

July 1



Whether you are working, studying, or pursuing other interests, I hope you are finding ways to enjoy the summer. I'm feeling the need to reach out, though, because these last two weeks have confirmed one great truth: history doesn't take a vacation.

We are in the midst of the revelations of the House Select Committee's public hearings on the January 6th insurrection, which everyone is comparing to the historic Watergate hearings of a half century ago.

Yesterday, Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in as a Supreme Court Justice; she is the 116th person to hold that position, and the first Black woman to do so. "I am truly grateful to be part of the promise of our great Nation," she said. Her swearing in came at the conclusion of an historic term, in which the Supreme Court handed down a number of far-reaching rulings that reshape both our history and our futures—including cases involving guns and the Second Amendment, Indigenous sovereignty, the 1st Amendment and the separation of Church and State (in a case involving school prayer in nearby Bremerton), criminal justice and the 6th Amendment, the Environmental Protection Agency and its power as an arm of Congress to address the problem of our broiling planet.

At the center of this explosive docket was *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, a case designed to challenge the Constitutional right to abortions established by the Supreme Court in its 1973 landmark case *Roe v. Wade*. As you know, the Supreme Court struck down that right, allowing State legislatures to decide whether or not abortion would remain legal within their confines (in Washington State, the right to an abortion is strongly protected*). In striking down this right, the Court also struck a course of history—portraying the history of abortion access and legality and along the way averring that abortion access is not "deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition."

Many historians beg to differ. They have questioned not only the way Alito's opinion portrays history, but also the rationale and application of the "originalism" he subscribes to. In fact, historians over the last half century have shed a great deal of light on the multifaceted history of abortion across time and place—and the many areas of human life with which it intersects, including gender identity and relations, sexuality, law, race, slavery, religion, political movements, health and medicine, women's rights, and more.

The ruling is political. It's also personal, affecting everyone in different ways. And it's historic, in many senses of the term. If you are interested, I'd like to share some additional resources and opportunities to further explore the ramifications and background of the decision.

First: a group of faculty from across campus will be hosting two gatherings in the coming weeks, entitled "In the Wake: Overturning Roe and the Dead Reckoning of *Dobbs*".

For an overview of excellent historical sources that look at the history of reproduction from a number of angles, you can take a look at the "syllabus" on "The History and Politics of Reproduction, Before and After Roe" put together by [Nursing Clio](#): Next, the "primary source": you can read the Dobbs decision, along with the Dissent (which begins on page 148 of the document), in full [here](#). Here is an Amicus Brief that the American Historical Association along with the Organization of American Historians submitted to help the Supreme Court understand the history of [abortion](#).

Before signing off, I want to extend a heartfelt note of appreciation to Professor Nancy Bristow, whose term as Chair of the History Department has just come to an end. We have all benefited tremendously from your exemplary service and leadership. THANK YOU!

July 7 (and throughout the year...)

The first of several events engaging with the past, present and future of reproductive rights in the wake of *Roe* took place, organized collaboratively by faculty from across the campus. These were all collaborations among faculty in History and in African American Studies, English, Politics and Government, Gender and Queer Studies, Theater, and Religion (among others), which at once shows how significant we see this history being made and remade (literally in the decision itself, and also in its repercussions) and how it can be illuminated from different disciplinary perspectives. In Fall and Spring, courses were developed to explore the topic in depth, including historical perspectives. Another public session was held on Constitution Day in the Fall. History and Science Technology Health and Society Professors Katherine Smith, Nancy Bristow, Kristin Johnson, and Doug Sackman participated in these, helping illuminate the deeper history of reproduction, abortion, and battles over bodily sovereignty from the medieval period, through the 19th century, and up to today in the US, and tomorrow too.

2) Common Law Traditions, pre-1800

Structural background:

- Common law was defined, overseen by men (unlike realms of medicine and religion, women are not practitioners/contributors in legal realm)
- Emphasis on addressing crimes against persons and property that occurred in public sphere and infringed on government's authority
- Cases initiated by victims (or, for most women victims, by their male representatives)



* Pregnancy and childbirth understood as part of a private, feminine sphere

In the Wake: Overturning *Roe* and the Dead Reckoning of *Dobbs*



Please join us as we gather to assess how our campus community is affected by the recent *Dobbs* decision and how we might collectively engage this critical moment. We recognize the work our students began by responding to the leaked draft of the decision, and we hope to foster open dialogue among faculty, staff, and students as we begin to chart our way forward in this changed legal landscape.

Should the west and the south "be filled by our children or by those of aliens? This is a question that our own women must answer; upon their loins depends the future destiny of the nation."

