comprehensive study of Native American slavery in English colonies in North America and the Caribbean and, later, the United States, from 1492 through the American Civil War. The size and scope of the project has grown since he first started it in 2011, which has necessitated additional research on new locales.

The field of Native American slavery has grown over the past two decades. Scholars now estimate that between two and five million Natives were enslaved in the Americas as a whole between 1492 and the 1880s. Native slavery was, in fact, the first slavery in the Americas, starting in 1492. From the first voyage of Columbus to the ending of slavery in Brazil in 1888, Native Americans were eventually enslaved in every single region of the Americas. Sometimes the enslavement was small-scale: a Native individual or two kidnapped from a village or off the coast and forced into a lifetime of servitude. But in many other locales around the Americas, Natives were enslaved in much larger numbers. Hispaniola, Brazil, Peru, Mexico, New France, and the Carolinas all were centers of Indian slave trades that mirrored the better-known coastal African slave trade. In each region, thousands and in some cases tens of thousands of Indian slaves were captured from the interior and sold to European traders on the coasts. From there, they were either enslaved locally or – more commonly – sold as slaves to other parts of the Americas.

But this is a story in which English colonies played a central role. English explorers and would-be colonists kidnapped and enslaved Natives for decades before those African slaves were purchased in Virginia in 1619. Bermuda (intimately tied to Virginia and New England) had Indian and African slaves as early as 1616, and Virginians had coerced Indians into labor in Virginia prior to the arrival of Africans in 1619. In every early English colony, colonists enslaved Indians – in many places in greater numbers than Africans, at least at first. Indian slave labor was central to the early development of English colonization, and it remained important throughout the entire colonial period. Even in New England, several thousand Natives were enslaved in the seventeenth century, some of whom were shipped to destinations as far away as Mexico and Tangier, in present-day Morocco.

The United States, too, had a role in this story. Although gradual emancipation in northern states gradually phased out slavery over time (although not fully until the 1840s), enslaved Natives could be found in northern states as well as southern states well into the nineteenth century. Enslaved Natives sued for their freedom in places like Tennessee, Ohio, Maryland, and Virginia, well into the 1820s and 1830s. And when the United States purchased California, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona from Mexico after the Mexican-American War in 1848, it also inherited a centuries-old system of slavery that was partially driven by Native cycles of captive-raiding as well as settler demand for labor. California quickly became the center of ongoing slavery and abuse of Native labor in the 1850s – ironically just as it was admitted as a free state.

To tell this story, Fisher had already undertaken archival research in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Virginia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Bermuda, Barbados, the Bahamas, and Jamaica. This leave gave Fisher the opportunity to spend three months in England. Most of this leave was spent simply writing; he has 12 chapters planned, of which eight are drafted with substantial progress made on the final four. Fisher was able to make a few local archival trips during this year of leave, as well as an important trip to the U.K. National Archives outside of London. With any luck, he will hand in a full manuscript in the summer of 2019 to Oxford.

Fisher also gave talks on this current book project and Indian slavery more generally at Yale, Brandeis, New York University, the Huntington Library (Pasadena, CA), the Center for Reconciliation (Providence, RI), and the Tomaquag Museum. Fisher presented at conferences in Seville, Spain, and London, England, in addition to chairing and responding to a paper at the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Another project that occupied much of his time this year was the Database of Indigenous Slavery in the Americas (DISA), for which Fisher is the director/P.I. DISA is a database that, in its final form, seeks to document as many as possible instances of indigenous enslavement in the Americas between 1492 and 1900 (and beyond, where relevant). Working with a team of undergraduate and graduate researchers (initially funded by SSRI and PTSC seed grants), along with staff members from the Center for Digital Scholarship (CDS) including Elli Mylonas and Ashley Champagne, Fisher applied for two major outside fellowships this year as well as an internal Brown OVPR Seed Grant (which was secured). The group has built a test database of 500 entries and is working with programmers from the CDS to refine a prototype entry form and public search page.

Fisher appreciated having the John Carter Brown Library as a research home while on leave. One of the downsides to still being on campus, however, is that it is hard to completely disconnect. Fisher continued to serve on the Steering Committee for the Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative as it geared up for a second major search for a director. He has also continued to work with and mentor graduate students with preliminary exam preparation and dissertation research.

Still, it was a wonderfully productive year. The end of the book is in sight, something that seemed almost impossible a year ago. Fisher expresses his gratitude to the ACLS and to Brown for their support of his research and writing.

Andrew Foster

ECONOMICS • 2017-18

Professor Andrew Foster spent his sabbatical in the Economics Department and Center for the Study of Demography and Ecology (CSDE) at the University of Washington. For the most part he used the time to work on ongoing projects. He also regularly attended a workshop in the economics department on economic development, a demography workshop in CSDE, and in econometric methods at Amazon. In the first, Foster enjoyed interacting with a handful of young development economists now at UW and in seeing some speakers from the west coast. In the second, it was useful to see the way another population center operates on the ground. The CSDE tends to be much more focused on domestic and urban issues than is the PSTC and a number of the presenters are engaged with local and regional level agencies in interesting ways. In the third it was useful to see how cutting-edge econometric methods are being incorporated into a business setting. There is a growing market for Ph.D. economists in this arena and it was useful to see where our training is more and less relevant for this market. Foster also met several people from the Gates Foundation and got a better sense of their priorities. Finally, he used UW as a base for a number of talks on the West Coast including at Oregon State and Berkeley.

In terms of research, the front and back end of his sabbatical was spent working on a project with John Logan on the measurement of spatial segregation. The two were able to finish the revisions for a forthcoming paper that shows how standard measures of income segregation using sampled data tend to be biased. They have derived a correction for this bias. More recently they have received access to census restricted data, which they believe is critical in actually applying these methods to measure recent trends in segregation. A consequence of accessing these data is that they realized that it was important to account for weights that are used by census to estimate population distributions from sampled American Community Survey Data. Foster and Logan used the relationship between sample weights and tract data estimated from restricted census data to develop a comparable weighting scheme that can be applied to 1940 census household-level data. The simulations allowed the two to check formulae that they developed to correct bias in weighted data and showed that bias corrections that do not account for weights can yield quite misleading conclusions. They are now applying these methods to contemporary data through the Census Data Center in Michigan.

Professor Foster also embarked on a new paper looking at tea auctions in Bangladesh. The basic insight of this paper is to examine whether and how brokers in a tea market use reservation prices to transmit information to buyers about the relative competitiveness of subsequent auctions in a setting where lots are auctions in rapid succession. The competitiveness matters in a repeated auction because buyers will tend to shade their current bids based on the expected surplus they can accrue if they buy in the future. If they think the future auctions will be competitive they will shade less. The particular insight of this work is that brokers will set a different reservation price if they are simply acting for agents of individual sellers rather than being willing to trade off current for future sales, as they will if they are auctioning lots in which they have an ownership stake. Here Foster developed an econometric procedure that pays careful attention to how information is revealed in the course of these auctions. The results show quite clearly that raising the reservation price does provide some long run benefit in terms of the evolution of prices.

Finally, Foster continued to work on his analysis of the 40-year panel data from Bangladesh, for which his team collected an additional round last year. The broad idea of this project is to consider how access to public health and schooling affects the process of economic mobility. An important insight for this work was that there are two distinct mechanisms that operate. The first is that the process of economic mobility is affected by how households recombine over time through the process of marriage and household partition. The second is that households even with a similar lineage may see different levels of intergenerational mobility based on available public resources. In Bangladesh over the 1990-2014 period, there was a great deal of stratification in the process of recombination but mobility was nonetheless very high. This result seems, in large part to be due to the high degree of health and educational services even to the poorest households and the rapidly changing nature of the economy, which disrupts traditional forms of economic advantage.

Professor Foster is grateful to Brown for this opportunity to enjoy a very different environment for a year, after almost 15 years of serving as a unit director or chair. It has been uplifting not just intellectually but also in more personal terms, and he looks forward to returning campus with renewed vigor.

Baylor Fox-Kemper

EARTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND PLANETARY SCIENCES • SPRING 2018

Professor Fox-Kemper took his post-tenure sabbatical leave in the spring of 2018. The early part of the semester was spent at Brown, with the exceptions of visits to the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the Simons Foundation in New York, and the American Geophysical Union's Ocean Sciences meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Professor Fox-Kemper's interests are ocean physics and the role of the oceans in earth's climate and environmental challenges. He works on theory, numerical models, and remote and autonomous observations. These meetings centered around climate modeling opportunities and challenges.

Professor Fox-Kemper was recently selected to be a coordinating lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment report. The chapter he will co-lead is on Ocean, Cryosphere, and Sea Level Change. Much of the remaining time during the early spring was consumed with preparing for the first lead author meeting at the end of June in Guangzhou, China.

From the beginning of April until this IPCC meeting, Professor Fox-Kemper co-lead a long program at the Kavli Institute of Theoretical Physics on the University of California Santa Barbara campus entitled, "Planetary Boundary Layers in Atmospheres, Oceans, and Ice on Earth and Moons." Professor Marston of the physics department was a co-coordinator. Paraphrasing from the program description: the exchange of energy, mass, and other important quantities across interfaces is a fundamental physical problem spanning all of the natural sciences. Boundary and interfacial layers often exert controlling influence on these exchanges and are characterized by a change of phase, waves, spray, bubbles, melting/freezing, and other vigorous mixing or forcing. This program has focused on key questions that illustrate the generality of the interaction phenomenon and facilitate the synthesis of ideas and techniques from different disciplines.

Key advances were made during the program, by the roughly 70 participants from research centers and universities worldwide. The first is the organization of a multinational comparison program for ocean surface boundary layer parameterizations, led by recent Brown Ph.D. Qing Li. A second is a broad exchange of ideas on wave-current interactions in the upper ocean, and modeling techniques to facilitate better predictive capabilities of these interactions, including the release of the new NCAR Community Earth System Model version 2 which includes wave-current interactions implemented by the Fox-Kemper group at Brown. A third is the exchange of Large Eddy Simulation techniques between practitioners who simulate the atmospheric boundary layer and those who simulate the oceanic boundary layer. Finally, many of the Brown graduate students and postdocs working on climate modeling were able to visit the program, which allowed them to network and learn from a worldwide variety of researchers. Professor Fox-Kemper will return to Brown in July. The remaining summer work will involve the zeroth draft of the IPCC chapter, his upcoming book *Vital Mathematical Methods for Earth Sciences*, his new fall course related to the IPCC report, and federally- and corporate-funded projects on Narragansett Bay, the Bay of Bengal, the Gulf of Mexico, and fundamental ocean and climate physics.

Susan Harvey

RELIGIOUS STUDIES • 2017

Professor Susan Harvey used her leave to focus on three book projects currently underway. Most importantly, she focused on the monograph she has been researching for some years, on women's religious singing in late antique and early medieval Syriac Christianity. The book is titled, *Women's Singing, Women's Stories in Ancient Syriac Christianity*. During the leave, Harvey drafted about two thirds of the book (approximately 90,000 words/ 330 pages). The first half of the book (four chapters) deals with the cultures of women's religious singing across the ancient Mediterranean world and its different religions, as well as all the evidence, both

textual and material, that can be used to reconstruct the Syriac women's liturgical choirs. These choirs appear to have performed a teaching ministry unique within ancient Christianity, notable both for the ritual role they played and for the types of hymns they sang. These hymns (for which the music has been wholly lost) gave attention to the stories of biblical women from both the Old and New Testaments. The literary forms favored imagined speeches and dialogues for their characters, both female and male, generally not part of the biblical accounts. These were enhanced by other forms of sung liturgical poetry, especially that of sung sermons by the bishop or clergy. These again often recounted biblical stories with long, fictive speeches by the characters, far exceeding the biblical accounts themselves, especially for the female characters, who, in biblical stories, spoke very little. Thus real women's voices sang the imagined voices of the biblical past, often in the first person voice; and women's choirs framed the singing of male clergy. Harvey focuses on those hymns and sung homilies wherein stories of particular biblical women informed and interacted with the work of the choirs. The second half of the book (four chapters) is about the female laity, and their voices in the work of singing responses, congregational hymns, prayers, and recitations. A different set of biblical women's stories – again sung in their different forms by choirs, clergy or laity – frame and engage the voices of the laity. Complex, highly nuanced explorations of gender and subjectivity attend these sung poetic accounts, as do issues of authority, ritual agency, performance, and civic or public significance.

In connection with this book project, Professor Harvey delivered an endowed lecture series, the Virginia Farah Lectures, in Greece in May 2017, delivering a public lecture on "Voices of the Liturgy: Gender and Performance in the Early Byzantine Church" at the Volos Academy for Theological Studies, the University of Thessaloniki, and the National Hellenic Research Foundation in Athens. She also presented a research seminar for the National Hellenic Research Foundation in Athens, titled "On the Laity: Ancient Syriac Models." The material drew on Byzantine Greek as well as Syriac sources. An account of the series is given here: <https://acadimia.org/en/news-announcements/press/423-virginia-h-farah-annual-lectures-and-seminar-in-volos-thessaloniki-and-athens-by-professor-susan-ashbrook-harvey-2>. Harvey was also able to visit a number of women's monasteries (most importantly, the women's monastery of the Annunciation at Ormylia), as well as Byzantine and early Christian archaeological sites, and to participate in several interesting meetings regarding women's liturgical singing in the current Greek Orthodox Church.

Harvey delivered a keynote address, "Liturgical Voices: Models from Ancient Syriac Christianity," for Villanova University's annual Patristic, Medieval, and Renaissance Conference, in October 2017, for which the theme was hymnography, liturgy, and prayer.

Two other book projects that took time from Harvey's leave are:

- An anthology of translations from late antique Syriac with her graduate students, for the Gorgias Press, bi-lingual Syriac-English series of Persian Martyr Acts. They have translated three different martyr accounts, telling of Christians martyred in Sasanian Persia. These probably date from the sixth century, although they recount events purportedly from the fourth, under the King Shapur II. They are presently revising the translations, on target to submit the completed volume early in 2019. This will be the second such volume they have done (the first appeared in 2016, an anthology of sung sermons by the sixth century author Jacob of Sarug).
- A volume co-edited with Margaret Mullett, *Managing Emotions: Passions, Emotions, Affects, and Imaginings in Byzantium*. There are 14 essays in the final manuscript. The book is under contract with Routledge Press.

Finally, for the second of three years on this project, Harvey participated in the human rights project on Gender and Sexuality in the Orthodox Church, sponsored by the Oslo Coalition for Freedom of Religion and Beliefs, under the rubric “New Directions in Orthodox Thought.” This is a very exciting international project involving a handful of Americans, along with scholars from Norway, Greece, Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, the Republic of Georgia, Sweden, Romania, and elsewhere. Harvey has been thrilled to see her work applied in a contemporary, human rights context.

While in Oslo, Harvey gave a presentation on “Daughters of the Covenant: Women’s Liturgical Singing, and Teaching Authority in Ancient Syriac Christianity” to the Research Group on Hymnography of Constantinople at the University of Oslo for a working session on ascetic cathedral choirs in late antiquity (Constantinople, Alexandria, and Edessa).

Riki Heck

PHILOSOPHY • SPRING 2018

Professor Riki Heck spent their sabbatical doing two things. The first involved finishing a number of papers that will wrap up research projects in which they have been engaged for many years. It is not that they have nothing more to say on those topics, but, as they mentioned in their last sabbatical report, they have developed a serious research interest in a set of issues at the intersection of gender and sexuality. It has taken Heck some time to re-educate themselves to the point that they can begin to do productive work on this topic, and they still have much to learn (and read).

Professor Heck’s initial focus has been on criticizing what is perhaps the best-known work on pornography done by an analytic philosopher – Rae Langton, of the University of Cambridge, who has for 25 years now been defending and developing the sort of anti-pornography feminism first articulated by Andrea Dworkin and Catherine MacKinnon. This is a good initial project for Heck, since Langton makes heavy use of ideas from philosophy of language, which is one of Heck’s pre-existing specializations. Heck’s first paper on these issues considers the use that Langton and her co-author Caroline West make of the notion of accommodation (due to David Lewis), arguing that they misunderstand these notions in fundamental ways. Heck’s goal in the paper is not just negative, however, but to start bringing into the philosophical conversation some of the really fantastic work on pornography that has been done in film studies and queer theory. They also have a rough draft of a companion paper that discusses Langton and West’s use of the notion of presupposition but which is really about how to ‘read’ pornography. And they have notes towards a number of other papers in this vicinity, at least one of which they hope to finish over the summer.

There are also some papers on gender identity that Heck would like to write, an interest that emerges from their personal experience as someone who is genderqueer. Heck did a fair bit of reading on this topic during the spring and has identified a couple possible paper topics, but it will be a little while still before they are able to begin actual writing.

There are two older projects on which Heck also worked during their sabbatical. The first is concerned with the nature of mental representation and, in particular, with issues about “sense and reference” that emerge from the work of Gottlob Frege (and have been a major pre-occupation of analytic philosophers). Professor Heck had hoped already to be done with what they regard as their “final statement” on these issues, but it has blossomed (or ballooned, depending upon one’s perspective) into a 70 to 80 page paper, and they still have a little work to do. This paper is intended to be the centerpiece of a collection of their papers on this topic, *Modes of Representation*, for which they’ve now submitted a proposal to Oxford University Press. Heck has begun work editing the papers that will comprise that collection and thinking about postscripts to some of the papers and an introductory essay. They hope to finish much of that work over the summer and believe the book could be finished by the end of the year.

Professor Heck also drafted another paper in this same vicinity, a criticism of recent work by David Chalmers on the notion of a priori truth. They had hoped to keep it under 4000 words (the limit for the journal *Analysis*, which specializes in short papers), but that proved impossible. They therefore need to expand the paper a bit, to make it more suitable for some other journal. That work should also be finished this summer.

The second of the older projects concerns truth. Here again, there was one main essay Heck still felt they had to write, and it was the first thing they completed this spring. They have been delivering versions of that material in lectures since 2009 but have never been quite happy with it. Now, finally, they are. This paper will eventually figure as the centerpiece of another collection, *Against Disquotation*, which Heck will propose to OUP as soon as *Modes* is completed.

