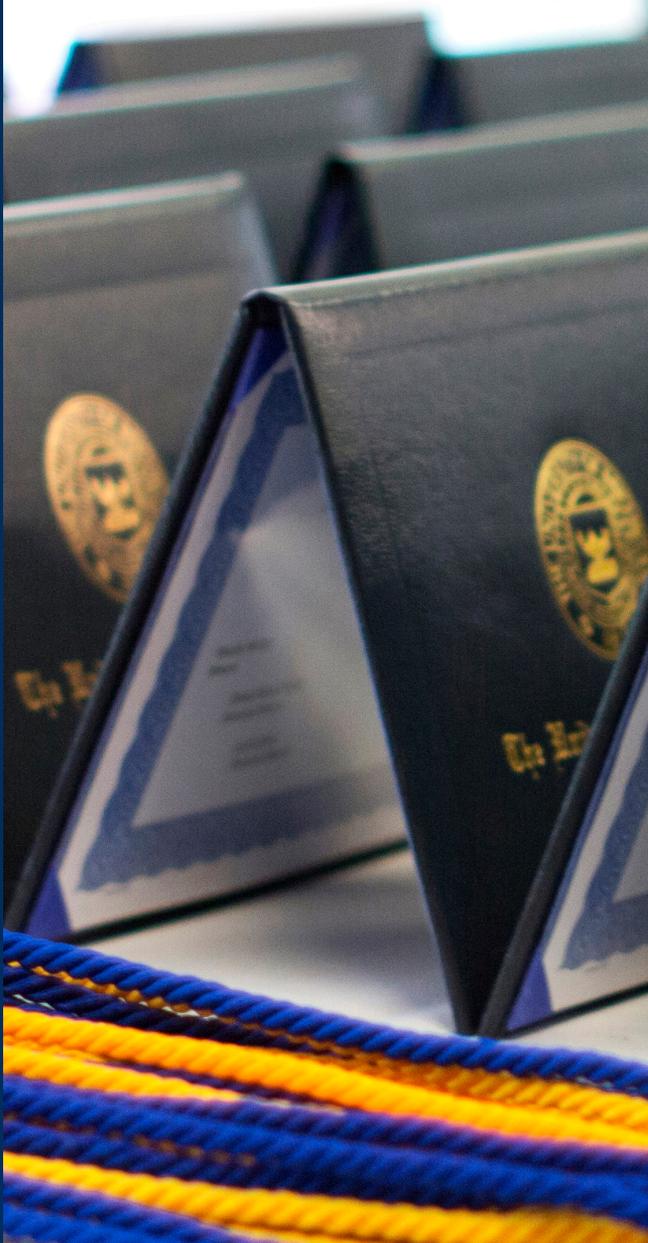


THE HISTORY

Honors Symposium
2023



Program

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Angela D. Dillard

Department Chair; Richard A. Meisler Collegiate Professor of Afroamerican & African Studies, History, and in the Residential College

Christian de Pee

Honors Committee Chair; Professor of History

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2023 History Department Honors Students

Alok Amit Abhilash

Land Ownership, Merchant Capital, and the Race for Indigenous Industrial Proprietorship: An Examination of the Rise of Indian Industry in Bombay and Bengal Under the British Raj

Advisor: David John Hancock

The tale of Indian industrialization is a tale of two regions: Bombay and Bengal. This thesis is a micro-environmental analysis on the conditions that allowed the rise of indigenous industrial entrepreneurship in Bombay while Bengal was industrialized by Anglo-Scots. A close analysis of land ownership structures of both regions answers the question of why did indigenous industrial entrepreneurship emerge in Bombay and not Bengal, and more than a half century prior to World War I?

Sundus Al Ameen

Between Muqawama and Revolución: The Cultural Bridges of Resistance in Lebanon and Nicaragua

Advisor: Juan Cole

Different resistance movements shaped the outcomes of the Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990) and the Nicaraguan Revolution (1961-1990). Resistance in Lebanon and Nicaragua emerged from society's most marginalized groups to enact change. Individuals, specifically the women, who participated in these movements had essential roles to play in keeping the resistance alive. They were influenced by ideologies of resistance, which carried tendencies of anti-imperialist patriotism. These ideologies molded all aspects of the culture of resistance, from guerrilla insurgencies to artistic endeavors. When embodied through artistic expression, resistance culture becomes a tangible means of mobilization, which is the legacy of subaltern change.