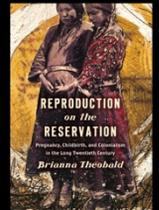
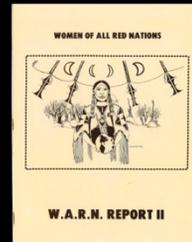
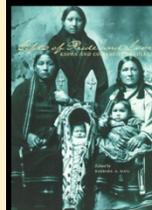
Physicians must oppose abortion "by every bond we hold sacred, by our reverence for the fathers of medicine (Hippocratic oath), by our love for our race..."

1906 Theodore Roosevelt's State of the Union Address warned of white women's "willful sterility - the one sin for which the penalty is national death, race suicide."



Dr. Horatio Robinson Storer

Indigenous People and Personal, Corporeal Sovereignty, in Historical Contexts



"In our birth stories we carry the stories of our people" Melis Elder Maria Campbell (2012)

deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition?



"deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition"

"Competing Historiographies"

The 13th and 14th Amendments, in Historical Contexts

Criminalization and the Medical Establishment, in Historical Contexts

Indigenous People and Personal, Corporeal Sovereignty, in Historical Contexts

with Professors Kristin Johnson (STHS and History) & Nancy Bristow & Doug Sackman (history)

August 21

Professor Doug Sackman presented one of three faculty lectures for first year students during Orientation, making connections between the mythology of US Western History and the challenges peoples in the nation, and Pacific Northwest region, have faced and continue to face in order to make the country "reach the heights" of democratic citizenship.



Going to the Mountain: *Historical & Democratic Vistas*

Douglas Sackman (History & EPDM) | Academic Orientation, 2022



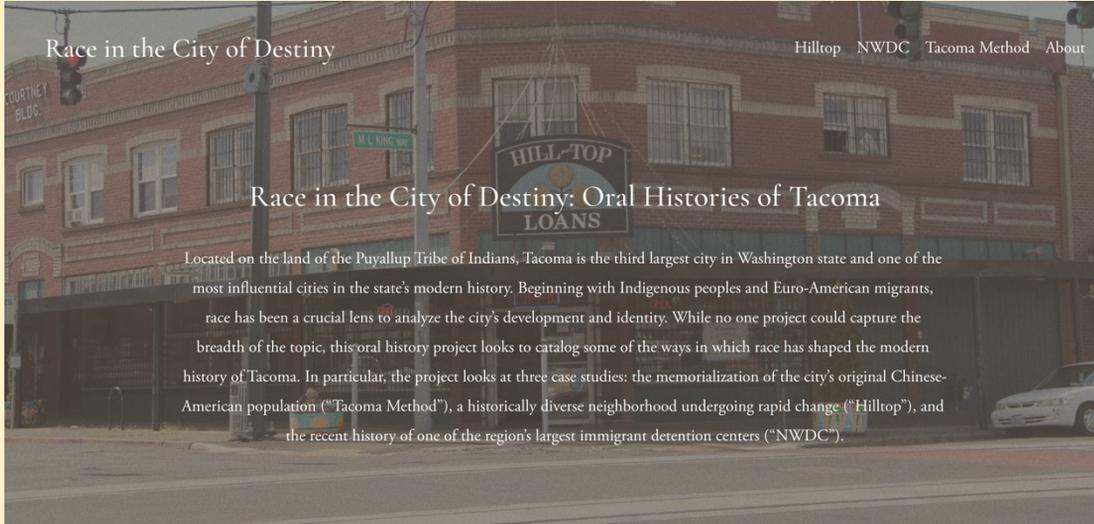
Jacob Lawrence, George Washington Bush series
Study and Nos. 4: Fort Vancouver is a temporary halting place before they venture to Puget Sound

[“Race in the City of Destiny,”](#) Professor Andrew Gomez’s new public history site, went live:

This project originated at the University of Puget Sound with Professor Andrew Gomez and his students conducting interviews related to the Northwest Detention Center. With the support of the [Whiting Foundation](#), the project was later expanded to a broader oral history project on the history of race in Tacoma that also included a series of public events on the topic. While the project is ongoing, the majority of the interviews were collected between 2019-2021, with many of the later sessions conducted remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The interviews and interview materials are also housed at the University of Puget Sound’s Special Collections.

Main Project Team: Amanda Díaz Andrew Gomez Maddy Hadden Adam Nolan Rose Pytte

Collaborators & Additional Student Contributors: Rowan Coates Sam Dickerson Alex Dyson Claire Foster Emily Harden Soli Loya-Lara Alena McIntosh Lotus Perry Hayley Rettig Fran Smyth William Towey



Select Interviews



Kay Littles

A business owner and organizer on the Hilltop, Kay Littles moved to Tacoma as a child during the 1940s. This interview covers the mid-century history of Tacoma’s Black community, redlining, and the more recent influence of gentrification and development on the Hilltop.



Lotus Perry

Lotus Perry is an Asian Studies Professor and long-term board member of the Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation (CRPF). In this interview, Lotus discusses her upbringing in Taiwan, her work with the CRPF, and how the CRPF has navigated the tumult of 2020.