Professor Heck is also projecting a third collection of papers on meaning and communication, and possibly a fourth, co-authored with Robert May, of papers on Frege. But these are some ways out still.



Bifalone, Cameroon (November 2017)

Nancy Jacobs

HISTORY • FALL 2017

Professor Nancy Jacobs’s sabbatical in fall 2017 allowed her to break ground on new research on the history of the African grey parrot. With this project, her work on the environmental history of Africa takes the animal turn and goes global.

In preparation for her sabbatical, Jacobs compiled an exhaustive biography on the history, ecology, cognition, and behavior of the species. She found documentary evidence of



African greys in their native habitat, in human homes on four continents, in breeding aviaries, in research laboratories, and in rescue sanctuaries. But, the global story began in Africa, where knowledge is often transmitted orally and so fieldwork was essential. This sabbatical allowed Jacobs to make three trips to Africa – two to South Africa and one to . She did interviews in both places, with Cameroonians who held generations of about the species and with South Africans who are breeding African Greys and trading them internationally as a commodity.

Jacobs completed the sabbatical with a good sense of how her research questions can become a historical analysis. Known for its intelligence, sociability, and vocal learning, the African grey is an ideal subject for a more-than-human history.

The African grey is native to west central Africa. In their native forests, parrots share knowledge and have social relationships. Like other wild parrots, African greys communicate with mates, offspring, other flock members, and even other species. People in African forests recognized their sociability and intelligence, but did not keep them in cages. They told stories about them

as a known but independent fellow species. African greys were traded to Europe over 500 years ago and have been documented in writing and painting ever since. Even among parrots, they were known for their vocal ability. In Europe, humans and African greys bonded as intimate companions.

Africans and Europeans who lived with the birds knew them as intelligent and social creatures, but until the late twentieth century, scientists understood their vocalizations as nothing more than mimicry. Since then, a paradigm shift in animal cognition has made it possible to interpret the parrot-human interactions in the documentary and oral record. Informed by knowledge from the birds' African neighbors, companion humans, and scientists, Professor Jacobs approaches the relations between people and African greys as a form of politics varying according to context. Together, African greys and people share culture and form intimate relationships. Jacobs asks what qualities people and birds bring from one context to the next and how they negotiate new circumstances with each other. This is a more-than-human political and cultural history.

It is also an environmental and economic history. The trajectory is that as a species, African greys are progressively coming under human domination. Like so many other species, dramatic changes to their existence have occurred since the late twentieth century. The increase in the trade of wild-caught birds to pet owners on other continents and the conversion of habitat to commodity-producing plantations have resulted in the species being declared endangered. Since the 1990s animal breeders in South Africa – where the bird is

not native – have responded to global demand and bred chicks for export. Thus, the African Grey has become a causality of environmental change and a commodity of capitalist production.

It is essential to read the political-cultural and economic-environmental stories together. The lesson will be that under human-dominated contact, companion relations, care, and even shared culture are possible. This is an important realization now, during the Anthropocene.

During her sabbatical, Jacobs also worked on a side project. Since 2016, she has been researching the life Washington Okumu, a Kenyan quasi-diplomat. During this sabbatical, Jacobs was able to bring what will probably be four articles on his life and career closer to completion. The project picked up momentum at the June meeting of the South African Historical Association where she organized three sessions on the topic of “Awkward Biographies.” Then in October Jacobs hosted a follow-up workshop on that subject at Brown. After that workshop, Professor Andrew Bank of the University of the Western Cape and Jacobs successfully proposed co-editing a special issue of *African Studies* featuring new approaches to Southern African biography. The major piece of her Okumu research will be published there. A shorter article from the Okumu project (a non-peer reviewed), was completed during the sabbatical and has already been published.



Psittacus erithacus (Grey Parrot) in Cameroon (2017)

Tamar Katz

ENGLISH • FALL 2017

Tamar Katz spent her sabbatical semester completing a new chapter of her book in progress, *City Memories: Marking Time in the Literature of New York City*. The chapter, “Harlem Rooms: Larsen and McKay’s Mobile Stories,” proposes a new model of urban space in writing of the 1920s Harlem Renaissance. Turning away from classic focus on the city as an anonymous crowd, she argues instead that under the pressures of segregation, these modernist writers recast the city as a series of separate, semi-public spaces. They experimented with narratives that moved across these spaces and back in time. Professor Katz delivered part of the paper as an invited lecture at Harvard’s Mahindra Humanities Center and related material at the Modernist Studies Association in Amsterdam. In addition, she contributed an essay on “Impressionism and Post-Impressionism” to *Oxford’s Handbook to Virginia Woolf*, currently in press.

Karl Kelsey

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE • FALL 2017

Professor Karl Kelsey utilized his sabbatical to work on augmentation of his research portfolio that is focused upon perfecting and expanding techniques to assess the individual immune profile using DNA-based tools, relating this to environmental exposures and distinct disease states. The major advance of this approach is the ability to assess relative immune cell-type numbers from stored whole blood sources. This makes assessing immune profiles prospectively in large population-based studies possible.

Dr. Kelsey worked with Professor Brock Christensen at Dartmouth, crafting a collaborative NIH grant application (which has subsequently been funded) to study immune profiles in bladder cancer patients. The main hypothesis of the work is that immune profiles, assessed from blood drawn at the time of diagnosis, will predict response to treatment and subsequent survival time, independent of currently known predictive variables. The research draws upon the resources of a large epidemiological study, also completed collaboratively with Brown and Dartmouth, enrolling and following all patients with a bladder cancer in New Hampshire.

Going forward, Professor Kelsey and his collaborators will continue to refine the method, which uses lineage specific patterns of DNA methylation to identify individual immune cell subtypes (a subtype 'library'). Current work, begun during the sabbatical, includes expanding the DNA methylation 'library' to include assessment of additional cell subtypes. This would include current efforts to identify unique DNA methylation profiles that define myeloid-derived suppressor cells and different types of T-regulatory CD4 cells.

The collaborative model for this work has continued to expand, including multiple investigators from Universities across the country. Professor Kelsey is currently working with postdocs of Professor Christensen (Dartmouth), senior investigators at UCSF and Kansas as well as with trainees at Brown. The research in this field is, as a result, spreading quickly!

Hence, the sabbatical was a rich experience, resulting in new research funding and additional scholarly success.

Jacques Khalip

ENGLISH • FALL 2017

Jacques Khalip spent his spring sabbatical working on a book he is co-authoring with Claire Colebrook and Lee Edelman entitled *Unlivable: Queer Theory Beyond the Material*. The book asks how and why recent queer theoretical turns within new materialism, animal studies, and science studies (among other approaches) have continued to focus on "life" as a foundational concept or norm. What is the attachment of queerness to life? How might it be possible to think against life? And finally, could there be modes of thought that do not accept the human as a primary and necessary good?

Professor Khalip's second project, *Disposable Love: Photography and Time*, takes as its starting point a simple, unremarkable question: How long can we sustain an attachment to a photograph? A photograph isn't, of course, living, so it cannot live with us. But could one reproduce a relationship with a photograph, develop a form of "life" with it, which mimicked its non-alive relationship with us? What would it mean to "have" a photograph for a long time and to chance upon it every day? The book is still at an early stage, and while it is meant to be speculative and wide ranging in its queer theoretical concerns, it also hopes to counter emphases on recognition, community, and witnessing in photography studies.

Earlier this year, Professor Khalip's most recent book, *Last Things: Disastrous Form from Kant to Hujar* (Fordham University Press, 2018), was published. It theorizes what he calls a structure of lastness that permeates romantic thinking, past and present, and it dwells with attending anxieties around ecological, political, aesthetic, and philosophical extinction, including the disappearing state of Romantic studies in the university.

In March, Professor Khalip gave a paper on "Utopian Chastity" at the Society of Cinema and Media Studies in Toronto. His article, "The Last Animal at the End of the World," is due to be published this year in *European Romantic Review*. He has also been invited to participate in a colloquium this November at the University of Maryland on Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

Finally, he has been working throughout 2017-18 as chair of the organizing committee that is bringing the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism's (NASSR) annual conference to Brown between June 22 and June 25.

Andrew Laird

CLASSICS • 2017-18

Andrew Laird devoted most of his sabbatical leave to resuming work on a monograph, now entitled *Aztec Latin: Renaissance humanism and Nahua traditions in sixteenth-century Mexico*. The study reassesses the intellectual collaborations between missionary friars and their native students in Mexico during the first decades after the Spanish conquest of 1521. These collaborations led to a remarkable degree of interaction between elements of European humanist education and Nahua or “Aztec” traditions. As Franciscans were applying the precepts of ancient Roman grammarians to Amerindian languages, their educated converts translated some classical and humanist literature as well as Christian texts into Nahuatl, and they also produced substantial and significant writings of their own. The next generation of Nahua chroniclers constructed narratives of the pre-Hispanic past which were illustrated or inspired by analogies from Greco-Roman history, while several putatively traditional discourses in Nahuatl show the influence of European thought and oratory. The book aims to show how humanism’s most pervasive disciplines and practices – classical grammar, rhetoric, pedagogy, antiquarianism and translation – were themselves transformed as they were applied to the mediation of Mexican legacies, sometimes serving the interests of Nahua elites as well as those of the religious orders. The study thus offers a fresh approach to cultural decolonization, by combining a less romanticized view of Nahua literary production with a more informed recognition of what the first indigenous scholars in New Spain really achieved. In the past months Andrew Laird has undertaken research for this project in national libraries of Mexico, Spain, France and the UK British Library.

Two papers connected to the above project have been completed: “Aztec Latinists”, commissioned for a forthcoming *Brill Companion to the Classical Tradition in the Early Americas*; and “From the Mexican *Epistolae et Evangelia* (c. 1540) to Mijangos *Espejo divino* (1607): Nahuatl religious texts and Indian Latinists at the College of Santa Cruz de Tlatelolco” submitted to a new refereed periodical, *Journal of Latin Cosmopolitanism and European Literature*. This paper dispels long-standing misapprehensions about the native translators of sacred texts in early colonial Mexico and scrutinizes Nahuatl versions of biblical texts surviving in manuscript to argue that the suppression of such translations after the Council of Trent led not only to the translation of a range of medieval and Renaissance Latin devotional texts but also to the creation of a new religious literature in Nahuatl. The role of Christian Latin humanism in shaping early colonial Nahuatl literature bears some comparison to its underscoring of vernacular literary genres and protocols in early modern European literary history.

2017-18 also saw the completion of two other books: January-February 2018 were spent finalizing and preparing for press the contributions for an edited volume, *Antiquities and Classical Traditions in Latin America*, including two self-authored chapters. The book is to be published by Wiley and will appear in the *Bulletin of Latin American Research Monographs* series, produced in collaboration with the Society for Latin American Studies. The impetus for this book came from a recognition of the extent to which conceptions of European antiquity have proved a foundational and enduring element in many phases of historical change in the Americas. The purpose of the collection is therefore to advance from that realization, in order to help integrate “Hispanic” or “Latin American” legacies into mainstream currents of the humanities, so that those legacies are no longer marginalized in language-specific or area studies disciplines.

The second completed book contains a study of Horace’s *Ars Poetica* (translated into Italian) introducing a new imprint of the text and commentary by Augusto Rostagni which remains the most influential edition of Horace’s enigmatic verse treatise. *Orazio, Arte poetica* will be published in Bononia University Press, Bologna (an associate publisher of the University of Bologna), in the series *Classici latini per l’Università*.

A further two articles written in October-November 2017 were published in April 2018: “Love and Death in Renaissance Latin Bucolic: The *Chronis* and its Origins (Biblioteca Nacional de México ms. 1631)” in *Life Love and Death in Latin Poetry* (De Gruyter 2018). This presents an edition, translation and study of a 265-verse Latin poem in a manuscript at the National Library of Mexico. The study treats the transmission of the *Chronis*, arguing for its Italian origin and exploring its literary qualities through analysis of structure, literary reminiscences and onomastics. The poem’s erotic pastoral framework is shown to be a vehicle for Christian doctrines about life after death. The study is followed by a five-page conspectus of ancient and Renaissance Latin sources for the text. The other article, “Colonial grammatology: the versatility and transformation of European letters in sixteenth-century Spanish America” in *Language and History* challenges Walter Mignolo’s view that the Renaissance grammarian Antonio Nebrija’s theory of writing had a role in justifying Spanish imperialism and contributed to the diminution of native languages and memory in the Americas. The article demonstrates that Isidore of Seville’s versatile conception of writing, which accommodated pictograms, was far more pervasive in Spain and the New World, fostering parallel advances in written and pictorial communication by indigenous groups, while European letters provided a flexible means of notation for Amerindian languages.

A co-authored paper on Vinko Paletin’s *De jure et justitia belli contra Indos* was submitted to *Studia Marulliana* in April. The self-authored part of the article examines a contradiction between the Latin and Spanish manuscript versions of the *De jure et justitia belli*: the contradiction exposes the artificial nature of Paletin’s argument that the Mayans were of Punic (Carthaginian) origin.

Finally, Andrew Laird has begun to collaborate with Professor David Tavárez at Vassar College on the study of a prior version of Fray Juan de Gaona, *Colloquios de la paz, y tranquilidad Christiana en la lengua Mexicana* from a manuscript discovered by Heréndira Téllez Nieto at the Biblioteca Capitulare in Toledo: the printed edition of this important Nahuatl work is in the John Carter Brown Library. This undertaking is part of the first phase of an international project, *Traducciones bíblicas en lenguas indoamericanas*, led by Dr. Fernando Navas, Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas, UNAM and Dr Heréndira Téllez, CONACYT-Sonora, Mexico.

Professor Andrew Laird presented papers in panels he organized for two large conferences: the first panel was on “Classical Tradition between Modern Languages and Classics” for *Modern Languages and Cultures for the 21st Century* at Durham University; the second on



Juan de Gaona, *Colloquios de la paz, y tranquilidad christiana, en lengua Mexicana*, Mexico 1582, John Carter Brown Library.

“Writing Culture in Latin” at the *International Association for Neo-Latin Studies* congress in Albacete, Spain; and he produced additional new material in invited papers for two specialized events: *L'Europe de logique: Les traditions aristotéliennes* at the Collège de France, Paris in May 2018; and *Religions in Contact* at the Institute of Classical Studies in London in June 2018. During 2017-18 he also gave a talk at the 2018 *Colloquium Marullianum* in Split and delivered guest lectures on his current research at the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras in UNAM-Mexico, at the Russell Society in Oxford, and the Faculty of Classics in Cambridge (UK).

Jennifer Lambe

HISTORY • 2017-18

With the support of a Henry Merritt Wriston Fellowship, Jennifer Lambe devoted her leave to conducting research for her new book project on the Cuban Revolution. This took her to archives in Miami and Palo Alto, with two smaller trips still to come. She also completed two articles based on this research, which focus on the Revolution's TV career, and wrote a book chapter on “Visible Pleasure and Sex Policing: State, Science, and Desire in Twentieth-Century Cuba,” which will be published in *Psychoanalysis in the Barrios*, edited by Patricia Gherovici and Christopher Christian (Routledge, 2018). In addition, Lambe was invited to participate in a roundtable for *Cuban Studies* on the periodization of the Cuban Revolution. The dossier, entitled “¿Cuándo terminó la Revolución Cubana?” will be published in a 2018 issue of the journal.

In 2018, Lambe and her co-editor, Michael Bustamante (Florida International University), ushered their volume, *The Revolution from Within: Cuba, 1959-1980*, through a final round of copy edits. The book will be published by Duke University Press in early 2019. They also wrote about the relationship between histories of the Revolution and Cuba's changing political scene for *Age of Revolutions* (viewable at <https://ageofrevolutions.com/2017/12/01/in-fidels-shadow-cuban-history-and-futures-one-year-on/>). Finally, this year saw the publication of the third installment of Lambe's digital humanities project, *Beyond the Sugar Curtain: Tracing Cuba-U.S. Connections since 1959*. The issue, which was focused on “Culture,” featured essays on material socialism, weddings, film, electronic dance music, Cuba-Puerto Rico relations, and emergent Internet culture. It can be viewed at brown.edu/sugarcurtain.

Charles Larmore

PHILOSOPHY • FALL 2017

During his sabbatical leave in the fall semester of 2017, Charles Larmore worked on three different books: *What is Political Philosophy?* (to appear with Princeton University), *Morality and Metaphysics* (to appear with Cambridge University Press), and *Comment vivre sa vie* (“How to live one's life”), a book in French to appear with Editions Odile Jacob. Various chapters of the French book were written, including one on the fear of death, which was also presented as a talk during this semester in Montreal and Paris. And various chapters of the book on morality and metaphysics were revised and expanded, this book being a collection of Larmore's essays published over the past 10 years. But the most substantial work was done on the book in political philosophy. It is now basically finished.

This book focuses on how we should understand the difference between political philosophy and moral philosophy. Is political philosophy just the application to society of various moral principles, most particularly those having to do with distributive justice, that have been justified by arguments belonging essentially to moral philosophy? This conception, however widespread today, is wrong, this book argues. Political philosophy has as its object the principles by which people can live together despite the various disagreements that divide them, including not least disagreements about what is morally right and good. It follows that the primary normative concept with which it must be concerned is not justice, contrary to what has become the dominant idea in recent political theory. Instead, its concern must lie primarily with the concept of legitimacy. That is, it must concern itself fundamentally with the conditions under which principles of political association, which (in contrast to moral principles as such) are essentially coercive in nature, can rightly be imposed by state power on those who are to be subject to political rule. Only once the conditions of legitimate rule are determined, should political philosophy then go on to figure out what system of distributive justice is appropriate for a given society. It is within this framework that the book then moves on to a discussion of some of the leading problems of contemporary liberal thought.