Bailey Iliana Burke

Letters of Connection: The Role of Irish Emigrant Letters in the Maintenance of Familial, Financial, and Communal Connections at the Turn of the Twentieth Century

Advisor: Kali Israel

This thesis discusses the enduring connections between Irish emigrants and those they left in Ireland at the turn of the twentieth century. Enduring historical narratives emphasize the separation from their homeland experienced by Irish emigrants, as the vast majority of them would never return to Ireland. However, this thesis argues that familial, financial, and communal connections were maintained by letter writing. The relationships that these often ordinary letters sought to maintain were aided by the inclusion of photographs, the exchange of newspapers, and the gift of money in the form of remittances. Letters helped bridge the distance between Ireland and America, lessening the severity of emotional and social separation.

Alexander Dingman

Phoenix Real Estate Developers: The Drivers of Economic Transformation During the 1950s and 1960s

Advisor: Anthony P. Mora

This thesis investigates the puzzle of how one American city—Phoenix, Arizona—grew in the two decades following World War II from a town outside the top hundred to the twentieth-largest city and the premier city in the American southwest. The research focuses on the little-known, behind-the-scenes, yet pivotal, role real estate developers played in driving economic and population growth that transformed the city. This work hopes to clearly demonstrate the unique advantages and circumstances that created spectacular growth, plus the impact of what happened when developers became the economic heart of a city for the first time.

Tyler M. Firestone

Teaching Patriotism: US Social Studies Textbooks and Imaginary Economic Citizenship

Advisor: LaKisha Michelle Simmons

White-centric social studies textbooks communicate to readers that their subject—White Americans—benefits from participating in the American capitalist economy while suggesting that those left out—nonwhite Americans—do not. As a result, White pupils build an understanding that the social contract will deliver them monetary and civic benefits if they contribute to the economy. By contrast, nonwhite pupils do not develop the same understanding because they learn that people who look like them largely do not enjoy the benefits of American capitalism. Altogether, social studies textbooks in twentieth-century America often failed to reproduce imaginary economic citizenship in primary and secondary school nonwhite pupils because the textbooks did not adequately address the achievements and contributions of nonwhite minority groups in American history.

Eli Friedman

“Remember the Haymarket!”: Labor, Politics, and Class Formation in Late-Nineteenth-Century Chicago

Advisor: Terrence J. McDonald

This project intends to clarify the relationship between Chicago’s working class and electoral politics in the 1880s. Additionally, it seeks to understand how the Haymarket Affair altered this relationship. My research and examination of six newspapers finds novel explanations for the United Labor Party’s (ULP’s) rise and fall immediately after Haymarket. The reasons for the party’s success include the ULP’s appeal to immigrant groups and the labor movement’s need to escape post-Haymarket repression. The movement’s failure can be attributed in part to the loss of the German anarchist vote and a fusion of the “old parties” in the 1887 mayoral election.

Paige Harris

The First of Her Kind: Gendered Barriers of the United States Patent System

Advisor: Joy Rohde

This thesis analyzes how women's participation in patenting shifted from the start of the patent system in 1790 to today. The Patent Act of 1790 formed a seemingly progressive institution. However, "progressive" in the eighteenth century was far from equal. As women's involvement in the public sphere progressed, the quantity and types of their inventions expanded, yet women continued facing barriers. Observing this long-term change reveals the factors that enabled women to become involved in, as well as excluded from, the inventor ecosystem.

Paige Christine Hodder

Lesbian Connections: Counter Narratives, Healing, and Community Actualization in Ann Arbor and East Lansing, Michigan, from 1975 to 1980

Advisor: Jennifer Dominique Jones

This thesis centers lesbian communities in these two Michigan college towns—Ann Arbor and East Lansing—during a five-year period. I look at publications in each of these geographies as records of production, exchange, and discussion of lesbian thought and action. I argue that the creation and circulation of documentations and representations of lesbian experience and affect constitute a larger community project defined by the therapeutic practice of identifying and addressing, through the creation of counternarratives, the oppressive societal harms these communities had experienced. These communities sought actualization through three counter narratives, specifically narratives of alienation, solidarity, and pleasure.