Maru Mora Villalpando

Maru Mora Villalpando is an organizer and leader of La Resistencia, a local immigrant rights group that works in concert with detained people and their families. In this interview, Maru discusses the obstacles facing detained people at the NWDC and the various ways that La Resistencia attempts to support them.

Also, check out Professor Gomez’s earlier project with students on [“The Tacoma Method”](#)

"Toward a Just Memory: Resistance, Violence, Art and the American War in Vietnam." Wednesday you have an opportunity to attend the first event in the incredible series of events and exhibits this Fall : **Panel Discussion: Dissent and Resistance within the Military** Related to the exhibit, and coordinated with local members of Veterans for Peace, this panel discussion will feature activists who will talk together about their engagements with dissent and resistance at Fort Lewis and in its surrounding community, activities ranging from work with the Shelter Half Coffeehouse and the Fed UP newspaper to antiwar organizing within the Army, including in the Presidio Stockade following arrest. The panel discussion will engage issues related to the ethical and moral implications of opposing the war from within the military, as well as the differential motivations, tactics, impact and experiences of these actions.

Having these veterans for peace reflect on their experiences and resistance with us on campus was incredible. It was just one of several events in the Fall in the "Toward a Just Memory" series organized by Professor Nancy Bristow.

'TOWARD A JUST MEMORY: RESISTANCE, VIOLENCE, ART AND THE AMERICAN WAR IN VIETNAM' SERIES PRESENTS:



DISSENT AND RESISTANCE WITHIN THE MILITARY: A PANEL DISCUSSION

**OCTOBER 5, 2022
2:00-3:20PM**

**COLLINS MEMORIAL
LIBRARY: EAST
READING ROOM**

This panel discussion will feature activists who will talk together about their engagements with dissent and resistance at Fort Lewis and in the surrounding community. In activities ranging from work with the Shelter Half Coffeehouse and the Fed UP newspaper to antiwar organizing within the Army, including in the Presidio Stockade following arrest in one case. The panel discussion will engage issues related to the ethical and moral implications of opposing the war from within the military, as well as the differential motivations, tactics, impact and experiences of these actions.



Questions? Contact Professor Nancy Bristow at nbristow@pugetsound.edu



This event is sponsored by the Catharine Gould Chism Fund for the Humanities, Collins Memorial Library, and the Departments of African American Studies, Asian Studies, Business and Leadership, History, Religious and Spiritual Studies, Politics and Government, and the Race and Pedagogy Institute.



October 10: When Tacoma decided to join the growing ranks of states and cities that officially celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day four years ago, David Z. Bean, who was then the Vice Chair of the Puyallup Tribe, said, "This doesn't correct history, but it starts to tell the real story. It's the beginning of a reconciliation and healing for a lot of folks. I think it's an important step, getting on the right side of history...."

David Bean, who graduated from the University of Puget Sound, cares deeply about his own people's history, and has worked hard as a Council Member and Chair to represent his people and add new chapters to their deep history here. When we had "University of Puget Sound" translated into Lushootseed, the Indigenous language of this region, for the plaque on the east entrance gate to campus on 15th street, it came out literally as something like "Big Write House on the Sea." In living up to being a House of Writing and Learning located in the homelands of the Puyallup Tribe, we're highlighting today a couple of places where Puyallup and Indigenous histories have been marked anew.

In 2019, a bridge over the Puyallup River was renovated, remodeled and rededicated as yabuk'wali, meaning "place of a fight," in Lushootseed, and Fishing Wars Bridge in English. David Bean said: "Naming this bridge after the Fishing Wars will help future generations know what happened here. But it is also symbolic of bridging our past with our present and our future, and of bridging our communities." Ramona Bennett, who was a leader in that struggle and in the struggle to reinforce the sovereignty of the Puyallup Tribe, explained with her customary fire: "It was all about the right to protect the salmon, which is what we're here for! And we're so not done! We are so not done! We're still here. We're not going anywhere." Bodies and lives were put on the line in order to uphold their right to "right of taking fish, at all usual and accustomed grounds and stations"—a right they claimed by virtue of their history and who they are, and which was enumerated and reserved in the Treaty of Medicine Creek of 1854. Nonetheless, it took a struggle to have US authorities recognize that right in the 20th Century, which it finally did in the Boldt Decision of 1974—reached 120 years after the signing of the Treaty of Medicine Creek in a federal courthouse in Tacoma.

The City of Tacoma and Pierce County had tried to erase the Puyallup—legally (and in many other ways). But, as Puyallup Tribal member and Professor at UW Tacoma Danica Miller sardonically explains in a recent book chapter, those efforts were overruled: "Much to the relief of the Puyallup, who thought they existed but were told otherwise by Pierce County, the Washington Supreme Court asserted in 1967 that the Puyallup Tribe did in fact exist and that such an injunction against the tribe was discriminatory." She also tells the story behind a famous photo during the struggle of Robert Satiacum and actor Marlon Brando, who lent his celebrity to the cause. It turns out Brando was holding a frozen fish.