David Lindstrom

SOCIOLOGY • FALL 2017

Professor David Lindstrom divided his sabbatical between two lines of research, one focused on migration in Latin America and a second on adolescent health and migration in Ethiopia. In collaboration with faculty from El Colegio de México in Mexico City he completed an edited volume on migration in the Americas that brings together collaborative work by young investigators from across Latin America who participated in the 2017 BIARI-Mexico workshop that Lindstrom co-directed. Lindstrom also presented an invited paper on international migration from Latin America and family formation at a conference on fertility decline at the University of Paris. In this paper Lindstrom shows that delayed marriage and higher rates of marital dissolution that are associated with international migration are important contributing factors to the lower

fertility found among Latin America migrants to the United States and Europe compared to their non-migrant peers. The paper is currently under review. In an invited paper on Mexican migrant integration into the United States presented at a conference at El Colegio de México, Lindstrom developed six composite measures of migrant experience to follow trends in the multidimensional nature of migrant integration (linguistic, social, family, employment, financial, and asset integration). In another paper co-authored with a graduate student from El Colegio de México, Lindstrom used the same measures to examine the relationship between self-report health and U.S. migration experience among settled and return migrants. Preliminary results from this paper provide evidence of the selective return to Mexico of migrants who develop poor health in the United States. They also find that higher levels of integration in the United States are actually associated with declining health. Lindstrom and his co-author suggest that the stress associated with trying to make it in the United States while at the bottom of the occupational ladder is making migrants sick.

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 rounds and four adolescent survey rounds. In December, Lindstrom co-organized with his Ethiopian partners a National Dissemination and Policy Dialogue Meeting in Addis Ababa. The half-day meeting brought together Ethiopian scholars, service providers, and policy makers working in the area of adolescent health and well-being. Lindstrom and his collaborators from Jimma University presented selected key findings and policy recommendations from the JLFSY, with a focus on their relevance to the National Adolescent and Youth Health Strategy released by the Ministry of Health. Also during his sabbatical Lindstrom completed and submitted to journals papers on the role of parents in adolescent health seeking, the impact of food insecurity and economic shocks on internal and international migration, and the role of family networks on international migration across the early life course.

Kathryn Mann

MATHEMATICS • FALL 2017

Kathryn Mann spent the fall semester supported by an NSF grant. During this time, she completed a major long-term collaborative project with Maxime Wolff (Institut de Mathématiques de Jussieu, Paris) resulting in the completion and submission of two papers, “A characterization of Fuchsian actions by topological rigidity” (preprint available at arxiv.org/abs/1711.05665) and “Rigidity and geometricity for surface group actions on the circle” (preprint at arxiv.org/abs/1710.04902).

The project involves the study of the interplay between the dynamics of a group action and the underlying geometric structure of the group. A dynamical system is called “rigid” if it is stable under perturbations. Rigidity is the opposite of chaotic behavior, like in weather systems, where small perturbations can cause drastic changes in later outcome. The breakthrough result is that, in an important case of interest in the field of low-dimensional topology, there is only one source of rigid dynamics, and this is an underlying geometric structure. Put otherwise, from a purely dynamical assumption, one can reconstruct a geometric

object (in technical language, a Lie group) that ensures the system has many more symmetries and much more structure than originally assumed. This gives the converse to Mann’s previous work published in the paper “Spaces of surface group representations” (*Inventiones Mathematicae*). She has since presented the joint work with Wolff at conferences at the University of Chicago, the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics at UCLA, the Fields Institute in Toronto, and at a number of seminar and colloquia, and will give an invited mini-course on it this summer at a summer school in Copenhagen.

As a secondary project during the fall, Mann prepared an invited submission, joint with Bena Tshishiku (Harvard) for the Proceedings of the 2017 Georgia International Topology Conference. This work is on “realization problems for diffeomorphism groups,” a subject that also ties the geometry and algebraic structure of a group to the dynamics of its actions. The goal of the work was to give an introduction to important problems in this area on a level accessible to graduate students, to draw parallels between existing results and techniques, and to present original arguments to showcase key applications and techniques. Mann hopes that this survey and problems list can serve as a starting point for discussion with graduate students who plan to work with her.

Katherine Mason

ANTHROPOLOGY • 2017-18

Professor Mason’s major research focus during her sabbatical was advancing her new transnational ethnographic research project on postpartum mood and anxiety disorders in the U.S. and China. A secondary research focus was her work as a core consultant and advisory board member for a collaborative, mixed methods study funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and based in Cleveland known as the (PI Sarah Willen, University of Connecticut). Mason also spent a good portion of her time writing and submitting articles based on these projects, on her postdoctoral work on HIV/AIDS testing among Chinese immigrants to New York City, and on her previous work on the professionalization of public health in China. She submitted two new articles to top journals in cultural anthropology, and two revise-and-resubmits (*American Ethnologist* and one of which is a chapter in an edited collection awaiting final approval by the editor).

During the 2016-17 academic year, Mason completed 45 home-based, open-ended interviews and observation sessions with nine families in Rhode Island in which a new mother had been diagnosed with a postpartum mood and anxiety disorder. She then spent the summer of 2017 conducting similar interviews and observations with 10 families in Luzhou, China. During the first semester of her sabbatical in fall 2017 Mason expanded her research scope to gather more types of ethnographic data on the experience of postpartum mental illness. She completed most of the steps toward her certification as a postpartum doula (final certification expected by the end of summer 2018) and also completed a nine-week training course in postpartum mental health. Mason attended an international meeting on perinatal mental illness, began volunteering for a telephone helpline, and began participating on various online support platforms for postpartum depression. In January 2018 Mason began volunteering as a postpartum doula for local clients in

need in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and began receiving referrals from clinicians at Women and Infant's Hospital for patients who are being treated for postpartum mental illness and need extra support at home.

Mason also has continued working with her interviewees from China, with whom she has corresponded via social media, in preparation for a return trip in May and June of 2018. During this return trip to China Mason is traveling to Shanghai and Beijing to interview clinicians who specialize in treating postpartum mood and anxiety disorders. Mason will also follow up with last year's families in Luzhou, conduct observations in the maternity ward of Luzhou's collaborating hospital, and recruit another five families for interviews and observations. She will present preliminary results from her work in China at the Postpartum Support International Annual Conference in Houston in July 2018 and the Marce Society Conference on Perinatal Mental Health in Bangalore India in September 2018.

For her secondary research project, Mason spent several days in Cleveland this spring conducting interviews for a team project. She also helped to design the project's interview guide, provided other feedback and guidance as needed to the PI via email and periodic conference calls, and presented work with the team at the Society for Medical Anthropology's plenary session at the Society for Applied Anthropology conference in Philadelphia in April.

This year Mason also began consulting for a project on data sharing during health emergencies, which is being supported by the Wellcome Fund. This project is affiliated with the Pasteur Institute in Paris (Tamara Giles-Vernick and Sharon Abramowitz, co-PIs).

Finally, Mason gave talks based on her recently published book at several venues, including the University of Washington, the University of Michigan, and the American Anthropological Association annual meeting.

Martin Maxey

APPLIED MATHEMATICS • SPRING 2018

Professor Martin Maxey spent the spring semester focusing on research into multiphase flows and suspension dynamics. Specifically, this was an opportunity to work with his graduate student, Amanda Howard, who completed her Ph.D. in May and will be going on to a postdoctoral appointment at DOE's Pacific Northwest National Lab in July. The semester provided the time to complete papers and to develop papers that will follow later.

Maxey has been exploring the dynamics of solid, spherical particles suspended in a viscous liquid using large scale numerical simulations. The simulations follow the individual motion of large numbers of particles providing a level of detail not available from experiments. We are careful to verify that the simulations do match experimental observation where data are available but then probe at a deeper level the underlying interactions. For example for a pressure-driven flow in a channel, particles will migrate from an initially well-mixed state, evenly dispersed in the channel, to one where particles are concentrated at the centerline. Such viscous flows supposedly have a reversible symmetry but clearly they do not, and the question is what

drives the chaotic, irreversible response. Recent work has pointed to the key role of non-hydrodynamic contact forces between rough-surfaced particles that can break this symmetry. The development of particle fluxes can be tied back to the establishment of contact forces between particles and the significant displacement that these can cause in a shear flow.

During the semester, Maxey's group completed a paper (now accepted for publication) on the dynamics of a concentrated particle cloud suspended in an oscillating shear flow. The study complemented recently experimental work and demonstrated the role of contact forces in dispersion of the cloud. A second paper (in press) was completed looking at the settling motion of heavy particles in a background suspension of neutrally buoyant particles of the same size, while subject to a shear flow. This study gives insights into the particle fluxes that are seen in nonuniform shear flows such as the channel system, but also illustrates the known phenomenon that heavy particles can be made to settle more quickly by adding lighter or neutral particles. Maxey's team has also explored the effects of size variations, a common feature of real experiments, and whether this can result in separation of particles according to size in viscous shear flows. Additional papers are being submitted now on these topics.

Professor Maxey presented work at a Euromech conference on "Numerical simulations of flows with particles, bubbles and droplets" in May and will be an invited speaker at the International Conference for Mesoscopic Methods in Engineering and Science in July.

The semester has also been an opportunity to consider other topics in multiphase flow for future research and to continue developing themes related to climate change for an undergraduate senior seminar course (APMA1930P) and undergraduate research.

Stelios Michalopoulos

ECONOMICS • 2017-2018

Professor Stelios Michalopoulos while on sabbatical presented his work at various workshops and seminars in the US and Europe including delivering two keynote lectures. One at the AFD-World Bank Migration and Development Conference, Stanford and the other in a conference titled "Geodata in Economics" held at the University of Brunswick Institute of Technology.

More importantly he worked on four different projects which are now at different stages. First, the "Landmines and Spatial Development" (joint work with Giorgio Chiovelli and Elias Papaioannou) has been completed and will be circulated as a working paper shortly. This project starts from the observation that landmine contamination affects the lives of millions in many conflict-ridden countries long after the cessation of hostilities. Yet, little research exists on its impact on post-conflict recovery. In this study, they explore the economic consequences of landmine clearance in Mozambique, the only country that has moved from "heavily contaminated" in 1992 to "mine-free" status in 2015. First, they compile a dataset detailing the evolution of clearance, collecting thousands of reports from the numerous demining actors. Second, they

exploit the timing of de-mining to assess its impact on local economic activity, as reflected in satellite images of light density at night. The analysis reveals a moderate positive association that masks sizeable heterogeneity. Economic activity responds strongly to clearance of the transportation network, trade hubs, and more populous areas, while the demining-development association is weak in rural areas of low population density. Third, recognizing that landmine removal reconfigured the accessibility to the transportation infrastructure, they apply a market-access approach to quantify both its direct and indirect effects. The market-access estimates reveal substantial improvements on aggregate economic activity. The market-access benefits of demining are also present in localities without any contamination. Fourth, counterfactual policy simulations project considerable gains had the fragmented process of clearance in Mozambique been centrally coordinated, prioritizing clearance of the colonial transportation routes.

Second, Michalopoulos embarked on a new project (jointly with Melanie Xue) on extracting cultural traits from a society's oral tradition. Folklore is the collection of traditional beliefs, customs, and stories of a community, passed through generations by word of mouth. This vast expressive body, studied by the corresponding discipline of folklore, has evaded the attention of economists. In this study, they do four things that reveal the tremendous potential of this corpus for understanding comparative development, culture, and its transmission. First, they introduce a unique dataset of folklore that codes the presence of thousands of motifs for roughly 1,000 pre-industrial societies. Second, they use a dictionary-based approach to elicit the group-specific intensity of various traits related to its natural environment, institutional framework, and mode of subsistence. They establish that such measures are in accordance with the ethnographic record, suggesting the usefulness of folklore in quantifying currently non-extant characteristics of preindustrial societies including the role of trade. Third, they use oral traditions to shed light on the historical cultural values of these ethnographic societies. Doing so allows us to test various influential hypotheses among anthropologists including the original affluent society, the culture of honor among pastoralists, the role of women in plough-using groups, and the intensity of rule-following norms in politically centralized groups. Finally, they explore how cultural norms inferred via text analysis of oral traditions predict contemporary attitudes and beliefs.

Third, Professor Michalopoulos allocated a significant fraction of his research on an NSF-funded project he was awarded last summer to investigate the impact of the population exchange between Greece and Turkey in 1923. He spent significant amount of time in Greece to coordinate the local research team as well as obtain the necessary clearance for accessing the archives of the Greek National Statistical Authority as well as the archives of the Center of Asia Minor Studies which have not been accessed before. The data collection is well under way and expects in few months to have the first results.

Fourth, Michalopoulos has started a project on the evolution of intergenerational mobility in educational attainment in Africa (in collaboration with Alberto Alesina, Sebastian Hohmann, and Elias Papaioannou). Using census data covering about 12 million people in 23 countries, they document the following regularities. First, they describe the geography of educational mobility across regions and ethnic groups uncovering strong "poverty trap" dynamics. Educational mobility is higher in regions and ethnicities with above-country-average schooling at independence. Second, exploiting within household variation in the place of birth they explore the geographic, historical, and contemporary correlates of intergenerational mobility both across regions and ethnic lines. Colonial investments, geographic features and the urban/rural divide correlate strongly with educational mobility.

In addition to these four new projects, Michalopoulos worked on the revisions of three manuscripts that have been accepted for publication in their respective journals. These projects are: "The Influence of Ancestral Lifeways on Individual Economic Outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa," *Journal of the European Economic Association*, forthcoming (with David Weil and Louis Putterman); "Spatial Patterns of Development: A Meso Approach," *Annual Review Economics*, forthcoming (with Elias Papaioannou); "Trade and Geography in the Spread of Islam," *Economic Journal*, forthcoming (with Alireza Naghavi and Giovanni Prarolo).

Sreemati Mitter

HISTORY AND INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS • SPRING 2018

Professor Sreemati Mitter used half of her spring-term sabbatical to complete and submit a journal article. Titled "Bankrupt: Financial Life in Late Mandate Palestine," the article provides an insight into urban Arab financial life in Mandate Palestine by tracking the early years of the first two independent Arab banks in Palestine, the Arab Bank and the Arab Agricultural Bank.

In the late 1930s, after the Arab Revolt, the two banks, evoking the nationalist, anti-colonial cause, sued all customers who had defaulted on loans. Their customers, unable to pay, and citing the same cause, countersued to prevent their lands from being foreclosed and sold to Zionist buyers. In telling the story of these pioneering Arab banks and their legal battles with their earliest customers, the article reveals the price the banks had to pay to survive. It also complicates our understanding of landlessness and indebtedness after the revolt, and argues that the antagonistic actions of bankers versus customers can be explained not by a collaborator/patriot binary, but the fact that each was forced, by political and economic exigencies, into a situation in which the survival of one came at the expense of the other.

She used the remaining half of the sabbatical to conduct two short research trips, one to Israel and the Palestinian Territories, and the other to the United Kingdom, to gather materials for a new book chapter. The chapter, entitled "No Doubt the Actual Oranges Have Already Been Consumed by the British Public," investigates a series of lawsuits filed in 1956 by a group of Palestinians against Barclays Bank, then the largest international bank in the world. The Palestinian plaintiffs, once wealthy citrus traders before the war of 1948, had become refugees as a consequence of the war, and were living destitute in refugee camps in Jordan. Their suit claimed that Barclays had withheld checks amounting to £1 million which were owed to them, and which represented the total value of the citrus crop exported by them in 1947 from Palestine to Britain. Barclays, in its defense, claimed that it was obeying Israeli orders. The chapter will use this little-known episode in Palestinian history to investigate what happens to an economy when it is disrupted overnight not just by war and violence, but with the abrupt termination of one regime and its replacement by another. It will probe what it means, on a practical, personal level, to be stateless.

Mitter presented draft versions of this new chapter at George Washington University in April and at the University of California San Diego in May.

Kym Moore

THEATRE ARTS AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES • 2017-18

Since June 2017 Moore has worked on several projects:

Time's Up! (now titled *I am U: See*), a multimedia performance project that she has been developing since 2013, took a giant step forward. After years of trying to find the most effective way to tell a multidimensional story that takes place across different time periods, as well as psycho-spiritual states of being, Moore has finally honed in on a viable approach that marks significant advancement in her creative process. She was fortunate enough to have participated in two important residencies that ultimately transformed, and indeed liberated, the piece from conventional forms of dramatic storytelling. This search for a new form had been a primary objective of Moore's from the very start. This research was made possible in part by the Salomon Award she received last year in support of this project.

Having learned important lessons from previous iterations of the piece, the first residency focused on the development and creation of a viable performance environment. A two-week residency at the Center for Collaborative Arts and Media (CCAM) at Yale University provided the necessary resources for experimentation. Another significant change from previous approaches is that Moore needed more people to execute the ideas she sought to realize. Consequently, she put together a brand-new team of collaborators. The team consisted of a composer and sound designer (Michael Costagliola'10); an interactive projection designer (Wladimiro Rodriguez); a motion graphics designer (Kameron Neal); and a set designer (Jane South). Additional support came from graduate students at the Yale School of Drama Projection Design and Acting programs.

During the residency, the new group explored a transmedia approach to creating the performance environment. They worked with motion capture, virtual reality in sound and imagery, interactive media technology to create the performance environment, and live actors to define the parameters of this unique performance. Live actors and audience members were invited to move through what we are now calling the performance-installation freely. Instead of presenting the work to an audience that would observe the performance from seats in a conventional theater space, everyone now takes part in the unfolding process by engaging with the performance as participants. This approach to telling the story has provided a way to integrate audience and actor in a story that is actually about the psycho-spiritual connection intrinsic to all human experience. The technology and the story make this subtle connection palpable and challenges the viewers' perception of themselves and others.

The next step in the process focused on deep revisions of the text. Moore set out to find a way to tell the story using the fewest words possible. Shortly after the CCAM residency, she went to California to work with actors who had more experience working in technical environments. In LA she worked with choreographer Shanti Pillai; the actors Marc Gomes, Will Jorge, and Stacy Highsmith; and assistant director Tommy Nguyen to transform the existing text into a series of physical gestures, movements, sounds, and images that would convey the most essential parts of the story.

This work took place over two weeks at UCLA, California State University Long Beach, and the Odyssey Theater. Applying a wide range of performance techniques and breaking with linear forms of storytelling resulted in the creation of performable "moments." These moments are designed to be performed out of sequence and do not require viewers to make intellectual /linear "sense" out of what they see. Instead they are invited into a performance "experience" that gives them the freedom to make sense of what they see/feel/hear unencumbered. They tested this sensorial approach to performance with actors at Yale to great effect.