Spencer Hsieh

How the *Waishengren* Was Tempered

Advisor: Pär Cassel

In Chinese, *waishengren* means "people from an outside province." It is a term that captures the diversity of dialects and culture within China. However, the term *waishengren* also conjures the memory of revolution and war. *Waishengren* were the loyal citizens of a young Chinese republic. Through migration, *waishengren* preserved China's national identity during its struggle against Japanese invasion. Through migration, *waishengren* carried on China's revolutionary legacy in Taiwan. The history of *waishengren* reflects the development of modern China. It helps us understand at a personal level the hostilities and national zeal between mainland China and Taiwan.

Roderick Allan Johnson, Jr.

Remembering Chancroid: A Historical Examination of America's "Least Important" Venereal Disease

Advisor: Joel D. Howell

A venereal disease (sexually transmitted infection) called chancroid has caused tremendous difficulty for American physicians for decades. The medical community has struggled to diagnose and treat chancroid because they have failed to consider it important unless it contributes to the spread of other diseases like HIV/AIDS. "Remembering Chancroid: A Historical Examination of America's 'Least Important' Venereal Disease" argues that the way physicians ascribe importance to some diseases, but denies it to others, has consequences. Because physicians have resisted acknowledging chancroid as important in itself, medical knowledge of it has declined, which has made ensuring proper treatment for patients difficult.

Emily Anne Kopp

Exclusion and Exceptionalism: An Analysis of the US' Rhetorical Allyship and Practical Opposition to the International Criminal Court

Advisor: Juan Cole

On July 17, 1998, a vote was held among the delegates of the Rome Conference to decide if the International Criminal Court (ICC) would come into existence. Despite being an ardent supporter and proponent of international justice, the US was one of just seven countries that voted against the establishment of the court. As we approach the twenty-fifth anniversary of the historic vote, the United States still refuses to sign onto the ICC. My thesis examines the historical relationship between the United States and the ICC, explaining that the United States has always maintained rhetorical support, but practical opposition, to the ICC.

Samuel James Cameron Mackey

Federalism Through the Judiciary: How Supreme Court Chief Justices John Marshall and Roger Taney Shaped Federal Power in Early America

Advisor: Gregory E. Dowd

This thesis is about the different interpretations of federalism between Supreme Court Chief Justices John Marshall and Roger Taney. It will look at their time spent on the court and the cases they ruled upon regarding the topic of federalism during their tenures as chief justice from 1801 to 1864. It asks how both Taney and Marshall impacted the country through their judicial opinions that promoted their own interpretations of the Constitution. It also looks at how the country was changed by having two ideologically different justices represent the Supreme Court in successive terms. This thesis consulted biographies, autobiographical memoirs, and journals that covered the lives of each chief justice. It will also use the writings of the justices from the cases they ruled upon during their tenures on the Supreme Court along with official records from their time spent serving in other public offices.

Alexander Joseph Majie

Gold Medals and Go-Go Boys: The Attempted Erasure of a Gay Montreal Prior to the 1976 Summer Olympics

Advisor: Nadine Dean Hubbs

In the months leading up to the 1976 Montreal Summer Olympics, the government began a ruthless campaign of harassment and intimidation of the city's gay population. The police raided bars, clubs, bathhouses, and other queer gathering spaces in an effort to drive these spaces back underground and out of the public eye. What followed, however, is a story of resistance in the face of increasingly brutal repression tactics. This all culminated in Quebec becoming the first jurisdiction larger than a city to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation. By analyzing queer periodicals and various newspaper sources, this thesis seeks to understand how the gay population of Montreal was able to overcome the city's stark language divide and present a unified response in the face of a hostile mayoral government.