Nisqually leader Billy Frank Jr., who passed away in 2014, was another leader of that struggle—he was taken into custody in Tacoma many times for exerting his right to fish along the Nisqually River. In 2004, when he was awarded an Honorary Degree from the University of Puget Sound, then President Thomas noted the fitting irony of the fact that the person who said his role was not policy or theory—he was the "getting arrested guy"—was receiving an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. He broke laws in the name of deeper justice. Last year, Governor Jay Inslee signed a bill to honor Billy Frank Jr. in another way, by sending a statue of him to represent Washington in the Statuary Hall in the Capitol in the other Washington. His likeness will replace that of missionary Marcus Whitman.

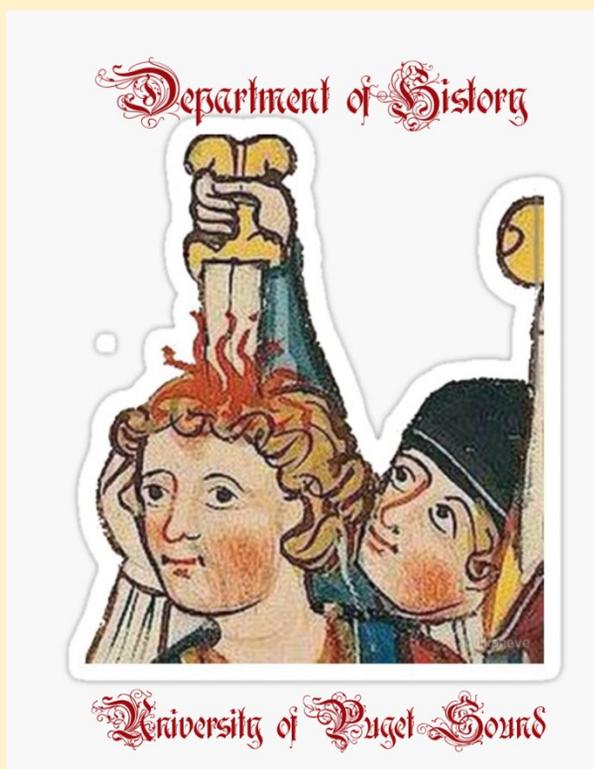
October 10

"Approaching Catastrophe? The Ongoing War in Ukraine

Professor Ben Tromly, an expert on the history of Ukraine, Russia and the former Soviet Union, interrupted his sabbatical to come to campus to be part of a panel on the current war in Ukraine, which has world-shaking ramifications. He was joined by Politics & Government Professors Seth Weinberger and Patrick O'Neil.

Also: we unveiled our History stickers! "If you haven't gotten your hands on one, please feel free to come by the history department office, and ask our most excellent admin Madison Howard for one. I won't share the designs here, but one is very timely, considering the death of Queen Elizabeth, and the other is, well, bloody and it puts the stick in stickers...and it's something we perhaps can all relate to, especially the deeper into the semester we get."

Well, here they are!



Madison Howard, our Department Admin, is the genius behind the stickers, and so much else that is good in the dept! She's the one to ask for the story behind the stabby sticker, & the royals...

November 4

We held the preregistration history gathering, with sandwiches from MSM deli, cookies and more. Students we invited to come on by, get some food, cluster with some friends and others interested in history. There was a a short program and Q and A, and a poster for Spring History courses. *Thanks to senior Lauren Moseman, who designed this and many other posters for the department this year.*

HISTORY DEPARTMENT COURSE OFFERINGS SPRING 2023

Want to learn more AND eat sandwiches from MSM deli?

Join us for a Pre registration lunch!
Wednesday Nov 4, 12-1PM
Wyatt 109
Short Program at 12:15

Hist 200: Doing History
MWF 11-11:50AM
Prof. Smith
Methods course for perspective/declared majors. Curious about what a historian does? This course explores and practices different approaches to the discipline!

Hist 307: The Crusades
TuTh 9:30-10:50AM
Prof. Smith
What led to the European military campaigns and expeditions to the Levant from the 11-13th century known as the crusades? Why are they so consequential and impactful, and what can they tell us about medieval ideas about religion, race, cultural assimilation, and tolerance?

Hist 378: History of Latinx People in the US
MWF 10-10:50AM
Prof. Gomez
Explore how people of Latin American descent evolved as a historical group in the United States. This course focuses on the ways Latinx people have shaped both their own communities and the nation.

Hist 245: Chinese Civilization
MWF 10-10:50AM
Prof. Neighbors
Explore major themes in Chinese history including major political philosophies, the development of the imperial state, and encounters with foreign cultures.