In March, Moore had a meeting with Mia Yoo, artistic director of La MaMa E.T.C, the recent Tony Award-winning regional theater. That meeting resulted in an invitation to co-produce the premiere at La MaMa E.T.C. in 2020. This commitment to premiere the piece in New York is the culminating step in a process that began in June 2013. It's been a long and winding road indeed.

Most of the fall semester was spent on *Time's Up!* In January, Moore began rehearsals of *Hoodoo Love* by Katori Hall with the fourth-year students at the Juilliard School. The production was very well received. This resulted in securing professional representation.

This fall Moore will direct Dominique Morriseau's *Detroit '67* at Carnegie Mellon. Other invitations from Emerson College in Boston and the Sibiu International Theatre Festival are also in the pipeline. Finally, Moore served as director for *Verses at Work* by Malik Work during two week-long residencies in the fall and spring at the Eugene O'Neill theater center. This one-man show exploring an African-American man's journey to manhood is now under review at Dixon Place in New York City and was recently performed in Capetown, South Africa.

Professor Moore adapted her *Acting Outside the Box: Considering Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality* course into a workshop format that introduces the core principles and methodologies taught in the full course. During the sabbatical year, the workshop was presented at the National Theatre Institute/Eugene O'Neill theater center, the Juilliard School, University of Oklahoma, Norman BFA acting program, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Sibiu International Theatre Festival, and this fall at NYU's Graduate Acting Program. An article about this work is being written for publication in *American Theater* and/or *HowlRound Theater Commons*.

Jeffrey Moser

HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE • 2017-18

Professor Jeffrey Moser devoted the majority of his sabbatical to researching his second book project, tentatively titled *Excavating China's First Archaeologist*. The book focuses on a recently discovered cemetery in the northwestern Chinese province of Shaanxi which is, to date, the largest medieval family cemetery ever discovered in China. Containing 29 tombs spanning five generations of the Lü clan, whose members included some of the most prominent statesmen and intellectuals of the Northern Song era (960–1127), the cemetery is yielding extraordinary insights into the material lives of elite society in medieval China. Among the most notable discoveries is the tomb of the antiquarian and Neo-Confucian scholar Lü Dalin, who authored the world's earliest extant illustrated catalog of antiquities. Lü Dalin is one of the primary subjects of Moser's first book project, which examines the ways in which the rediscovery of ancient bronzes in eleventh-century China changed the way medieval intellectuals interpreted the Confucian classics and thought, more generally, about the relationship between words and things. The cemetery constitutes a unique archive, unparalleled in the premodern world, for exploring the relationship between the antiquarian interests of these intellectuals and the wider culture of their day.

Moser spent the fall semester in Providence reading and selectively translating the surviving corpus of writings by members of the Lü clan, which include extensive commentaries on Confucian classics like the *Record of Rites (Liji)* and *Book of Changes (Yijing)*. He had the opportunity to continue this work during the spring term as a visiting fellow at the Bard Graduate Center for Decorative Arts, Design History, and Material Culture (BGC) in New York. While at the BGC, Moser presented some preliminary reflections on the cemetery in a public talk, a link to which is available at bgc.bard.edu/events/781/28-feb-2018-ten-meters. He also completed an invited article for the *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture* on the emotional function of the grave goods recovered from the Lü cemetery and the relevance of medieval Chinese tombs to the history of emotion.

During the time at the BGC, Moser finished a paper of the geoaesthetics of medieval Chinese Buddhist sculpture for a planned volume on *Alternative Ontologies* edited by his colleague Felipe Rojas (Egyptology and Assyriology). The paper is the first salvo of a new project on Buddhist geoaesthetics that Moser will be undertaking this coming year as a faculty fellow in the Cogut Institute. A significant portion of his time on leave was dedicated to planning this project, which includes an upcoming seminar on "Geo-aesthetics and the Environmental Humanities," two conferences on geology and Buddhist geoaesthetics that Moser is co-organizing with Felipe Rojas and Jason Protass (Religious Studies), respectively, and further publications.

In addition, over the course of the year, Moser presented a paper on technicity in Song-era material arts at the Association of Asian Studies annual conference, and a second paper on cross-medium transfer between ceramics and bronzes at a conference on the history of Asian ceramics at National Taiwan University in Taipei. Both papers constitute preliminary investigations that Moser hopes to use as the foundation for a future book on intermediality in the history of Chinese decorative arts.

Professor Moser also contributed an essay on early Chinese antiquarianism to the catalog for *Mirroring China's Past: Emperors, Scholars, and their Bronzes*, an exhibition held February 25 to May 13, 2018 at the Art Institute of Chicago. Focusing on the cultural afterlives of ancient Chinese ritual bronzes, the exhibition was the first of its kind in the United States. Details on the catalog can be found at: yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300228632/mirroring-chinas-past. In May, Moser was invited to participate in a conference on the history of bronze collecting held in conjunction with the exhibition. He presented a paper entitled "Fungible Things," which examined the cataloging and commodification of ancient bronzes in medieval China.

John Mustard

EARTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND PLANETARY SCIENCES • FALL 2017

Professor John Mustard spent a great deal of his sabbatical in residence at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), operated by Cal Tech in Pasadena, CA. The difficulties in negotiating with relevant departments and the university and securing favorable academic accommodation for his wife, Dr. Lisa Di Carlo, meant that Mustard needed to do frequent travel to and from Pasadena as his children are quite young. Nevertheless, he was able to make maximum use of his time at JPL. The main focus of Mustard's engagement with the Mars Program Office at JPL was to conduct advanced planning looking beyond the last mission to Mars that NASA currently has committed to completing. He interacted frequently with senior members of the Mars Program leadership to strategize for the future. An outcome of that effort was a "Statement of Intent" signed by the European Space Agency Director of Human and Robotic Exploration, David Parker, and NASA's Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate, Dr. Thomas Zurbuchen. It commits the two premier space agencies to study the engineering and science imperatives for a possible return of samples to be collected by the Mars 2020 rover after it lands on Mars in 2021. If these two agencies can negotiate a favorable program where they join forces to bring samples back from Mars it will be a colossal science and engineering achievement. It was satisfying for Mustard to have been part of this process and help pave the way for the Letter of Intent.

Beyond this detail commitment to furthering the Mars program, Mustard maintained and enhanced his research program at Brown, regularly meeting with students remotely and plotting the course of the next steps. In that regard, a number of Mustard's 11 refereed papers and two book chapters published or accepted during 2017, and many of the papers to be published in 2018, went through formative development and revision during the sabbatical. The extra time afforded by the sabbatical was crucial to these exciting new directions. Two papers were published in high-profile journals during the fall of 2018. One proposed that a possible major, but unappreciated process that led to the deep and extensive alteration of basaltic rock on Mars to clays occurred in a supercritical steam atmosphere shortly after accretion, was published in *Nature*, with graduate student Kevin Cannon as the lead author. The other in *Nature Geoscience* was a collaboration with an international group of colleagues advancing concepts in support of a subsurface biosphere on Mars. Mustard submitted as PI two proposals during the fall semester. He gave two invited talks over the sabbatical, one at the Jet Propulsion laboratory and one at the University of Arizona, and participated in two conferences.

Mustard also had the good fortune to visit colleagues at SpaceX. SpaceX has its main spacecraft manufacturing facility in Hawthorne, CA. Mustard had a great tour of the plant and spent some time exploring possible science applications of its rockets and lander concepts. Having signed a nondisclosure agreement, the details of these discussions will need to wait until they become more mature.

The sabbatical time has led to excellent closure on a number of projects resulting in significant disciplinary journal and high-profile journal publications. This is opening new vistas that he is excited to be returning to Brown to implement and pursue. Mustard appreciates very much the commitment of the University to the sabbatical.

Emily Oster

ECONOMICS • SPRING 2018

Emily Oster used her sabbatical for three purposes: to pursue several ongoing research projects, to begin a new project, and to complete a book.

Oster's primary ongoing project is a research program that aims to use large-scale data to study dietary choices among households. This project focuses on estimating the determinants of dietary improvements – which households improve their diet and in response to what stimuli? Initial results of the project suggested dietary choices are very sticky: Households do not seem to improve the health of their diet even with disease diagnosis or large household changes.

During the sabbatical this project evolved into an attempt to understand the behavior of the small number of households who *do* successfully improve their diet, using machine learning tools.

The second project was conceived and developed during the sabbatical. In this project, Oster aims to understand the interaction between health recommendations, health behaviors and evidence. She considers a case where a health recommendation is made based (perhaps) on flawed data. Her hope would be that when more data come out – when the topic is studied further – if the initial recommendation was based on flawed data, this would be corrected.

This may not be true, however, if people respond to the advice. We imagine that the people who are most likely to adopt the new recommendation are those who are health-conscious in other ways. If this occurs, then when researchers go back to look at the relationship after the recommendation is made they may find that the effects are even larger. The problem of selection has magnified, and this makes it more difficult to learn what is true.

This project has both a theoretical and empirical component, with the latter involving diet and vitamin supplement recommendations. The protected sabbatical time was crucial to have space to develop this new project.

Finally, Oster completed a book on using data in early childhood parenting (working title: *Cribsheet*), which will be published in spring 2019 by Penguin Press.

Josh Pacewicz

SOCIOLOGY AND URBAN STUDIES • FALL 2017

Josh Pacewicz used his one-semester sabbatical to make progress on two new research projects and to deliver several public talks.

The first of these projects, conducted in collaboration with John Robinson III and Isaac Martin, focuses on racialized patterns of fiscal practices and policing in the Chicago suburbs. It consists of a mixed-methods study that includes 35 interviews with municipal finance directors, analysis of an administrative dataset of all 275 of Chicago's suburbs, and spatial analysis of regional fiscal and demographic trends. The project documents fiscal inequalities in the region – due to the fact that higher-income minority suburbs are clustered with low-income ones and unable to attract tax-generating businesses – and shows how this creates social problems (namely, policing for profit and excessive corporate welfare spending).

During the sabbatical semester, the three scholars wrote a first draft of their first paper, “Pocketbook policing: how race shapes municipalities’ reliance on fines and forfeits in the Chicago suburbs.” The paper interrogates a puzzling trend in municipal policing for profit. Existing scholarship suggests that over-policing is highest in municipalities experiencing racial threat, usually due to racial succession, an argument consistent with exemplars like Ferguson, MO. But Pacewicz found that many of Chicagoland’s highest per capita fining suburbs are demographically stable white- and black-majority suburbs. To explain the latter cases, we develop a theory of racialized fiscal strain: Municipal fiscal strain and opportunities for entrepreneurial revenue extraction are unevenly distributed across the hyper-segregated metropolitan region in ways that explain fining patterns.

Pacewicz and his collaborators also began data collection for another paper that begins from a similar account of Chicagoland’s racialized fiscal inequality, but takes suburbs’ propensity for economic incentives spending as the outcome of interest – an analysis made possible by a recent federal guideline requiring cities to list all tax abatements to businesses in standard fiscal documents. Informants in Chicagoland’s black-majority suburbs reported spending more than non-black suburbs on economic incentives – in black suburbia, a 50 percent property and sales tax abatement appeared standard for desirable businesses. The team is in the process of ascertaining a) whether this is pattern holds for all 275 Chicagoland municipalities and b) the aggregate amount of public funds lost to economic incentives by different types of municipalities.

During the sabbatical semester, Professor Pacewicz also conducted fieldwork for a second project. The project consists of mixed methods study of policy advocacy in Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Kansas (the last with Ben Merriman). The overarching argument is that, under conditions of party polarization and federal deadlock, the most likely outcome is policy divergence between American states—in many respects, a return to the long-term historical pattern after the relatively anomalous expansion of federal

power during the mid 20th century. The research shows that this policy divergence occurs disproportionately via unpublicized and understudied channels: state executive agencies, wherein activist bureaucrats, attorneys, and agency advocates exercise much de facto influence vis-à-vis elected officials.

The first paper from the project, entitled “The Regulatory Road to Reform: bureaucratic activism, agency advocacy, and Medicaid expansion within the delegated welfare state,” has recently been conditionally accepted. The paper engages with scholarship on American political development, which paints the American welfare state as delegated to non-federal public agencies and nonprofits, and therefore as complex, opaque to the public, and subject to capture by elite interests. The paper draws on a mixed methods investigation of Rhode Island’s Medicaid program as an instructive negative case, which illustrates that delegated governance, while opaque to the public, also creates opportunities for bureaucratic autonomy and activism. A second paper with Ben Merriman, entitled “The Great Divergence: how bureaucrats, attorneys, and advocacy associations disarticulate federal policy,” is nearly complete. The paper compares Rhode Island and Kansas and argues that, whereas political sociology often takes passage of federal legislation as dependent variable, scholars should pay more attention to state-level policy implementation, wherein actors can strategically blunt, strengthen, or repurpose federal laws. This is illustrated by analyzing how the states’ executive agency personnel creatively repurposed Medicaid policy and the Help America Votes Act (HAVA).

Additionally, Professor Pacewicz took advantage of his sabbatical to give two talks on his first book, *Partisans and Partners: The Politics of the Post-Keynesian Society*, which was recently awarded the Theory Prize by the American Sociological Association: a keynote address at the Working Class Studies Association and an invited lecture at Colby College.

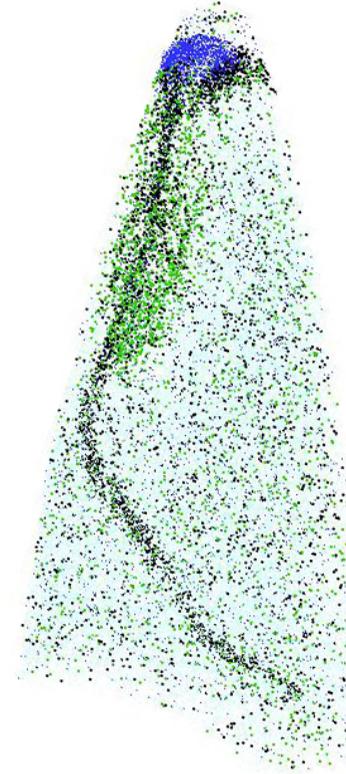


Figure 1. Mg-rich grain boundary (black) in V-rich magnetite in Allende CAI opaque assemblage. Ru-metal (blue) and sulphide (green) are located on grain boundary. Sample is ~200nm long. Dots are single atoms.

probe (Figure 1) has revealed a wealth of detail, not just about the minerals that make up CAIs, but also what lies in between the grain. The information is providing exciting new insights into the origin of our planetary system, including allowing us to reconstruct the composition of the early nebular gases and estimate the timing of their condensation. This research was done in collaboration with Professor Stein Jacobsen and Dr. Austin Akey at Harvard.

Another project at Harvard involved studying how the thickness and composition of grain boundaries affects the rheology of the Earth’s interior. It has been known for a long time that the Earth’s interior is solid, but on long timescales, flows like a liquid. The motions of the interior are at the heart of plate tectonics. How fast the interior flows depends on the viscosity (rheology) of the material it is made of, over the range of pressure and

Stephen Parman

EARTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND PLANETARY SCIENCES •
2017-18

The primary focus of Prof Parman’s sabbatical was to explore applications of atom probe tomography to geosciences. Towards this end, he spent the first semester (fall 2017) at Harvard University using the atom probe in the Center for Nanoscale Systems. He spent the second semester (spring 2018) at Curtin University in Perth, Australia. Curtin has the only atom probe in the world primarily dedicated to geoscience.

Atom probe tomography (APT) is a relatively new analytical method developed mainly for materials science. Mostly it has been used to study compositionally simple materials for the electronics industry. Complex, natural materials present quite a challenge. Professor Parman has been at the forefront of developing methods and applications of atom probe tomography to geoscience. The particular attraction of APT is that it has nanometer-scale spatial resolution (in three dimensions) along with parts-per-million detection limits. No other analytical method has this combination.

At Harvard, the main project was to examine calcium-aluminum rich inclusions (CAIs) found in chondrite meteorites. CAIs represent the earliest materials of the solar system. They are the first dust grains that condensed out of the early solar nebula and provide unique insights into what the solar system and planets are made of, and how they were constructed. The long-standing difficulty with the samples is that they are very small. Many of the features are nanometer in scale. While they could be imaged with techniques like transmission electron microscopy (TEM), the compositions of such small features could not be measured well. Our preliminary work with the atom

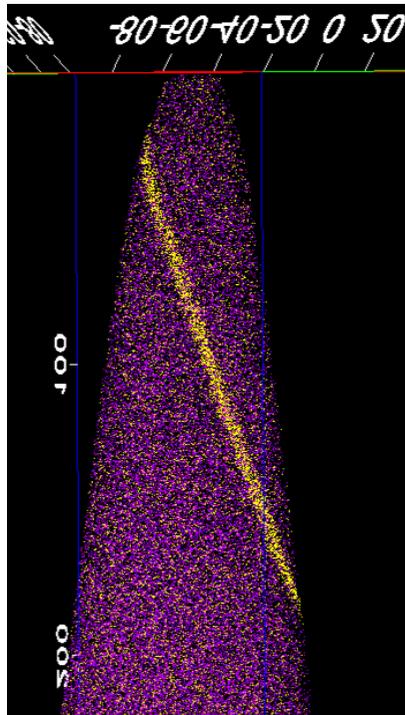


Figure 2. Mg (purple) and Ca (yellow) atoms in a polycrystalline sample of olivine that was experimentally deformed. The enrichment of Ca on the grain boundary is clearly visible. The thickness of the grain boundary is ~4nm.

temperature found in the Earth's interior. Grain boundaries, the region between two adjoining crystals, play a large part in controlling the rheology of materials. However, grain boundaries are typically a few nanometers thick. This could be seen with a TEM, but what elements were on the grain boundary was difficult to ascertain. The thickness of curved boundaries was also difficult to measure. With APT, we can clearly see the elements enriched on the grain boundary, and can measure the thickness of the grain boundary, even if it is highly curved (Figure 2).

At Curtin, Professor Parman examined diffusion of U, Th, and Hf in the geologically important mineral zircon. This is one of the main minerals that is used to date rocks, and thus lies at the foundation of our understanding of geologic history. To get accurate ages, one must know how fast the relevant atoms diffuse in and out of the crystals. Such diffusivities are quite small (slow), making it difficult to study experimentally. Typical diffusion profiles are 10-100 nanometers in length. We used APT to examine previously run experiments and extract diffusivities.