Drew Robert Meinecke

A Tense Coexistence: Examining the Interracial Character of Belle Isle Park in 1920s-1940s Detroit

Advisor: Deborah Dash Moore

This paper explores the interracial character of Belle Isle Park in Detroit in the 1920s-1940s. It examines interactions between Black and white Detroiters on an integrated island park at a time when urban recreational spaces were often segregated. Belle Isle represented an exception to the rule of segregating more intimate activities—for example, it had an integrated beach when interracial swimming was staunchly opposed due to white fears surrounding miscegenation—however, it was not a model for interracial harmony, as the Detroit race riot of 1943 broke out on Belle Isle after years of tension between Black and white visitors.

Giselle Ellenne Mills

Wills, Wool, and Wardrobes: Clothing and Textiles of Non-Elite Men and Women in Tudor-Era Lincolnshire, England

Advisor: Katherine French

During the sixteenth century in Tudor-era England, clothing was an important symbol of status, gender, and identity. While we have access to portraiture of elites and royalty, the intimate and meaningful histories of lower-class men and women are sparse. This thesis analyzes middling peasant wills from Lincolnshire, England, and argues that clothing was more important to will-making women and clergymen compared to laymen, due to sumptuary legislation and traditions of inheritance. Through bequests of clothing, women sought to expand their social circles and leave personal impact in their communities.

Davis Moyer

Britain's 17th-Century Conflicts: Hume's Philosophy of Revolution and Its Historical Foundation

Advisor: Clement Hawes

David Hume's philosophy of revolution has been understood along two interpretations. The first of these views is the traditionalist view, which argues that Hume was a strict conservative who only justified revolution insofar as it adhered to custom. The second of these views is the moderate view, which instead argues Hume was a proponent of political moderation, as it is more conducive to the maintenance of liberty. This thesis analyzes Hume's accounts of the English Civil Wars and the Revolution of 1688 in order to argue that the moderate view provides a better framework for understanding Hume's philosophy of revolution.

Grant Mullins

Prisoners of the Press: Twenty-One American "Turncoats," the American Press, and Culture During the Cold War

Advisor: Heather Ann Thompson

After the Korean War, twenty American POWs and one British POW refused repatriation to their home countries and chose to stay in the People's Republic of China. Being intensely influenced by the culture of the Cold War, the white and Black American press and public widely understood the twenty-one to be traitors, brainwashed by the Chinese, and morally depraved. The twenty-one were none of these things. They went to China in search of racial justice and greater opportunity, because they were curious, or due to ideological conviction. Popular understanding of the twenty-one shaped how some of them portrayed their experiences upon their return home.

Thomas Pazik

Echoes of the Holodomor: Memory, Nationalism, and Identity in Ukraine

Advisor: Jeffrey Veidlinger

In my thesis, I assert that the memories shared collectively by many Ukrainians who suffered through the Holodomor Famine of 1932-1933 form a collective trauma. I also argue that the Ukrainian government has used this collective trauma to build a national memory, creating national unity amongst Ukrainians based on the collective suffering of the Ukrainian people under Moscow's boot. Finally, despite the Ukrainian government's promulgation of the narrative of a Ukrainian state oppressed by Moscow, and even though the Holodomor bolsters this same narrative, Vladimir Putin's aggression toward Ukraine has single-handedly turned most Ukrainians against Russia.

Emily M. Ripper

Narrative, Mythology, and Memory as Historical Artifacts: An Analysis of Romanian Ethno-nationalism and Jewish Identity in Mid-Twentieth Century Communist Romania

Advisor: Pamela Ballinger

This thesis examines how the ethno-nationalist narrative of the Romanian Communist Party defined an idealized national identity and justified a long-standing legacy of Romanian anti-Semitism. This exclusionary narrative is placed in conversation with the personal narratives of Romanian Jewish persons who lived during the beginning of the post-WWII communist era, from 1945 to the beginning of the 1960s. Their oral histories testify to the multiplicity of Judaism and the complexity of personal ethnic identity. By placing these narratives in conversation, this thesis explores how narrative, memory, and national mythology create identity, and are simultaneously acts of history-making and historical artifacts.