Hist 349: Women of East Asia
MWF 11-11:50AM
Prof. Neighbors
Examine and explore women's history and gender relations in both traditional and modern East Asia, focusing on their roles in the family, and as workers, artists, writers, and revolutionaries.

Hist 392: Gender in Colonial Africa
MonFri 12-1:20PM
Prof. Fry
How did colonization and decolonization impact the way Africans defined themselves as men and women? How do cultural differences, religion, and labor shape policies surrounding gender?

Hist 254: African American Voices
MonWed 3:30-4:50PM
Prof. Bristow
This course studies the diversity of experiences that have contributed to African American life in the United States from the colonial period to the present.

Hist 364: American Environmental History
MWF 3:30-4:50PM
Prof. Sackman
Explore the complex relationship between human society and the natural world in what is now the United States, with an emphasis on environmental justice, race, and capitalism.

Hist 400: Research Seminar in Historical Method
TuTh 11-12:20
Prof. Sackman
Students undertake independent research and complete an advanced research paper.

Hist 293: Early Africa to 1807
MWF 3-3:50PM
Prof. Fry
Covering a broad outline of the political, economic, and social developments in Africa, including tools used by historians in the study of early Africa.

Hist 375: History of Sport in US Society
MWF 3-3:50PM
Prof. Gomez
How have sports in the US shaped understandings of and relationships between gender, sexuality, class, race, and ethnicity? What is the role of athletes in public and political life and within educational institutions?

Other courses that count:
Conn 334: Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa and Beyond
GLAM 212: History of Ancient Rome
LAS 100: Intro to Latin American Studies
STHS 866: Medicine in the United States
STHS 330: Evolution and Society
Courses Taught by history Faculty:
SSI2 135: From Earthquakes to Epidemics: Catastrophe in US Culture
SSI2 194: Castles
ALC 205: Introduction to Asian Literature

November 9

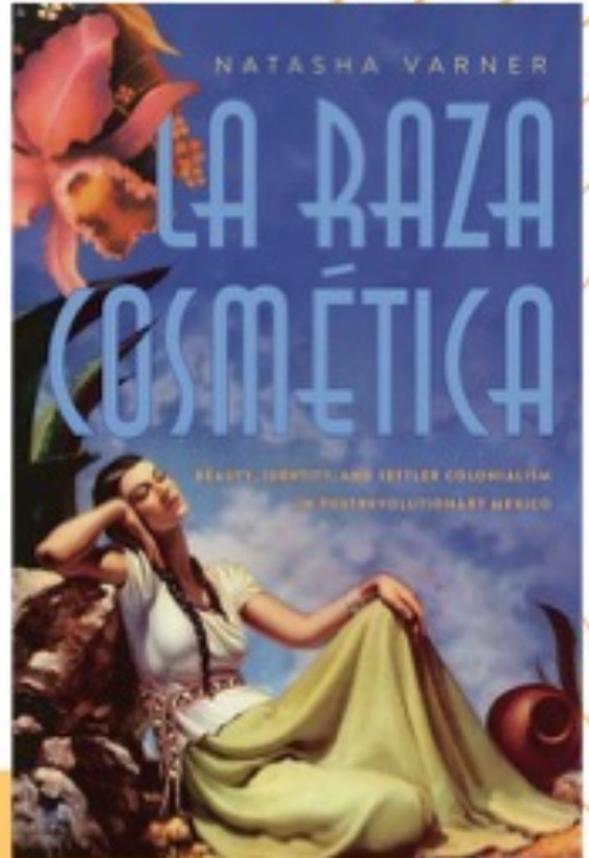
Former visiting professor Natasha Varner returned to campus to share the fruits of the research and writing she was doing while teaching at Puget Sound (and before and after). It was from her book exploring settler colonialism and Indigenous history in Mexico.

BOOK TALK WITH DR. NATASHA VARNER

NOV. 9, 2022 / 5:00PM

WYATT 109 / UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND

In the decades following the Mexican Revolution, nation builders, artists, and intellectuals were in search of a new national identity. They manufactured ideologies and visual economies that positioned indigeneity as an idealized relic of the past and mestizaje as the race of the future. Varner traces the visual evolution of these identity tropes through beauty pageants, films, photographs, art, and other aspects of popular culture. She illustrates how Indigenous women were, paradoxically, positioned as being both hypervisible and destined for disappearance—and highlights ways in which they contested and strategically engaged with these broader identity projects.



Learn more: uapress.arizona.edu/book/la-raza-cosmetica

"Placing the visual politics of beauty at the center of a wide-ranging analysis, La Raza Cosmética reminds us that the racial politics and modernist designs of settler colonial nationalism depend on the presence of Indigenous women—and, in Mexico, of their simultaneous displacement by the logic of mestizaje. Drawing together subtle cultural interpretation, rich historical context, and deft theoretical insight, Natasha Varner has crafted a powerful and compelling narrative, one not to be missed."