While APT was the main focus of the sabbatical, progress in a number of other research avenues was also made. Professor Parman was co-author on a number of published papers: 1) a Nature article that presented an alternative origin for the origin of clays on Mars, 2) a paper in Earth and Planetary Science Letters on the crystallization of the Moon's magma ocean and 3) a paper on detecting volcanic glass on the surface of Mars using remote sensing. Another paper was submitted on the recycling of noble gases into the interior of the Earth. Manuscripts on the crystallization of Mercury's magma ocean and on noble gases in the atmosphere of Mars will be submitted in June.

Ethan Pollock

HISTORY • 2017-18



"Dirt is the Source of Illness: Wash in the Banya and Change Clothes No Less Often than One Time a Week." 1931. Courtesy of the Lenin Library, Moscow.

Ethan Pollock spent his sabbatical completing his second book, *Without the Banya, We Would Perish: A History of the Russian Bathhouse*, to be submitted to Oxford University Press this fall. The book is the first academic study of the banya, an institution that was ubiquitous in Medieval Rus' and continued to be ubiquitous in Muscovy, Imperial Russia, the Soviet Union, and now post-Soviet Russia. The banya has also been popular over a wide spectrum of the population – peasants, workers, oligarchs, politicians, soldiers, writers, athletes, Russian nationalist, Jews, Muslims, foreigners, and exiles have all gone to the banya seeking some combination of health, camaraderie, and spiritual rejuvenation.

As a physical space, the banya has been remarkably consistent across time. The meanings and even powers assigned to it, however, have changed. This combination of stability along one axis and change along another, make it possible to chart all of Russian history by describing the way that people have experienced and talked about the banya.

In the fall semester, Pollock remained in Providence and finished a first draft of the manuscript. The semester culminated in a one-day workshop sponsored by the history department where colleagues from Brown and beyond offered feedback on Pollock's work-in-progress. In the spring semester, Pollock was a Fernand Braudel Senior Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. There he presented on his work, participated in various seminars, and revised the manuscript for publication. He also began preliminary research on a next project about U.S.-Soviet cooperation in the Cold War.



"For Each Kolkhoza a Well Built Banya", 1935. Courtesy of the Lenin Library, Moscow.

Richard Rambuss

ENGLISH • SPRING 2018

Professor Richard Rambuss devoted his spring 2018 sabbatical leave to completing the manuscript for his fourth book, which is titled *Kubrick's Men*. The book regards this highly important and influential filmmaker's oeuvre – from his early photographs for *Look* magazine and short-form documentaries to his highly auteuristic feature films (several of them all but all-male) – as a sustained meditation on the male condition, not only in the present, but also in history and in the future. Through-line for Kubrick's body of work is less violence or sex (as integral as those two things are to all the stories that Kubrick's movies tell and thus to any consideration of them) than it is the pressurized exertion of masculinity in unusual or extreme circumstances, where it may be taxed or exaggerated to various effects, tragic and comic – or metamorphosed, distorted, reconfigured, even undone. Kubrick's movies work out case study-like narratives – many of them clinical, even mechanical, in their feel, all of them highly aestheticized in their presentation – about masculinity with the screws put to it. "Torture the woman" was Hitchcock's dictum on how to make a good film. For Kubrick, the interest was men in extremis.

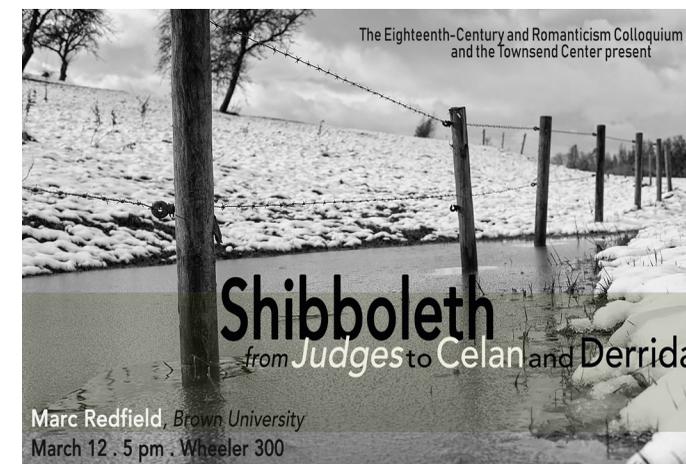
Decades ago, feminist film criticism set about honing new ways of approaching and appreciating so-called "women's pictures" ("the weepy," the soap opera) and its treatment (to quote Mary Ann Doane) of "problems defined as 'female' (problems revolving around domestic life, the family, children, self-sacrifice, and the relationship between women and production vs. that between women and reproduction)." In comparison, the treatment of problems that can be marked "male" in the movies remains less advanced conceptually, notwithstanding (or in fact because of) the sense that the default stance of "cinema proper" is male in subject matter and address. To begin to address this lack, Rambuss's study treats Kubrick as one of the great artists of what can be thought of as "the men's film." Indeed, most of his work comes in the form of identifiably male genres: the sports film; the crime film; science fiction; horror; and the war movie.

This sabbatical allowed Rambuss to add a coda to chapter 2 ("Kubrick's War Films: An Aesthetical Reading") on *2001: A Space Odyssey* as a Cold War-era film; to revise and extend an earlier article that he wrote on Kubrick's *Full Metal Jacket* into chapter 5 ("Hard Corps"); and to write the book's Introduction ("Kubrick and 'the Men's Film'"). He also delivered a lecture drawn from the book at Brandeis's Mandel Center for the Humanities, titled: "Loving the Bomb: Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove* and the Essence of Men in the Time of Trump."

Marc Redfield

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND ENGLISH • 2017-18

Marc Redfield spent the academic year 2017-18 in Los Angeles, researching and writing a long essay that forms the spine of a short book on the word and concept "shibboleth." An ancient Hebrew word meaning "stream" or "ear of grain," *shibboleth* is the test-word that the Ephraimites, who have been defeated by their close relatives, the Gileadites, and who are trying to disguise their identity and flee to safety across the Jordan, have difficulty pronouncing correctly (not being able to pronounce the *shin* phoneme, they say "sibboleth," hearing which, the Gileadites kill them: "and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty and two thousand"). In modern European languages *shibboleth* has been taken up as a loan-word meaning "test-word" or "password." English is unique in having developed additional meanings: "slogan or catchword"; "a common saying or belief with little current meaning or truth."



The word appears infrequently in Western literature, though the concept to which it points is intriguingly complex. In the Biblical story, the shibboleth test renders visible a friend-enemy distinction that sovereign power requires in order to have a target and actualize itself. For here the "enemy" is nearly indistinguishable from the self: the enemy speaks *almost* as "we" do – except for that deadly phonemic difference. The shibboleth test opens up the space of the political in Carl Schmitt's sense, and opens it up as a biopolitical difference, in the

sense that the test is demanding a performance irreducible to conscious knowledge, tied to a linguistically inscribed body (the whole point is that the enemy *cannot* pronounce that phoneme). Yet the concept "shibboleth" subsequently expands to signify identity testing in general, and comes to include passwords (which, unlike pronunciation tests, rely on a passage from cognition to performance). And when the additional English-language meanings of slogan and cliché are taken into account, the term "shibboleth" comes to seem intriguingly keyed to certain large aspects of modern life. At present millions of digital passwords (including everyone's at Brown) are managed by "Shibboleth," an "open-source software project" that can serve as a metonym for innumerable contemporary technologies and practices that go far beyond mere password management: technologies of encryption and decryption, exclusion and inclusion, identification, privatization, exposure. Neoliberal ideologies, along with the economic, political, military, technological and cultural phenomena we sum up as globalization, are unimaginable in the absence of such technologies, which flourish particularly when zones of indeterminacy are being created and leveraged. That all sounds very bleak; but in two poems by Paul Celan, and in a remarkable study that Jacques Derrida

devoted to Celan's oeuvre, the word *shibboleth* becomes the watchword of an affirmative, antifascist politics. Or better, it *also* becomes this; Derrida stresses "the terrifying ambiguity of the *shibboleth*, sign of belonging and threat of discrimination, indiscernible discernment between alliance and war." Redfield's essay pursues the complexities of the concept and figure "shibboleth" by way of close readings of the story in Judges 12, Derrida's text, and the poems that Celan titled "Schibboleth" and "In eins," along with other work by Celan.

Professor Redfield also spent time in the Critical Theory Archive of the University of California, Irvine, studying materials relevant to the editing of letters to be included in a volume, *The Correspondence of Jacques Derrida and Paul de Man*, that Redfield is co-editing with three other scholars and that will eventually appear from Edinburgh University Press.

During his sabbatical year, Professor Redfield gave papers drawn from his book on "shibboleth" at the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) conferences in Utrecht in the summer of 2017 and at UCLA in the spring of 2018; he gave expanded versions of this material as lectures for the USC Department of Comparative Literature in the fall of 2017 and for the UC Berkeley Department of Comparative Literature in the spring of 2018. With other colleagues at Brown, he helped organize a conference, "Open," which served as the annual conference of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism and was held at Brown in June, 2018. Professor Redfield gave a paper on Nietzsche at that conference; later in June he presented a longer French-language version of it at a symposium, "L'Énigme Nietzsche," held in Paris at the Collège International de Philosophie.

Bernard Reginster

PHILOSOPHY • SPRING 2018

Bernard Reginster devoted his semester of leave to two projects. The minor project was to write two papers, and the major project was to finish a book manuscript.

The first of the two papers, "The Need for Certainty," compares the analysis and assessment of the phenomenon of fanaticism in the Enlightenment and in the Existentialist tradition respectively. In the Enlightenment, fanaticism is primarily an epistemic defect – passion born out of error – whereas in the Existentialist tradition it is primarily a kind of affective disorder – error born out of a special passion, namely, a need for certainty. The changing views on fanaticism reflect the very different ethical concerns with which it is connected. In the Enlightenment, fanaticism constitutes a lack of epistemic hygiene, whereas in the Existentialist tradition it reflects a breakdown in the task of self-fashioning. The paper was delivered at the Late Modern Philosophy Conference at Boston University on February 16, 2018.

The second of the two papers, "The Idea of a Will to Power," criticizes a recently proposed analysis of the concept of achievement, understood as an evaluative concept, according to which a pursuit constitutes an achievement so long as it involves the perseverant exercise of one's will power and the judicious use of one's reason, even if the pursuit is ultimately unsuccessful. He argues that the concept of achievement is, on the

contrary, a success term insofar as achieving implies actually realizing one's end (at least to a degree). He makes this case, in part, by suggesting that the value of achievement lies in the fact that it satisfies a special kind of desire, the desire to be effective at shaping the surrounding world in accordance with one's will, which was known in the 19th century as the "will to power." The paper was delivered at a special symposium on "Effort and Difficulty" at the Midwestern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association on February 24, 2018.

The main project was to complete the manuscript of a book, tentatively entitled *The Will to Nothingness*. The book develops a comprehensive and original interpretation of Friedrich Nietzsche's most famous and influential book, *On the Genealogy of Morality*. In the past 25 years or so, a major work of scholarship – be it a book-length monograph, a collection of articles exclusively dedicated to it, or a new translation with substantial annotation and introduction – had been published on this book, in the English language alone, nearly every year on average. And this does not include works produced on this book in other languages or in disciplines other than philosophy.

And yet the book continues to puzzle as much as it fascinates. Its focus is on the moral outlook that has become dominant in Western culture, which has roots in Christianity and is framed by certain evaluative beliefs about the character and content of the concepts of "good" and "evil" and descriptive beliefs about the character of moral agency and the ontological standing of moral values. Nietzsche develops what he describes as a "new" critique of this morality, which rests on an inquiry into its origin and development. While it appears undeniable that the genealogies Nietzsche produces for the basic components of morality should have a critical bearing on our evaluation of it, it is far from clear just *what* critical bearing they could legitimately claim to have.

He argues that Nietzsche develops a critique of morality that is unusual and unorthodox insofar as it does not concern itself with the truth or the justification of moral beliefs and insofar as it does not issue in a final verdict on morality, but instead underwrites a basic warning about a particular danger it poses. The critique is essentially psychological: It shows that the modern moral outlook is so well suited for appropriation by certain fundamental psychological needs that it actually *invites* it. When morality operates as a vehicle for the expression of these needs, however, it proves damaging to them. Therein lies its distinctive danger: It is attractive to basic human needs and yet is harmful to them.

The book manuscript has been the object of two extensive workshops this past year (University of London in September 2017 and Boston University in May 2018). It is under contract with Oxford University Press and should appear in 2019.

Amy Remensnyder

HISTORY • 2017-18

Amy Remensnyder divided her sabbatical year between Europe and Providence and dedicated herself to research and writing. But she was not entirely absent from teaching. Under the auspices of the Brown History Education Prison Project, she organized two team-taught college-level courses (and taught in one) at the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institute. One of these courses was called “Seascapes of History” and grew directly from the book project that was her focus this year. Tentatively entitled *Island of Muslim-Christian Trust in A Sea of Danger: Lampedusa 1200-1700*, this book uncovers the deep history of a tiny Italian island that lies closer to Tunisia than to Africa and commands European headlines as a destination for migrants seeking entry to Europe. Interweaving past and present, this book provides a historical perspective on the migrant crisis in the Mediterranean by tracing the genealogy of the outsized role played in this emergency by small islands that, like Lampedusa, belong to Europe politically but geographically hug the coasts of North Africa and Turkey. The book shows that this is not the first time that geopolitics have catapulted Lampedusa to prominence. Remensnyder looks at how medieval and early modern Muslim and Christian pirates made the island into a crucial hinge between Europe and Africa in the half millennium during which it was uninhabited. Through Lampedusa, she thus casts new light on familiar subjects like legends about deserted islands and also opens up new topics like pirates’ religion and the role of the environment in shaping Muslim-Christian relations. In an article published this year, Remensnyder explored some preliminary issues relating to the project. She also presented her research in venues on both sides of the Atlantic. These include invited lectures at Yale University, the American Academy of Berlin, and Heidelberg University; at the University of Rochester she had the honor of delivering this year’s Verne Moore Lecture.

Remensnyder’s year of research was intellectually exciting, especially beginning in January 2018, when she took up the five-month residential fellowship awarded by the American Academy in Berlin. There she completed the research for her book and began to write. The Academy was a wonderful place to work, Berlin was a fabulously interesting city to explore, and the opportunity for intellectual dialogue with the other fellows (including Carole Maso, Professor of Literary Arts at Brown) was endlessly stimulating. While in Europe, she made a research trip to the island-nation of Malta, where she combed through the archives of the Knights of St. John (an organized group of Christian pirates and slave takers, though they had a reputation as defenders of Christianity). The February days that she spent blowing on her fingers and huddled in her winter coat in the grand but unheated marble Baroque pile that is the National Library of Malta were well worth the shivering. There she turned up rich material about how the Knights used the island of Lampedusa as a place for their ships to skulk for quarry and to get wood and water and, more important, how they cooperated with Muslim pirates to create a shared cave shrine on this deserted island where escaped slaves, whether Muslim or Christian, could find refuge. From other manuscript evidence from libraries in Palermo, Paris and London, she reconstructed what this unusual sacred space was like, what it meant for Muslim-Christian contact and conflict, and how it made Lampedusa into a contested symbol of relations between Europe and Africa hundreds of years before the island would acquire that status in the contemporary migrant crisis. While in Malta, she learned that she had received the honor of being elected a Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America, the flagship professional organization of medievalists in North America. Its Fellows constitute a

group of scholars especially recognized for their distinguished contributions to medieval studies. In June, she made her second trip to Lampedusa to deepen her understanding of the island – its past and its present.

Daniel Rodríguez

HISTORY • 2017-18

With the help of the Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship, Daniel A. Rodríguez spent his junior sabbatical completing work on his first book, *The Right to Live in Health: Medicine, Politics, and Poverty in Havana*. The academic year began with a manuscript workshop organized by his chair and colleagues in the history department, alongside the generous support and careful reading from senior colleagues at Harvard University and American University.

The Right to Live in Health explores the local, national, and transnational politics of health in Havana from the final years of the War of Independence (1895-1898) through the period of the U.S. military occupation of the island (1899-1902) and in the following decades of republican state-building. The republican medical system was the product of intense public debate, local institution-building, and popular protest and engagement. It played out on the streets of Havana, as U.S. military officials sought to “clean up” the capital, as Cuban medical reformers sought to impose hygienic habits on poor women, as Cubans of color decried the high mortality rates of their children, and as Cuban physicians clashed with Spanish hospital owners. At stake was the role of medicine in a postcolonial Cuba: How would medical services be organized, and for the benefit of which social groups?

In 1909, this small Caribbean island inaugurated the world’s first cabinet-level ministry of health, reflecting both the importance given to questions of disease, medicine, and the health of citizens in the early republic. But this key development also reflected the threat of U.S. empire, as the U.S.-imposed Platt Amendment to the Cuban Constitution required the island to control infectious disease in its cities, in order to protect American lives and interests. But rather than reflecting simply the health concerns of the U.S., Cuban public health and medicine also became important expressions of anticolonial nationalism, as a new generation of medical reformers saw disease as a remnant of colonial rule and looked to medical science to guide Cuba to a healthy and modern future. At the turn of the twentieth century, these Cuban medical nationalists used science as a blueprint for transforming the broken former colony into a modern republic, resist the impositions of the United States, reshape the urban landscape of Havana, and transform its inhabitants into healthy modern citizens. But urban populations had their own understandings of health and resisted elite efforts or sought to shape emerging health and welfare institutions to meet their own needs.

In Cuba new conceptions of a social right to health emerged in this period of transition from colony to republic, as the medical nationalist project that tied public health to Cuban independence and the legitimacy of the state to the health of its citizens had significant historical implications. In the decades after

independence, these discourses continued to frame the demands of physicians, public health workers, and patients, and shape conflicts around disease control and health.

Professor Rodríguez took breaks from writing to give talks at the University of Chicago and Temple University, work on an edited volume on “new approaches” to Cuban history, and begin researching his next book project, which takes on the history of childhood and child labor in the decades after the formal abolition of slavery in Cuba.