Nomi Rosen

Revisiting Munich on the Rocky Road to Repentance

Advisor: Andrei S. Markovits

Because of the burden of Auschwitz, the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and Israel established an official, special relationship in 1952. Despite overwhelmingly positive state-to-state relations that would last until today, the legacy of the Holocaust could not and cannot be overcome by any political or stately act. This thesis argues that the West German government's inability to prevent the tragedy at the 1972 Munich Olympics, followed by its ineptitude in handling the attack and its inadequate response to this crime's ramifications for half a century, hail in good part from the FRG's profound difficulties coming to terms with the burden of the Holocaust.

Jason Robert Seekamp

Contextualizing What It Means To Be Deaf: Foundations, Education, and Activism

Advisor: Powel H. Kazanjian

What does it mean to be culturally Deaf? Most Deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States consider themselves part of a rich culture and history that was built on the back of Deaf residential schools in the nineteenth century. Throughout time, Deaf people in the United States have had their culture threatened and have fought, and still fight, for representation. Their struggles and activism throughout time is part of what it means to be Deaf, and the context in which they struggled is part of their story.

James Stevenson

The Elimination of the National Debt in the Early United States, 1790-1835

Advisor: David John Hancock

In 1835, the US federal government eliminated the national debt for the only time in its history. The federal government was able to accomplish this unique event because of its relative lightness; its favorable international situation; its consistent respect for the rights and interests of its creditors; and its consistent commitment to debt reduction. The actual course of debt elimination was caught up in broader political struggles over economic development amidst a financial revolution that was upending the old ways.

William Robert Stieg

Regulating Noisome Nuisances: The Slaughterhouse Cases and Public Health Reform in the Nineteenth Century

Advisor: Emily A. Prifogle

Few decisions in Supreme Court history have been more highly criticized than the Slaughterhouse Cases. In the majority opinion written by Justice Samuel Miller in 1873, the Supreme Court began to limit the positive effects the Fourteenth Amendment could have had upon the lives of African Americans. This thesis considers anew to relevant contexts that led Justice Miller to deliver a decision so opposed to the goals of Reconstruction. Using documents pertaining to public health regulation and the various political and legal battles from antebellum and Reconstruction New Orleans, the reasoning behind Slaughterhouse becomes all the more predictable.

Bennett Walling

Black Power in the Great Lakes State: Conflict and Coalition within the Detroit and Ann Arbor Black Power Movements

Advisor: Matthew Countryman

This thesis examines moments of conflict and coalition in the Black Power Movement in Ann Arbor and Detroit. By following the organization histories of seven organizations (Black Panthers, Republic of New Afrika, League of Revolutionary Black Workers, and Shrine of the Black Madonna, all in Detroit; Black Student Union, Washtenaw County Black Economic Development League, and Black Berets, all in Ann Arbor), I argue that the Black Power period was shaped by local historical, economic, and social conditions as well as dominated by moments of coalition rather than intra-movement conflict.

Ava Thompson Wells

Army of Occupation: Detroit's Residency Requirement and the Detroit Police Officers Association

Advisor: Matthew Lassiter

Residency requirement Ordinance 327-G of 1968 was Detroit officials' response to tensions between aggressive police officers and a Black community under siege. The Detroit Police Officers Association, a virtually all-white police union determined to reserve the right to live outside of the city, would fight the requirement on three fronts: lawsuits, arbitration, and political appeal. The consequences of the residency requirements eventual demise via the Senate Bill 198 of 1999 would have consequences. The story of the ordinance's beginning and end allows us to understand the reasons why Detroit remains one of America's poorest and most aggressively policed cities.

Elizabeth Celia Yoon

Korean Bible Women and *Chondo Buin*: American Perceptions and Their Lived Experiences (1905-1919)

Advisor: Yi-Li Wu

The unequal 1882 United States-Korea Treaty allowed US citizens to enter Choson Korea. American missionaries arrived, eager to convert "heathen" Koreans, but were not initially successful. They trained native Korean women as Bible women, or *chondo buin*, who carried around Bibles and made house visits. The Bible women were successful and missionaries were impressed with the eagerness and "childlike" way Korean people took to their religion. This thesis analyzes the "Korea Mission Field," a missionary output from 1905 to 1919, and argues that Bible women had double-ended purposes. For Americans, they were their hands on the ground and for the Bible women, they were agents navigating a tumultuous historical period.