-Philip J. Deloria, author of Playing Indian

November 17

This year's Register lecturer was John Lear, Distinguished Professor of History and Latin American Studies. During his 30 years at Puget Sound, his research and teaching interests have included Mexico, modern Latin America, labor and urban history, and art and cultural politics. He has previously chaired the History Department, directed the Latin American Studies Program, and co-chaired a Dolliver Seminar on the US-Mexican Border.

His talk, entitled "Painting on the Left: Diego Rivera as Artisan and Partisan," explored how in the wake of the Mexican Revolution, Diego Rivera became one of the most famous painters in the world, as both his medium of public murals and his themes of popular culture and social transformation attracted new patrons, publics, and disciples. This communist artist's reputation diminished during the Cold War, yet his life and art can tell us much about a period of revolutionary possibilities when artists and their art became important agents of social change. John worked in a short retrospective of his own life as shaped by the values and opportunities of a true and open liberal arts college experience and ethos.

50TH JOHN D. REGISTER LECTURE WITH

John Lear

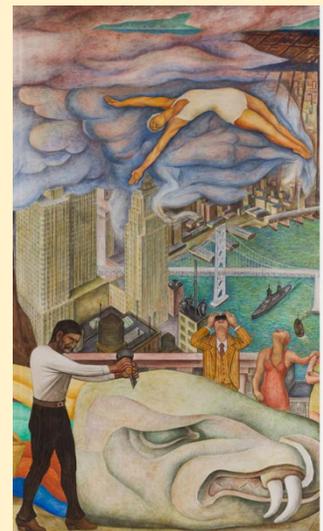
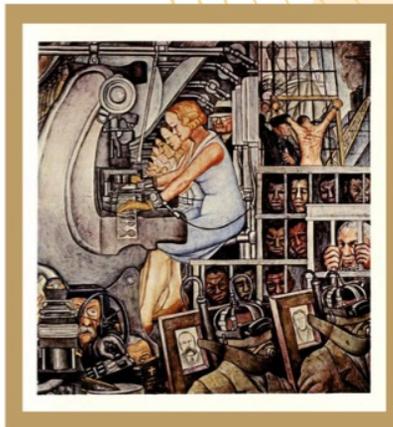
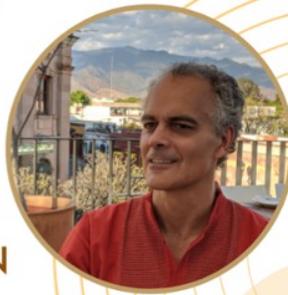
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

PAINTING ON THE LEFT: DIEGO RIVERA AS ARTISAN AND PARTISAN

In the wake of the Mexican Revolution, Diego Rivera became one of the most famous painters in the world, as both his medium of public murals and his themes of popular culture and social transformation attracted new patrons, publics, and disciples. This communist artist's reputation diminished during the Cold War, yet his life and art can tell us much about a period of revolutionary possibilities when artists and their art became important agents of social change.

Join Professor Lear as he discusses Rivera's politics and mural art, with a focus on its significance to the histories of Mexico, the global left, and the United States.

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



DIEGO RIVERA'S AMERICA

John Lear's writing on Rivera appeared in the catalogue accompanying the major exhibit of Diego Rivera's work at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 2022

**THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 17TH
7:30 PM
TAHOMA ROOM,
THOMAS HALL**



The 50th
JOHN D.
REGISTER
LECTURE

The John D. Register Lecture series was established in 1965 to honor John Register, who joined the Puget Sound faculty in 1924. The address is given by a member of the university who exemplifies the qualities of scholarship and intellectual integrity that professors and students have long associated with Register, who taught philosophy and served as dean of the university and graduate school.
Puget Sound is committed to being accessible to all people. If you have questions about event accessibility, please contact 253.879.3931 or accessibility@pugetsound.edu, or visit pugetsound.edu/accessibility.

December 1 & 6

Every semester, students writing their senior theses make presentations. These are open, and we invite you all to attend. Since everyone has a chance to write a major paper on a topic of their own choosing in History 400, it can also provide a kind of preview of what people do and the range of topics explored. This year students are exploring a vast range of topics, as you can see from the attached flyer. Some past theses can be found [here](https://sites.google.com/view/douglassackman/history-400-papers):
<https://sites.google.com/view/douglassackman/history-400-papers>

History Thesis Presentations § Fall 2022



Thursday December 1

11am • Wyatt 305

Panel I: Past Times:

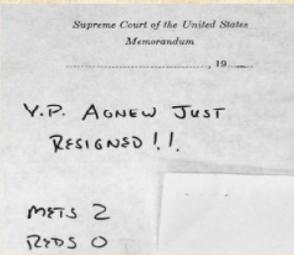
Crimping, Sports, and State Violence

Cameron Nielsen, Crimping in Portland and how it was Remembered

Ryan Carruth, Assimilation or Preservation: Indigenous Athletes at the Carlisle Boarding School