Patricia Rubertone

ANTHROPOLOGY • FALL 2017

Professor Patricia Rubertone spent her fall 2017 sabbatical leave focused largely on mapping indigenous Providence from the mid-nineteenth through early decades of the twentieth century. The project is connected to Rubertone’s research exploring the Native people’s lived experiences within the specific spatial contours of the urban landscape. Unlike other studies of “urban Indians” that concentrate government-encouraged relocations after World War II and generalize about the pathologies of urban life, Rubertone’s work recognizes a deeper historical presence of indigenous people in cities by arguing that they were not merely the newly arrived. Not only were they the occupants of land that was expropriated to build cities, but they also continued to live in spaces being reimagined by settler colonialism. With the majority of indigenous people in the U.S. and throughout much of the settler colonial world today defined as urban, a historical study brings a realization that cities have been crucial to their growth, creativity, and survivance.



51 Bates Street was demolished by Lippitt Hill Redevelopment Project to create the University Heights housing and shopping complex. Frederick D. Thomas, who was born on the Narragansett Indian Reservation in Charlestown and served in the Civil War, lived here with his wife and daughter in the 1870s.

As is true of many modern American cities, Providence is not a place where you would expect to find Indians, at least not in the years after 1676 when King Philip’s War ended to around the mid-twentieth century. If acknowledged at all, their presence was at best said to be negligible, and their dwellings scattered and lacking any spatial coherence with ancestral landscapes. Rubertone’s research suggests alternative understandings. She has identified about 500 addresses that were home to Providence’s Native people between about 1860 and 1930. Many addresses were sites of multifamily dwellings. Whether in a one- or two-family home, or a tenement, households were rarely occupied by a single person. During her sabbatical, Rubertone refined this database, fact-checking names and racial classifications in public records and verifying street locations and house numbers, and plunged into the

history of urban cartography. She examined maps of Providence ranging from conjectural sketches to comprehensive renderings that established the city as a space apart from the territory of its original indigenous inhabitants, illustrated platted tracts, streets, and wards, and increasingly, businesses, public buildings, and the urban infrastructure. In making Providence spatially legible, these maps depicted the city as a place without Indians that was seemingly confirmed by progressively fewer references to Native-named localities.



Preliminary map of houses with Native Americans in the Lippitt Hill Redevelopment Area.

redemption plans to a preliminary map of later Indian Providence that she presented at the 2016 Society for American Archaeology meetings suggested that the areas targeted destroyed many houses occupied by indigenous people, who typically are not mentioned in theorizing about the racialization of urban geography. Using this base map, it should be possible to gauge the equally violent physical destruction that long predated urban renewal in the 1960s. First steps were taken in planning the design of interactive story maps that would be available to and engage a wider community with connections to Indian Providence.

During her sabbatical, Rubertone did not travel to faraway places. She ventured downtown to the Providence City Archives on Dorrance Street, to the Rhode Island State Archives on Westminster Street, over to the Providence Public Library on Empire Street, and often walked from her office at Giddings House on Hope and Power diagonally across to the Mary Elizabeth Robinson Research Center (a.k.a. the Rhode Island Historical Society Library). There were a few side trips, mostly to small, off-the-beaten-track kinds of repositories not usually on most scholars’ research itineraries and conversations with interlocutors from Native communities and with Rubertone’s late colleague

With the intention of creating maps of Indian Providence in the recent past, Rubertone collaborated with Lynn Carlson, the Geographic Information Systems Manager at the Environmental and Remote Technologies Lab. The resulting base map, which plots addresses, visually displays discrete enclaves where Native people lived in the later-nineteenth and early-twentieth century. The mapping project lays the groundwork for constructing detailed neighborhood maps for a book manuscript in which Rubertone foregrounds the people who made these places their homes. The map will also allow for more accurate assessments of the impacts of urban renewal on the city’s indigenous homelands. Initial research comparing



Members of the New England Indian Council, an inter-tribal organization with honorary non-Native members based in Providence, at the Roger Williams Park Museum, October 8, 1924 (Courtesy of the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology).

Bill Simmons. He generously shared his knowledge of Indian New England, offered valuable insights as she crosschecked names, genealogies, and addresses, and listened intently as she talked about additional research she was conducting during the fall on the Gorham Company's castings of miniature bronzes of iconic Native American statues. The Providence foundry was at Mashapaug Pond, a Native homeland that has withstood the industry's toxic pollutants, dispossessions, and urban renewal.

Kenneth Sacks

HISTORY • SPRING 2018

During his sabbatical in spring 2018, Kenneth Sacks served as guest editor of a Religions, entitled *Transcendentalism and the Religious Experience*, to which he contributed two articles and edited 10 others from a broad variety of senior and junior scholars.

This is the first major publication devoted exclusively to the investigation of the religious experience of Transcendentalists. As Sacks wrote in his invitation to contributors:

Perry Miller's great anthology, *The Transcendentalists* (1950), refocused Transcendentalism as a religious phenomenon. But he looked mainly at doctrinal issues, arguing that in many ways Transcendentalism was a reaction against Unitarianism and a return to Puritan beliefs. Our issue, however, is particularly interested in expanding the range of what constituted the religious and spiritual "experience" (a term emphasized by William James) while including articles on both the more famous Transcendentalists and the lesser known ones. We also believe that the spiritual beliefs and voyages of those with whom Transcendentalists were in contact (most obviously, but certainly not exclusively, Unitarians) would enrich the collection, as well as the inspiration of non-Western texts on key Transcendentalist intellectuals.

Sacks also continued to work on his book project, *Emerson's Civil War*, writing two chapters and researching two others. A particular challenge was in gaining expertise in the history of probability and emerging social scientific theories. Sacks argues that Ralph Waldo Emerson's later works – starting with *Representative Men* – were somewhat under the influence of these dramatic intellectual shifts and that their influence caused Emerson, always seeking self-reliance, some emotional pain and reduced creativity in succumbing to theories that defined humanity by numerical aggregates. A telltale sign is that Emerson wrote *Representative Men* in reaction to Thomas Carlyle's *On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and The Heroic in History*. It is the first time that Emerson conjured a major work in direct response rather than set out to create something fully original. Emerson followed *Representative Men* with a second, somewhat derivative, work, *English Traits*, that echoes emerging theories of cultural anthropology.

The subsequent Civil War seems to have cleansed Emerson of his dependency on contemporary theory, and his later work saw a return to earlier themes. In his final efforts – which have not been evaluated fully by scholars before – Emerson exerted a closer, more direct influence on the Pragmatists than has been

appreciated. Sacks's articles in Religions concerning the influence of French sociologist Auguste Comte on Emerson's circle help prepare the way for his final chapters.

Sacks also used his sabbatical to plan a new junior/senior seminar to be offered in spring 2019: HI 1956A: "Thinking Historically: A History of History Writing." This course addresses three questions: What is history writing, what are the essential methodologies of history writing, and how is history perceived and used by non-professionals. Readings from the ancient Greeks to post-colonialists should help students appreciate the diversity and constantly changing nature of history writing, as well as its influence in popular culture.

Björn Sandstede

APPLIED MATHEMATICS • 2017-18

Professor Björn Sandstede used part of his year-long sabbatical to work on problems in biology and data science. With Alexandria Volkening, he developed a mathematical model of pigment cells that are instrumental in the early development of colored stripes on zebrafish (*Danio rerio*). The model makes new experimentally testable predictions for the interactions and form changes of iridophores (bluish silvery cells on zebrafish skin), suggests links between genes and phenotypes of mutants, and indicates that iridophores may act as a key source of redundancy, enabling both robust patterning and variability within the *Danio* family. Melissa McGuirl, Sandstede, and Volkening have carried out a systematic parameter sensitivity analysis of the zebrafish model to better understand phenotypes of mutants. With Veronica Ciocanel, Samantha Jeschonek, and Kimberly Mowry, Sandstede worked on models for mRNA localization at the vegetal cortex in the early development of *Xenopus laevis* oocytes. The model suggests that randomness of microtubule networks enhances effective transport of mRNA cargo, reproduces the spatial and time scales of mRNA localization observed in *Xenopus* oocytes, corroborates experimental hypotheses that anchoring may be necessary to achieve complete localization, and shows that anchoring of mRNA complexes actively transported to the cortex is most effective in achieving robust accumulation at the cortex. Melissa McGuirl, Sohini Ramachandran, Sandstede, and Sam Smith began to collaborate on the analysis of GWAS data to identify gene networks implicated in diseases. Finally, Sandstede also worked on the analysis of fMRI data and, with experimentalists at Harvard, on the dynamics of bioengineered kidney cells.

In addition to these more applied problems, Sandstede investigated the dynamics and stability of localized roll structures, which resemble buckling structures of compressed soda cans. With Elizabeth Makrides, he identified the geometric structures that cause two very different stability behaviors to occur. In particular, the analysis predicts the emergence of new spatiotemporal patterns from the structural properties of the underlying system. In a second project that was the continuation of undergraduate research carried out at Summer@ICERM, Sandstede and his collaborators showed how certain geometric features similar to knots and links preclude the emergence of localized roll structures in general pattern-forming systems.

During his sabbatical, Sandstede published three papers and submitted six manuscripts for publication; four additional manuscripts are close to being finalized. Sandstede was also co-editor of a book that was published in 2018 and gave five invited research presentations and one outreach talk. Sandstede submitted five grants during his sabbatical, including a large center grant (as lead PI), two training grants (as Co-PI), and two research proposals (as Co-PI).

In spring, Sandstede taught the course “Race and Gender in the Scientific Community” for the second time. Fourteen students enrolled in this course, and Sandstede is currently working on course revisions with three students who took the class in spring. Sandstede and two of his students participated in a “Being Human in STEM (HSTEM)” summit that was held in April 2018 at Yale and focused on Brown’s course and two HSTEM courses at Amherst and Yale. Brown’s course was also featured in an article in SIAM News.

David Savitz

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY AND PEDIATRICS • 2017-18

Following service as Vice President for Research for four years, Professor Savitz devoted his sabbatical year to re-establishing his research funding. While he did continue to devote around a quarter of his time to research during his service as Vice President for Research and maintain an active Ro1 plus some supporting roles on projects, he had not been able to generate new proposals on an ongoing basis. Given the extreme challenges of securing research funding at the present time, a robust research program requires multiple applications, more than one submission of the application, and a great deal of time to make the applications compelling. Thus, starting a bit before his sabbatical year began, he set the goal of having four major proposals in the pipeline as Principal Investigator. This required developing two new applications as principal investigator for major research projects that would provide several years of significant funding. In addition, he planned for conducting additional pilot work and resubmitting two proposals that were first submitted in 2016-17, one of which had been favorably scored but outside the funding range and the other under review. The details are below but as indicated, the process of securing major new grants requires persistence and patience. The sabbatical enabled him to fully re-engage in this process.

Prenatal Cannabis Exposure and Infant Development

This project was developed in close collaboration with collaborators at Women & Infants Hospital (Erika Werner, Betsy Vohr) and Brown School of Public Health (Brandon Marshall, George Papandonatos). Despite the high prevalence of cannabis use, particularly in Rhode Island, and the increasing potency of cannabis, there is very little research addressing potential health effects of use during pregnancy. The team developed a study to screen and identify infants prenatally exposed to cannabis to be compared to infants whose mothers had a history of cannabis use but did not do so during pregnancy. In addition to detailed self-reports on cannabis use and other correlated behaviors (tobacco, alcohol, other drugs), they planned to collect hair specimens at delivery for refined assessment. Infants were to be followed up with two in-person visits and two telephone interviews with mothers during the first two years of life. The proposal was submitted in October

2017 and reviews were received in March of 2018. The grant was unscored with serious reservations about the ability to identify and recruit women given the sensitive nature of the topic. The investigators are in the process of determining whether and how to revise the proposal to overcome these concerns.

Impact of Open Burn Pit Exposure on Respiratory and Cardiovascular Health Among Military Veterans

This study evolved from Professor Savitz’s service as Chair of a National Academy of Medicine committee addressing health concerns associated with open burn pit exposures. The proposal was made to the Department of Defense through their Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program. The approach was to link military service records to Veterans Administration health care utilization data, using the military service data to link the military bases to the history of using open burn pits. This large-scale data linkage program called for expertise in a number of areas, including exposure assessment (outside collaborators and Greg Wellenius), utilization of VA healthcare data (Amal Trivedi, Gaurav Chowdhury, Sharon Rounds, Hank Wu), and data management expertise (Westat). The proposal was submitted in October 2017 and the review was received in April 2018. The assessment of the proposal was quite positive and the investigators were informed it would have been recommended for funding but one of the essential data sources was considered classified at the time of the review. That data has since been designated as declassified so he will be exploring next steps and preparing for a resubmission with good reason to be optimistic about its prospects.

In addition to these two completely new proposals, Professor Savitz has done extensive work on two previously submitted applications that received favorable scores and called for additional pilot work. He was able to secure pilot funding for both of those applications. The study of “E-Cigarette Use During Pregnancy and Infant Birthweight” had been submitted in October 2016 and received a score of 40 which was the 25th percentile. He sought and obtained a Grant Resubmission Award from OVPR and embarked on a major pilot study to address key concerns. The grant was resubmitted in March 2018.

The study of “Prenatal Opioid Exposure and Neonatal Health Impairment” was originally submitted in March 2017 and received a score of 47 placing it in the 39th percentile. He submitted an application to the Advance-CTR program under their grant resubmission award mechanism and received support to conduct pilot work. There were delays due to IRB review but the work will be beginning shortly with plans to complete the pilot study and resubmit the proposal in November 2018.

Andrew K. Scherer

ANTHROPOLOGY • 2017-18



Worked bone and tooth objects excavated at Piedras Negras, Guatemala in 2017 (left to right): bone object with incised hieroglyphic text, dog tooth pendant, bone sewing needle. Photo by Andrew Scherer

Professor Andrew Scherer's sabbatical leave was largely devoted to research and writing of his next book, *Baak: The Qualities and Craft of Maya Bone*. The project is a study of the materiality of human and animal bone among the Maya, focusing largely on Pre-Columbian contexts (ca. 400 BC to AD 1502) but with reference to the historic past and ethnographic present. The heart of this project is an interdisciplinary analysis of bone as a craft material, focusing on objects made from bone, and bone that has been used as a canvas for pictorial art. This work is complemented by analysis of bone as referenced in ancient Maya text and image.

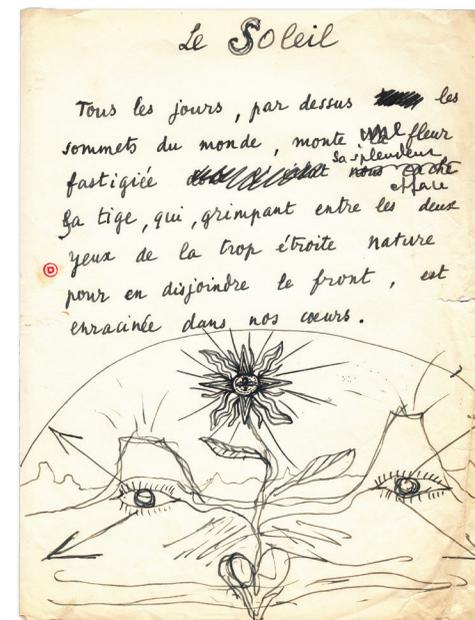
For the Maya, bone is polyvalent in meaning. On the one hand, bone is emblematic of death and depictions of skulls and skeletal bodies in ancient Maya art were intended to evoke dread. Bone was intimately linked to the underworld, a dark, dangerous, chaotic place that was contrasted against the living world of light and order. Yet there was also a beneficial quality to bone. Human skeletal remains offered a tangible connection to past generations and, in light of the Maya's cyclical understanding of life, were perceived as reproductive.

The Maya carved human and animal bone into a wide range of objects, from relatively simple bone tools to some of the masterpieces of ancient Maya art. To date, there has been no serious scholarly consideration of the quality of bone among the Maya. "Quality" here refers not only to the physical possibilities and limitations of working bone but more broadly to what bone was understood to be and what significances can be attributed

to its reworking. The Maya, past and present, have a rich tradition of carving bone and in ancient times they wrote about and depicted bone in their inscriptions and images.

The absence of work on bone as a material – for the Maya, or really any society – is in part an unfortunate artifact of the conventional division of labor among scholars in the humanities and social sciences, particularly the methodological, theoretical, and interpretative barriers between bioarchaeology/human osteology (Scherer's expertise), zooarchaeology (the study of animal bone), art history, among others. For this work, Scherer seeks to redraw the boundaries of Maya scholarship in order to unravel the unique qualities of bone. The project also engages with (and critiques) recent scholarship in the humanities on the "New Materialisms," especially as applied within anthropological archaeology.

The fall semester was spent as a Mellon Decade Fellow at the Clark Art Institute working on Scherer's book manuscript. Research and writing continued in the spring, supplemented by research trips to the Museo Templo Mayor in Mexico City and to Chiapas, Mexico, to lay the groundwork for the upcoming season of the Proyecto Arqueológico Busilja-Chocolja, an international archaeological project which he co-directs with Charles Golden (Brandeis University). After a two-year hiatus, the two will be returning to Mexico in June 2018 for six weeks of field and laboratory research with support from the Alphawood Foundation. The 2018 research team will involve four Ph.D. students from the Department of Anthropology at Brown, as well as scholars and graduate students from Brandeis University, the University of Florida, McMaster University, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, and the Centro de Cambio Global y la Sustentabilidad (Villahermosa, Tabasco).