Peter Fagan, Major League Baseball's Antitrust Exemption and Its Consequences on Player Labor Standards

Theo Bauman, Lack of accountability for racially motivated offenses committed by state officers and how it continues to fuel social unrest



Tuesday December 6

11am • Wyatt 305

Panel II: A Black Saint, Women of the Demimonde, and a Jewish Survivor

Imani Jenkins, Re-thinking Narratives: The Images of Black Saint Maurice

Audrey Reiss, L'Opéra-Comédie et Les Maisons de Débauche: Prostitution and Power in Mid-18th Century Paris

Ari Zansberg, This is a Survivor: The Life of Harry Zansberg and other Holocaust Survivors, 1945-48

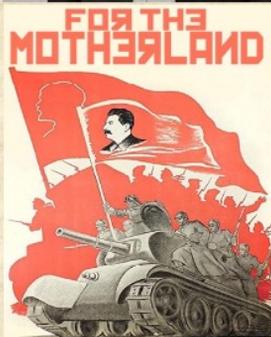
2pm • Wyatt 305

Panel III: Castles, Tanks, and Shebeens

Carolynn Davies, Fermenting Freedom: The Silenced Battle Between Women's Banned Beer Brewing and the South African Apartheid State in the Western Cape between 1960 and 1980

Alex Elmore, T-34: Myth, Legend, or Just a Tank

Chloe Shankland, Cracks in the Foundation: Queerness in the Liminality of Literary Castle Space



ZOOM links

Meeting ID: 217 486 3849 Passcode: Fb1E5+ or:

<https://pugetsound-edu.zoom.us/j/2174863849?pwd=bWloaGZkbGE0VWFuZVdGYlJsSnFtdz09>

Dr. Reiko Hillyer, a professor at Lewis and Clark College, came to Puget Sound to share her research on place, race, history, and memory across American landscapes. One student said that the brilliant talk inspired them to think about history in new ways as they embarked on their senior thesis.

Dr. Reiko Hillyer

Associate Professor of History and Department Chair,
Director of Ethnic Studies at Lewis and Clark

Troubling Memories:
Race and Power on the
American Landscape

Thursday, Dec 1st at 5pm, in Wyatt 109



Dr. Hillyer is a social and cultural historian of the U.S. in the 19th and 20th centuries, with specialties in the American South, African American history, the history of public memory, the built environment, and mass incarceration. She studies the history of the built environment, which means looking at physical space—from factories to theme parks—as a way of understanding historical processes. Dr. Hillyer's first book, *Designing Dixie: Tourism, Memory and Urban Space in the New South* (University of Virginia Press, 2014), explored how tourism to the American South after the Civil War helped to foster a public memory of the war that would help smooth sectional reconciliation, usher industrial capitalism, and legitimate Jim Crow.

Sponsored by the History Department and the National Science Foundation Grant "The History of Eugenics at Puget Sound and Beyond"



January 16



King County

In his speech “Remaining Awake through a Great Revolution” at the National Cathedral on March 31, 1968, Dr. King told a time-travel story that might resonate in some way with many of you as you make your way back to campus from other parts of the nation and world (or, if you are already on campus, are about to make that great leap back into the semester...)—

You know it is possible because of the time difference to take a flight from Tokyo on Sunday morning and arrive in Seattle on the preceding Saturday night. When your friends meet you at the airport and ask you when you left Tokyo you will have to say, "I left tomorrow." Well, this is a bit humorous but I'm trying to laugh a basic fact into all of us and it is simply this: that through our scientific genius we have made of this world a neighborhood, and now through our moral and ethical commitment we must make it a brotherhood....

By the way, that shout out to Seattle would reverberate locally, as years later activists built an ingenious movement to change the namesake of Seattle’s County to honor Dr. King. It was already called “King,” but it was honoring the 13th Vice President William Rufus King (March 4, 1853– April 18, 1853). The shortest serving vice-President, King was also a slaver and credited as a co-founder of Selma, Alabama when he set up a plantation exploiting the lives and labor of 500 men, women, and children. In 1986, the King County Council voted to replace "William Rufus King" with "Martin Luther King Jr.", an historic upgrade. Dr. King eclipsed William Rufus King’s legacy in two places—King County and Selma (after he marched with John Lewis and hundreds of others across the Edmund Pettus Bridge and to the state capitol of Montgomery for civil rights). There are many more to go. "Pierce County," for example, remains named for President Franklin Pierce (who was elected with William Rufus King in 1852); as president, Pierce opposed the abolition movement and supported the Fugitive Slave Act as the United States reeled toward the Civil War reckoning with the place of slavery in its very constitution.