Bibliothèque littéraire Jacques Doucet, Paris, Courtesy Armande Ponge

Thomas Schestag

GERMAN STUDIES • FALL 2017

Professor Thomas Schestag spent his sabbatical semester finishing two book projects. The first project took on a voluminous unpublished dossier, *Le Soleil* [The Sun], by French writer Francis Ponge (1899-1988). Ponge's initial consideration to approach the sun, not just as an object among others but as the very condition of phenomenality and life (on earth), as well as of a certain use of language among human beings, takes place under a cosmological or a *cosmolinguistical* perspective. Since 1920, under the provisional title *Mythe du Jour et de la Nuit* [The Myth of Day and Night], Ponge collects a series of poems and short prose pieces. This first period of his explanation with the sun is interrupted in 1931 by

several versions of a prose-fragment entitled *Le processus des aurores* [The Process of Auroras]. This text condenses the aporia at the core of Ponge's first efforts to turn towards the sun and come to terms with it. The (impression of) rhythmical return of the sun every morning not only consolidates the distinction of day and night, but also – this is Ponge's *linguistic* turn in approaching the sun – marks the origin of the establishment and domination of a certain use of language. Every day the sun's reappearance reaffirms the recognition of perception and designation of all things visible guided by the desire of *judging* things no less than words. What takes place on earth, every day, among humans, between dawn and dusk, is the perception and evaluation of all things considered in view of provisional or final judgments. Every day, in the light of the sun, is *Judgment Day*. In *Le processus des aurores* Ponge accuses the sun of being responsible for the establishment and absolute prevalence of a juridical use of language: diction as jurisdiction. But this initiative to bring the sun to trial would only reaffirm the domination of the use of language Ponge wants to overcome: a sentencing and sentenced world. *Le processus* ... remains incomplete. Only 17 years later, in 1948, does a new approach seem possible. A first note sets the tone: "Le Soleil // Il est normal que le soleil brille / d'abord en haut et à gauche de la page" [*The Sun // It is normal that the sun shines / first of all on top and on the upper left side of [or left from] the page*]. It is no longer just the sun under consideration here but also the *word*: soleil. The explanation with the sun is no longer exclusively cosmologically oriented, but unfolds *à même la page*, on the (manuscript) page, under a writer's (and reader's) eyes. This second, bifurcated approach eventually leads to the publication, in December 1954, of a condensed extract from Ponge's dossier, under the title *Le Soleil placé en abîme* [The Sun Placed in the Abyss]. Schestag's critical edition of this dossier, which is among the most astonishing and *illuminating* literary projects in the 20th century, includes facsimiles, transcriptions of manuscript and typescript pages, (German) translations, and a philological commentary.

The second book deals with the (in)significance of *names*. Its (German) title, *Namenlose*, can be read in different ways. It may say (or mean to say) *Those Without Names*, but also – almost conversely – *Lots of Names*. The first sentence of the preface offers a third reading: „Namen sind lose“ [Names are loose]. This book in three parts follows traces of the *Odyssee* of names (in Homer, Dante, Hölderlin, Borges, and Charles Olson), proceeding from the very name *Odysseus*, and from Ulysses' ruse offering to Polyphemus, whose sole eye he will burn out, when asked for his name, an echo of *Odysseus: Oûtis*; literally meaning, when read apart (in Ancient Greek), *oú tís*, No One, Non-One, Nemo, Nobody ...: as if offering (among other readings) the name of namelessness: *Nameless* as a name (*No One* as someone's name). The book's middle section takes another perspective: It approaches what may be called the *architecture* of names: discussing stairs and staircases in Franz Kafka's (published and unpublished) prose, with reference to Kafka's little story *Die Sorge des Hausvaters* [The Cares of a Family Man] which centers on a thing-like creature bearing the name *Odradek* that mostly appears on (and disappears from) stairs and staircases and that, when asked for where he lives, whispers the answer, as if without lungs: "Unbekannter Wohnsitz" [Whereabouts unknown].

Both books are to appear in early 2019 with the Berlin publisher *Matthes & Seitz*.

Roberto Serrano

ECONOMICS • 2017-18

During the academic year 2017-18 Professor Roberto Serrano visited the Department of Economics at Harvard University. Serrano received his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1992, so this year has brought back many good memories of his alma mater. The year has been quite productive. In terms of teaching, Harvard asked him to teach the first half of its graduate course on game theory, which he was honored to do, and that has been his only teaching responsibility this year. Serrano spent the rest of his time interacting with the Harvard faculty, visitors, and graduate students, traveling extensively to give seminars in good places, and continuing doing research in economic theory and game theory, as well as serving the academic community. All the detailed information about his activities can be found in his webpage econ.brown.edu/faculty/serrano.

Serrano was invited to present papers at Academia Sinica in Taipei (August 2017), Penn State University, University of Tokyo, and Kobe University (September 2017), National University of Singapore and Singapore Management University (October 2017), University of Bonn (November 2017), Harvard/MIT (March 2018), and Universidad de Alicante, Universidad de Vigo, and Universidad de Coruna (April 2018).

At the end of December, Serrano finished his term as the Editor-in-Chief of *Economics Letters*, the most important journal in economics for short papers. He is very proud of the work accomplished in the journal during the past six years. The work of the editorial team has served to cut down significantly the turn-around time of the almost 2000 annual submissions, always preserving the high quality of the evaluation process. The team has received a very strong positive reaction from numerous colleagues in the profession.

In December, Serrano also finished his work on the 2nd edition of *A Short Course in Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus*, joint with Allan Feldman, to be published by Cambridge University Press in the fall of 2018. This is the textbook that many good schools, including Brown, are now choosing for their intermediate micro courses. The work involved in this new edition has included the addition of over 70 new exercises as well as rewriting of the existing ones, and the drafting of new mathematical appendices to chapters.

Jesse Shapiro

ECONOMICS • SPRING 2018

Jesse Shapiro spent his sabbatical at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research and Harvard University.

During this time he revised his article “How Are SNAP Benefits Spent?” coauthored with Justine Hastings, Professor of Economics and International and Public Affairs at Brown University. The article is now forthcoming in the *American Economic Review*. The article uses a novel retail panel with detailed transaction records to study the effect of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) on household spending. The analysis finds that the influence of SNAP receipt on household food spending exceeds what textbook economic models would predict, and the article shows that incorporating mental accounting into the model can help to explain the findings. Hastings and Shapiro are conducting follow-up research, in collaboration with Ph.D. student Ryan Kessler, that measures the effect of SNAP receipt on the composition of foods purchased.

Professor Shapiro circulated a new article, “Pre-event Trends in the Panel Event-study Design,” coauthored with Simon Freyaldenhoven, a recent graduate of Brown’s Ph.D. program, and Christian Hansen, the Wallace W. Booth Professor of Econometrics and Statistics at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. The research in this article will be presented at the National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute in Public Economics and Labor Studies. Professor Shapiro is especially pleased to have circulated new work written in collaboration with a Ph.D. student.

While on leave, Professor Shapiro conducted research with Isaiah Andrews, Silverman (1968) Family Career Development Associate Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Matthew Gentzkow, Professor of Economics at Stanford University, that extends ideas in their earlier published work to new settings. Gentzkow will discuss this work in the Fisher-Schultz Lecture at the Econometric Society meeting in summer 2018.

Professor Shapiro also worked on revisions to his article “Measuring Polarization in High-Dimensional Data,” coauthored with Gentzkow and with Matt Taddy, VP Chief Economist of Marketplaces at Amazon. Methods and data developed in the article are in use by several other research teams, supported by data made available through the study.

Professor Shapiro’s sabbatical also afforded him time to pursue new collaborations in industrial organization, political economy, psychology and economics, and the application of text analysis to social science.

While on sabbatical, Professor Shapiro presented his research at the University of British Columbia, the University of Southern California, the University of Colorado Boulder, the University of California Santa Barbara, Stanford University, the University of Texas Austin, the California Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University, and the Behavioral Economics Annual Meeting (held at Yale University). He co-organized (with Myrto Kalouptsi of Harvard University) the National Bureau of Economic Research Industrial Organization Winter Program Meeting. He also co-organized (with Matthew Gentzkow of Stanford University

and Emir Kamenica of the University of Chicago) the Becker Friedman Institute’s Media and Communications Conference.

During the 2017-18 academic year, Professor Shapiro served on the dissertation committees of three students: Simon Freyaldenhoven (who has accepted a position at the Philadelphia Fed), Lucas Scottini (PWC Philadelphia), and Will Violette (Federal Trade Commission).

Professor Shapiro continued his professional service as an Associate Editor of the *American Economic Review: Insights* and began an appointment as an Associate Editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

Ada Smailbegović

ENGLISH • 2017-18



Silk Poems, Jennifer Bervin

Ada Smailbegović spent her sabbatical working on her first book manuscript titled *Poetics of Liveliness: Soft Matter of Molecules, Fibers, Liquids, Tissues, Clouds*. Structured as a poetic cosmology, akin to Lucretius’ long poem *De rerum natura*, which explores how the tiniest of atoms can assemble to form the most complex entities in the universe, *Poetics of Liveliness* moves in discrete chapters through the materialities of molecules, fibers, liquids, tissues and finally clouds as they appear in twentieth and twenty-first-century poetic texts. The primary focus of the book are poets who are drawing on scientific methodology in some way to

compose their poems. *Poetics of Liveliness* argues that this emphasis on the scientific practices of observation, description and experimentation allows these poets to remain deeply immersed in the material textures of the often nonhuman worlds around them, opening up scales of perception through aesthetic means that would otherwise remain inaccessible to the human sensorium.

A case in point is a new chapter that Professor Smailbegović was able to compose during her sabbatical leave, concerning a book of poems by the poet and artist Jennifer Bervin titled *Silk Poems*. Written from a

perspective of a tiny silkworm as it traverses its brief but complex lifecycle from egg to caterpillar and eventually moth, *Silk Poems* explores 5000 years of sericulture history during which humans and silkworms have become interdependent on one another. Accompanying the printed version of the text published by Nightboat Books in 2017, the poem took another shape created through a collaboration between Bervin and scientists David Kaplan and Fiorenzo Omenetto working at the Tufts University Bioengineering Lab, who have been investigating the possibilities of using silk as a biomedical material due to its biocompatibility with the human immune system. This alternate version of the poem is written on a film made out of silk that had been liquefied and re-engineered as a biosensor that could be implanted inside the human body. In a chapter titled, “Fibers: Edge-Textures and Nonhuman Scales of Sense” Professor Smailbegović investigates the collaborative space between poetry and science that *Silk Poems* opens up, with a special emphasis on how the poem acts as a kind of figurative microscope to amplify both biological morphologies occurring at the scale of DNA and protein structure of silk, as well as the more subjective experience of the silkworm navigating its environment in close, temporally sensitive ecological association with the mulberry tree. The work on the chapter in progress was presented at the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) convention in March 2018 in Los Angeles.



Gertrude Stein with Basket II and Marie Laurencin's Portrait of Basket II
(Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library)

In addition to this, the sabbatical leave afforded time for the completion and revision of several more chapters of the book manuscript and the publication of two articles. One article, based on the Molecules chapter of *Poetics of Liveliness*, concerning the genetic poem *The Xenotext Experiment* in which the poet Christian Bök writes a DNA poem and inserts it into the genome of bacteria in hopes that the bacteria will generate a second collaborative

aterial was also presented in Dubrovnik, Croatia in June 2017 at a symposium titled “STRUCTURE” hosted by Mama Multimedia Institute and the Centre for Expanded Poetics. A second article composed during the sabbatical, “Of Poodles, Mockingbirds and Beetles: Gertrude Stein’s Zoopoetics” is forthcoming in a special issue of the journal *College Literature*, on the topic of “Lively Words: The Politics and Poetics of Experimental Writing.” It takes up Gertrude Stein’s relationship to nonhuman animals and in particular her poodle Basket as key for her conceptions of human nature and the human mind. The article also addresses Stein’s understanding of American geography as figured through her writing about the ecology and distribution of mockingbirds in California in the early twentieth-century as explored in her book *The Geographical History of America*. Along with these pursuits, Professor Smailbegović also co-edited an issue of the journal *Pelt* on the topic of “Feminist Temporalities” with over 30 contributions of original poetic work from North America and Europe as part of her editorial work for *The Organism for Poetic Research*. Her poem “Colors and Shapes (without monuments)” appeared in the *Berkeley Poetry Review* and her chapbook *The Forest / On Waiting* was published by Doublecross Press.

Susan Smulyan

AMERICAN STUDIES • 2017-18

During the most exciting part of her leave, Professor Susan Smulyan spent three months as a Senior Fellow at Fudan University, Shanghai, where she studied the privately financed, contemporary art museums that have sprung up in the last five years in this exciting city. Part of a collaboration between the Fudan Fellows’ Program and Brown’s Office of Global Engagement, the fellowship allowed Smulyan to explore how museums in Shanghai think about their role and about the public.

Shanghai, with its mix of privately and state-funded museums and an active contemporary art scene, provided a great place to consider these questions in the context of China’s changing economic structure. Smulyan visited 23 museums and focused on 10 contemporary art museums and an “art mall,” an urban shopping center that included art galleries on the lower level and art displayed in and around the stores.

A crucial research question came from a Shanghai student studying in Brown’s M.A. in Public Humanities program as she briefed Smulyan for the research trip. She explained: “Only young people go to museums; old people never do.” American museum curators believe exactly the opposite and so Smulyan asked everyone she met, “Why do young people in Shanghai go to museums?” hoping to learn something that might help U.S. museums attract a younger crowd. After observing the museums, their operations, and their patrons, and having discussions with staff members, Smulyan now understands that the Brown student referred specifically to Shanghai’s contemporary art museums, both state-funded and privately funded. These museums focused on interactive exhibits, opening parties, Western-influenced art, and the active engagement of young, and newly middle-class, Shanghai residents. These young visitors, interested in both culture and consumption, found a welcoming space in the new museums. At the same time, the museums discouraged visits from retired and less wealthy patrons, who favored state-run museums focused on Chinese historical and cultural artifacts.

Professor Smulyan has been invited back to Shanghai in July 2018 to present a keynote address on her research at a forum sponsored by the Shanghai Museum and the Shanghai Museum of Science and Technology and is discussing the project with the M.A. student who provided the initial research question on a new Public Humanities podcast, which can be accessed .

Smulyan also gave talks at Chiba University and the University of Tokyo in Japan as well as at Fudan University in Shanghai. She completed an essay, “What Public Humanities Can Learn from Public Art” to be included in a new anthology that she will edit, *Doing Public Humanities*. She wrote a book proposal for the anthology, solicited articles from colleagues, and sent the completed proposal out to reviewers at Routledge Press.

Zachary Sng

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND GERMAN STUDIES • 2017-18

Zachary Sng spent the academic year 2017-18 as an Affiliated Fellow at the Institute for Cultural Inquiry, an independent research center in Berlin that hosts researchers from different disciplines and countries. He participated in a number of activities organized around the Institute’s core topic of Errans, including a working group on the writings of Werner Hamacher and a workshop on Siegfried Kracauer. In June 2018, he co-organized with Daniel Hoffmann-Schwarz a one-day conference entitled Philological Time(s), where he presented a paper on the writings of Heraclitus, Friedrich Hölderlin, and Martin Heidegger. The proceedings of the conference are being prepared for publication.

Sng’s main research goal for the sabbatical year was to complete work on his second book, entitled *Middling Romanticism*, in which he examines Romanticism’s engagement with moderation, mediocrity, mediation, and other related figures of the middle. The study draws primarily on material from both German and English writers in the period, but it also juxtaposes this textual corpus to classical writings and contemporary critical theory in order to ask about Romanticism’s place in literary and intellectual history. The sabbatical leave enabled Sng to complete final revisions on his chapters and write an introduction to the manuscript, which he submitted to the press for review in spring 2018.

In addition, Sng also completed an article entitled “Ablative Affinities,” which examines the odd use of the preposition ab- in Johann Wolfgang von Goethe’s novella, *The Elective Affinities* (*Die Wahlverwandschaften*). The article will be appearing soon in a special volume of the journal *Modern Language Notes* that is devoted to prepositions in Romantic writing.

Sng served on the organizing committee for the 2018 conference of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, which will be hosted at Brown University from June 22 to 25. He will organize a panel on “Political Romanticism” and present a paper on Kleist, Kant, and Wordsworth at the conference. The paper is based on work from his next book project, which will examine the hermeneutics of reduction and minimalism from Romanticism to the present.

During his time in Berlin, Sng continued to serve on examination and dissertation committees at Brown (via Skype and email). He also re-established contact with scholars at the Universities of Weimar and Erfurt where he had spent his previous sabbatical leave, and will serve as an external reader at Uni Erfurt for a dissertation on Walter Benjamin.

Marcus Spradlin

PHYSICS • 2017-18

Professor Spradlin is a theoretical physicist who has primarily been working to understand some of the mathematical structure of quantum field theory. He spent the summer of his sabbatical as a Visiting Scientist in the Theory Group at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland. He received a Simons Fellowship in Theoretical Physics which allowed him to spend the 2017-18 academic year as a member in the School of Natural Sciences at the Institute for

Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton.

During his sabbatical he completed four publications and initiated two new collaborations that are likely to bear additional fruit in the near future.

In pair of papers written with his graduate students Igor Prlina and Stefan Stanojevic, postdoc James Stankowicz, and Brown faculty colleague Anastasia Volovich, Spradlin initiated a program for determining the singularity structure of scattering amplitudes in certain quantum field theories directly from “amplituhedra.”

Amplituhedra are mathematical objects that have been conjectured to encapsulate all information about certain scattering amplitudes in a simple geometrical way. Recent years have seen the development of powerful techniques for computing scattering amplitudes from knowledge of their singularity structure alone, so the ability to access this information directly from amplituhedra offers a path for sidestepping otherwise notoriously tedious computations required in quantum field theory.

A third paper was a fortuitous result of a visit to the IAS by Jacob Bourjaily of the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen. Several years ago, Spradlin and his Brown collaborators initiated some preliminary investigations into a class of “elliptic” functions that were beginning to appear in quantum field theory calculations but were beyond the ability of then-available technology to say much about. Together with Bourjaily and his postdocs, who have made some recent breakthroughs in the relevant integration methods, Spradlin was able to vastly improve the earlier work in a paper published in *Physical Review Letters*.

Most recently, Spradlin and his graduate students Prlina and Stanojevic made a surprisingly general discovery about the structure of singularities of scattering amplitudes in general massless, planar quantum field theories. Their result relies on a mathematical theorem about the classification of planar electrical circuits.

At the IAS, Spradlin began collaborating with local faculty member Nima Arkani-Hamed to explore the mathematical structure of the natural kinematic domain for general scattering amplitudes in planar supersymmetric Yang-Mills theory. It is expected that knowledge of the detailed structure of this space will have several important implications for the field, which they are working to understand.

Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND ITALIAN STUDIES • 2017-18

With the support of a sabbatical leave and a Guggenheim Fellowship, Professor Stewart-Steinberg spent the academic year 2017-18 in Bologna, where she also acted as Faculty Director of the Brown-in-Bologna program. She continued work on her book manuscript, entitled *Grounds for Reclamation: Fascism, Postfascism, and the Making of Consent*, a study of Italian fascist land reclamation projects during the 1930s and their afterlife in literary representations and museums today. She completed the historical background for chapter three on the author Antonio Pennacchi, where she covered the very complicated relationships between left-wing and right-wing violence during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Most of the year, however, she spent working on the introductory theoretical chapter, where she is attempting to delineate a phenomenon she is calling the hermeneutics of reclamation. She additionally worked on revisions of an article submitted to the *Journal of Modern Intellectual History* on the metaphor of the “parenthesis” in modern Italian historiography.

Stewart-Steinberg published four essays, and a fifth (with Emilio Sala) is in press. “Sexual Causality” was her contribution to a public discussion in the *Journal of Modern Intellectual History* of Dagmar Herzog’s new book, *Cold War Freud*. The *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* published a long essay on the Italian journalist Indro Montanelli’s populism: “Blurred Images: Indro Montanelli’s Anti-Politics.” The same journal also published a review essay of Patrizia Guarnieri’s study of Italian psychology under fascism. An essay on Pier Paolo Pasolini’s famous “abiura” appeared in a volume entitled *Effetto Italian Thought: “L’ Abiura di Pasolini*. In *margine all’Italian Thought*.” Finally, a brief essay written with Emilio Sala of the University of Milan on the image of the silent king in Verdi’s *Macbeth* and Rossini’s *Viaggio a Reims* is forthcoming in a volume on the work and legacy of theater and opera director Luca Ronconi with the title “Due icone del re muto: Duncano e Carlo X.”

The latter article was the result of a paper presented at a conference on Ronconi held at the Centro Teatrale Santa Cristina in Umbria in August 2017. Stewart-Steinberg also participated in a conference at the Norwegian National Opera in Oslo and the University of Oslo, held on occasion of the theater’s new production of Bellini’s *Norma*, where she gave a talk entitled “Norma’s Undecidability.” She gave a lecture about her work to the high school students of the city of Piacenza, as part of the city’s program to invite academics in a broad range of fields to talk about their work. Finally, she gave the keynote address at the 23rd International Conference of Film Studies at the University of Rome Three on fascist documentaries of land reclamation projects: “Grounds for Reclamation: From the Swamps to the Days of Littoria.”

Stewart-Steinberg has continued to work with colleagues at the University College London, the University of Cambridge, and the University of Campinas, Brazil in the Leverhulme-funded three-year research project entitled “Reimagining *italianità*: Opera and Musical Culture in Transnational Perspective.” After organizing the network’s second conference at Brown in May 2017, she will be attending the final conference in Brazil in the fall of 2018.

Mark Suchman

SOCIOLOGY • 2017-18

Professor Mark Suchman spent his sabbatical year at Brown, focusing on research and writing. Professor Suchman studies the role of law – and, particularly, of legal professionals – in framing, interpreting, and structuring technological and economic change. His core projects for the year have explored processes of innovation, sense-making, standardization, and entrepreneurship, in disrupted fields where legal and business actors are struggling to construct a new “institutional logic” on shifting economic and social terrain. During his leave, he advanced three projects in this domain, as well as completing a more minor methodological essay for a law-review symposium on legal applications of corpus linguistics.

Suchman’s first major product for the year was an article manuscript (co-authored with his former advisee Meghan Kallman) on the perils and pitfalls of organizational networks. This essay addresses a significant gap in a literature that has historically examined (or assumed) the benefits of network relations while obscuring (or ignoring) the hazards and limitations. After analyzing the key orienting assumptions that foster this pro-network bias, the article develops an integrative typology to remedy the imbalance. Tracing three classes of adverse network processes (governance failures, informational failures, and adaptational failures) across three levels of analysis (whole networks, intra-network sub-structures, and individual network elements), this synthesis points the way toward a novel set of problematics, propositions, and predictions to guide future research and inform future practice. The manuscript is currently under submission to the *Academy of Management Review*, the premier venue for theoretical work in organizational studies.

Suchman’s second major project for the year was research with his dissertation advisee, Elizabeth Brennan, on the information-governance challenges posed by emerging health information technologies, and the organizational, professional, and legal structures that have emerged in response. This investigation yielded two manuscripts during the sabbatical year: the first, an anthology chapter examining the interplay of law and technology in healthcare organizations; and the second, an article draft analyzing the impact of patient-privacy regulations on practitioner-patient communications. The former paper was presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the Law and Society Association and is now in the hands of the volume editors; the latter paper is under preparation for submission to the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.

Suchman’s third project for the year was an ongoing NSF-funded study of temporal patterns in the entrepreneurial startup process. This research moved forward substantially during the sabbatical year, yielding

several methodological innovations, as well as an article manuscript (co-authored with graduate advisee Jessica Pollack) mapping the “activity space” traversed by nascent business ventures. The paper was presented at the 2017 annual meeting of the Academy of Management, and a revised draft is under preparation for submission to the Academy of Management Journal.

In addition to these scholarly projects (and somewhat against his better judgment) Professor Suchman also spent a portion of his sabbatical year participating in the external review and strategic planning processes for the Department of Sociology and for the Business, Entrepreneurship and Organizations program. He also continued his work with several graduate-student advisees and submitted a UTRA application for fall 2018 with an undergraduate BEO concentrator.

Peter Szendy

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE • SPRING 2018

Professor Peter Szendy spent his sabbatical semester mainly on campus at Brown, doing research and writing extensive sections of a book-length manuscript on reading and power. The manuscript, written in French, should be close to a final version by the end of August 2018. It will then be submitted to his French publisher, Les Éditions de Minuit. Elaborating on materials that he taught in his “Politics of Reading” class during the fall, the book includes chapters dedicated to reading and erotics in Plato and Sade, to Hobbes’ *Leviathan* as the construction site of a sovereign reader, and to reading in the era of world literature as staged by Goethe and Valéry. Szendy’s sabbatical semester has also allowed him to read closely the work of two writers who will be central in the book: Italo Calvino and Laszlo Krasznahorkai.

While working on this manuscript, Szendy finished two articles: “Face Value (the *Prosopa* of Money),” forthcoming in *Qui Parle*; and “Derivative Shakespeare: The Merchant of Venice and individual capitalism,” for a special issue of *diacritics* edited by Emily Apter and Martin Crowley. These two articles are part of a research project that Szendy is starting to develop at Brown entitled “Economies of Aesthetics,” it will include the programming of various events at the Cogut Institute, from 2019 onward.

In a more “minor” genre, Szendy also wrote six entries for a “Deleuze Dictionary” (*Dictionnaire Deleuze*) edited by Dorian Astor and published by Éditions Robert Laffont. His entries were: “Money,” “Debt,” “Bresson,” “Cinema I and II,” “Reading,” and “Derrida.” They allowed Szendy to further develop some reflections on reading on the one hand and economy on the other hand.

Finally, Professor Szendy collaborated closely with Jan Plug on the English translation of his book published last year in French: *Le Supermarché du visible. Essai d'iconomie* (Les Éditions de Minuit, 2017). The translation will be published by Fordham University Press in the coming year. Since the structure of the book is in some ways unusual – it mimics the format of a DVD with “additional features” – it was important to work closely with the excellent translator who already translated *Of Stigmatology: Punctuation as Experience* (Fordham University Press, 2018).

Adam Teller

HISTORY AND JUDAIC STUDIES • 2017-18

Professor Adam Teller spent this sabbatical year at home writing his new monograph, *Refugees, Captives, Slaves, and Jews, 1648-1672: A Jewish Refugee Crisis in the Seventeenth Century and its Resolution*. Having spent the best part of a decade collecting materials in no less than 12 languages, he began the year with just less than half the book on paper. What remained to be written were two sections – one on the Jewish refugees in the eastern Mediterranean region and one on the refugees in the Holy Roman Empire – as well as the introduction and conclusion.

At the end of the sabbatical year, about 100,000 words later, the first draft of the book is now complete. At present, Teller is going over the text doing final revisions and filling in those footnotes left unfinished during the writing process. He plans to submit the book to the publisher, Princeton University Press, early in the summer.

This is a study that should speak not just to historians interested in the Jewish past. The seventeenth century in Europe was an age of religious refugees of many types, with the Huguenots perhaps the most famous. The religious, social, and cultural approach of the book allows it to make a unique contribution to the still very understudied topic of early modern religious refugees. Beyond that, in its adoption of analytical tools from the field of Forced Migration and Refugee Studies, this book is also in dialogue with those considering how to deal with refugee issues in the contemporary world. The ways in which seventeenth century Jewish society approached issues such as dealing with the individual refugee’s needs, alleviating the issue of refugee trauma, and funding the extensive trans-regional relief efforts it undertook, can provide enlightening insights on problems we continue to struggle with today.

Over the year, Professor Teller presented aspects of his research in two different forums. He was invited to give a talk at Harvard University by its Ukrainian Research Institute. The title of his paper was “In the Wake of Catastrophe: Jewish Refugees Following the Khmelnytsky Uprising.” He also spoke at an international conference at the University of Maryland at College Park. The conference was entitled “The Practice of Jewish Politics, 1492-1880” and the paper he gave was “Trans-Regional Philanthropic Networks in the Early Modern Jewish World and the Beginnings of Modern Jewish Politics.”

Though unwilling to devote much of his time to other projects, Professor Teller this year wrote a review of David Fishman’s new book, *The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets, and the Race to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis*, for the *Slavic Review*. He also completed the editing of the next volume to come out in the Brown Judaic Studies Monograph Series. The book by Professor Israel Bartal is tentatively entitled, *Jewish, Hebrew, Israeli? The Multicultural Roots of Contemporary Israeli Culture* and is slated to appear late in 2019.

Finally, Professor Teller worked closely with the Brown Library following the proposed donation of a collection of over 100 extremely valuable, historic Haggadot (Passover prayer books) dating from the sixteenth century to the present and printed in various Jewish communities in America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. He assessed the collection for the University and spoke at the reception held in honor of the donor. He also

worked with the Library on the organization of an academic symposium to discuss the collection. It is slated to take place in the fall of 2018.

Amal Trivedi

HEALTH SERVICES, POLICY, AND PRACTICE AND MEDICINE • SPRING 2018

Dr. Amal Trivedi spent his sabbatical as a Fulbright Senior Scholar at the University of Melbourne's Centre for Health Policy in the School of Population and Global Health. His Fulbright project focused on evaluating the consequences of Australia's Closing the Gap Copayment policy. The overall goal of Closing the Gap was to reduce substantial and troubling disparities in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. For instance, prior research has documented a 10-12 year gap in life-expectancy between these two populations, largely driven by greater burden of chronic disease among Indigenous Australians. As part of the Closing the Gap strategy, the Australian Government created a program to reduce or eliminate copayments for prescription medications for Indigenous Australians with chronic disease or risk factors for chronic disease. The rationale for this policy was to reduce financial barriers to the use of effective medications. To date, there has been limited understanding of the effects of these targeted copayment reductions on out-of-pocket spending, use of medications, and health outcomes among Indigenous persons in Australia. To conduct the Fulbright project, Dr. Trivedi collaborated with Dr. Margaret Kelaher at the University of Melbourne to acquire data from the 45 and Up Study, a population-based cohort study of over 270,000 adults aged 45 and older residing in New South Wales. They also merged the data with prescription drug claims. To date, they have found that over 50 percent of Indigenous residents in New South Wales registered for the copayment incentive in the first four years. Further, preliminary analyses suggest that the initiative markedly reduced out-of-pocket payments and increased the use of prescription medications, particularly for those with higher copayments before the policy change. They are currently completing analyses to examine medications for specific chronic conditions (e.g. diabetes, heart disease) and exploring the possibility of linkage to hospitalization records. Another key fellowship outcome was the opportunity to present research to federal policymakers in Canberra and to the broader research community at the University of Melbourne. In the near future, the research team plans to submit abstracts detailing key findings from the Fulbright project to the Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand (HSRAANZ) biannual research conference taking place in Auckland in late 2019 and the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting in the US.

There were several benefits to the project in undertaking study in Australia. First, there is a pressing need across international health systems to improve equity in the quality of care and health outcomes for socially disadvantaged populations. But there is little empirical evidence about health system policies and interventions to reduce disparities. Australia's policy to reduce financial barriers to prescription medication for Indigenous persons with chronic disease provides an innovative potential strategy to address disparities in chronic disease. Second, the datasets for this project can only be accessed within Australia and via an

affiliation with an Australian University. Third, the project benefited from the expertise of other Australian researchers with extensive experience in conducting research related to Indigenous health.

In other sabbatical activities, Dr. Trivedi received a VA-funded grant to study the health consequences of disability compensation payments among Vietnam-era veterans and submitted several key papers related to ongoing federally funded research. This includes papers examining the impact of the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansions on mortality among persons with end-stage renal disease and geographic variations in health care use in the Medicare Advantage program. He also continued to mentor Ph.D. students, post-doctoral fellows, and junior faculty. The Fulbright and sabbatical was a transformative experience. The scholarship provided an opportunity to build relationships with an international group of researchers in his field. Dr. Trivedi is confident that the relationships developed during the past several months will extend well beyond the end of the fellowship. Living abroad also helps cultivate a "global" perspective about how researchers in other countries approach similar problems using different strategies. It also provides insight into how the environment for health services research may differ across countries with respect to stakeholder engagement, partnerships with government, and policies around the collection and dissemination of health data.

Anastasia Volovich

PHYSICS • 2017-18

Professor Volovich spent her sabbatical as an IBM Einstein Fellow and Member at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. She works on theoretical physics: quantum field theory, general relativity, string theory, and related areas in mathematics.

Volovich published two papers. In "Tree-level gluon amplitudes on the celestial sphere" (Physics Letters)

with Schreiber and Zlotnikov, she investigated Mellin transforms of various scattering amplitudes and their maps to the celestial sphere at infinity. In "All-Helicity Symbol Alphabets from Unwound Amplituhedra" (Journal of High Energy Physics) with Prlina, Spradlin, Stankowicz and Spradlin, she derived symbol alphabet for NMHV amplitudes from the amplituhedron.

Volovich gave several talks: at the annual Amplitudes 2017 conference in Edinburgh, colloquium and seminar in New York, Cluster algebra and Mathematical Physics conference in Michigan and Program on Poisson geometry of moduli spaces, associators and quantum field theory in Simons Center. She was named 2018 Blavatnik National Finalist. She supervised two graduate students, one of whom received his Ph.D in May, and two postdocs. Currently she is working on several projects related to SYK model and cluster structure algebras of scattering amplitudes.

Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro

POLITICAL SCIENCE • 2017-18

Professor Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro spent the academic year as a Visiting Scholar at the MIT GOV/LAB, in the Department of Political Science. She participated in a number of activities in the center and the department, including GOV/LAB's second annual conference on the political behavior of development in October 2017.

Professor Weitz-Shapiro spent the bulk of her time working on two large ongoing projects. The first project, "Voluntary Audits: Experimental evidence on a novel approach to bureaucratic oversight," is collaborative work with Ana de la O (Yale University) and Lucas Gonzalez (UNSAM Argentina). The project asks how bureaucrats can be motivated to invest effort and perform their duties honestly when they operate with significant autonomy and discretion. The difficulty of effectively overseeing and motivating bureaucrats is especially acute in developing countries with poor infrastructure, limited resources, and weak judicial systems. In this project, we posit that when street-level bureaucrats care about their reputations among peers and citizens, voluntary audits may be an effective tool for eliciting effort, honesty, and competent performance. Empirically, the project studies the performance of school principals in the administration of a free lunch program in Argentina. The central part of the project is a randomized field experiment carried out with the cooperation of the auditing body of the province of Chaco, in northeastern Argentina. As part of this project, Professor Weitz-Shapiro made two field visits to Chaco this year.

Professor Weitz-Shapiro also devoted significant time to an ongoing collaborative project (with Matthew S. Winters, University of Illinois) on the conceptualization and measurement of political knowledge in middle and lower-income democracies. For scholars of democratic politics outside of the United States, the question of what citizens need to know and how to measure that knowledge has been deeply influenced by the study of American politics. This project identifies two key limitations to existing approaches in lower-and middle-income countries. First, the questions included on standard knowledge batteries drawn from the U.S. case implicitly assume that formal institutions dominate politics. These batteries do not include questions on the informal practices, institutions, and actors that are central to political life in many parts of the world. Second, existing knowledge batteries treat citizens almost exclusively as decision-makers, ignoring their role as potential claimants of rights from the state. Weitz-Shapiro and Winter argue that in contexts where state capacity is weak and many citizens live in poverty, the question of "what citizens need to know" should be answered more broadly. In these settings, having the knowledge to make claims on the state is often crucial for full involvement in political life. Professor Weitz-Shapiro presented this project at seminars at UCSD and CIDE (Mexico) this academic year.

Professor Weitz-Shapiro also completed three projects during this academic year. She co-edited a special issue of the journal *Studies in Comparative International Development* (SCID), entitled "The Politics of Urban Informality: Innovations in Theory and Research Design from the City's Margins." She co-authored the introductory piece of that special issue, entitled "State, Society, and Informality in Cities of the Global South." The special issue will be published in late 2018 and will be the subject of a panel at this year's American Political Science Association Annual Meeting.

She completed a project on citizen attitudes towards corruption in Brazil, which analyzed public opinion data from the entire present democratic period. This project produced a co-authored book chapter, "Continuity and Change in Public Attitudes toward Corruption" which will be forthcoming in the *Routledge Handbook of Brazilian Politics*, edited by Barry Ames (2018).

Finally, she completed a co-authored project on strategic voting. Along with Matthew S. Winters, she completed a paper, "Strategic voting in a two-round, multi-candidate election," which examines the correlates of strategic voting in Argentina's 2015 presidential election. This paper will be published as a chapter in the forthcoming edited volume "*Campaigns and Voters in Developing Democracies*" (Lupu, Oliveros, and Schiumerini, eds).