In his last speech, delivered the day before he was assassinated while supporting the environmental justice cause of sanitary workers in Memphis, King poignantly and powerfully spoke about “going to the mountain”—about the long struggle for civil rights in this country, and about his hope that one day “the Promised Land” would be reached. In his Dream Speech, he talked about freedom ringing from every mountain across the land. When I think about The Mountain (aka Tahoma, “the place where the waters begin” in Lushootseed) and Puget Sound’s motto “going to the heights,” King’s words are an inspiration.

On campus, Dr. King will be celebrated at an event on Tuesday night at 6.30 PM in Kilworth: "Do you remember our Future? Join us for a celebration featuring Emmy-nominated poet and advocate for equity, Christian Paige...."



“her guardian is the mountain” (alma mater, in Lushootseed) | “to the heights” (motto, in Greek)

January 30

In this second message of the term, I hate it that I need to reference a terrible and telling coincidence: in both a Black man is killed in Memphis. These deaths signal a deep, historical problem in this country. Instead of focusing on the horrific images, I would like to say a word about the photography of Tyre Nichols, the victim of police brutality. You can see a gallery of his photographs [here](#)

In looking through it, one that stood out is his picture of a Memphis monument. Photographed in a way that evoked for me Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel mural, the monument honors the heroism of Tom Lee. Tom Lee was employed on the Mississippi to repair levies, which keep the cities along the river from being inundated. One day in 1925 he noticed a sternwheeler seriously listing on the river. Carrying a group of Army Corp of Engineers and their families, the ship went down. Despite not being able to swim himself, Tom Lee steered his small boat to the scene, and began rescuing drowning people, one by one. He saved 32 people that day, saying that it was what anyone would have done in his position. The white community of Memphis was grateful—they raised money to buy him a modest house, and they helped him secure a somewhat safer and better paying job, as a city sanitation worker. When King was gunned down, he was in Memphis working to improve the working conditions of sanitation workers.

One faculty member wrote an essay tribute to Tyre Nichols, who shares his hometown of Sacramento: "Rolling on the rivers: Tyre Nichols' love for the Sacramento River carried into his life and legacy" [Sacramento News and Review, March 7, 2023](#)



Photo of Tom Lee Memorial in Memphis, by Tyre Nichols

“Touissant”

When a character in *Wakanda Forever* says his name, it was a powerful moment, for those who know the history the name evokes. Without giving away any spoilers, Touissant is a reference to Touissant L'Ouverture, one of the leaders of the anticolonial Haitian Revolution which resulted in the liberation of the people who had been enslaved under the French regime. Probing how knowledge of the Haitian Revolution has been suppressed in the US and elsewhere, Michel-Rolph Trouillot wrote one of the most brilliant books that exists on historiography, called *Silencing the Past*. In that moment when a character says his name, the fictional film unsilences the past.

Meanwhile in the real world, the governor of Florida seems intent on silencing the past again. As Black History Month began last week, the College Board, apparently in capitulation to criticism of Critical Race Theory and the Florida Governor's canceling of its proposed African American Studies AP class in the State, changed the curriculum from the draft course to its final form, removing the names of critical Black scholars and muting attention to such topics as Black Lives Matter and Queer history (the College Board denies that it was bowing to political pressure).* I wonder if future installments of Black Panther may have characters named "bell," "Ta-Nehisi," and "Kimberlé" to unsilence the past that DeSantis and the College Board tried to cone this week.

For Black History Month at Puget Sound, we will accept no cone of silence. African American Studies (one of only three programs in Northwest where you can earn a B.A. in the subject, and the first) and the Race & Pedagogy Institute are co-hosting Dr. Kyle T. Mays, an Afro-Indigenous (Saginaw Chippewa) scholar, who will speak on "Reparations and Decolonization: Land and the Search for Reparatory Justice" (Tahoma Room, Thursday Feb 9 at 6pm) History Professor Nancy Bristow will give a talk on her recent book, *Steeped in the Blood of Racism: Black Power, Law and Order, and the 1970 Shootings at Jackson State College*, on February 23 at 5.30 pm in Wyatt.

And the history department will be hosting a book club style reading and discussion of Tiya Miles' extraordinary work of history, *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family's Keepsake*.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2023

**Reparations & Decolonization:
Land & the Search for Reparatory Justice**



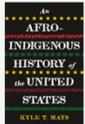
Dr. Kyle T. Mays
with _____ Mays

AIAAM
AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND

About the talk: The discourse on reparations and landback are often talked about side by side but rarely intersect. This talk explores the contradictions and possibilities embedded on Black freedom and Indigenous sovereignty, why it matters, and dreams about the potential of collective resistance.

**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 9, 2023
TIME: 6 PM
TAHOMA ROOM**

Register for the Live Stream: bit.ly/KyleStream



Race & Pedagogy Institute
Puget Sound is committed to being accessible to all people. If you have questions about event accessibility, please contact 206499pugetsound.edu or visit pugetsound.edu/accessibility.

University of Puget Sound Department of History Presents:

**STEEPED IN THE BLOOD
OF RACISM:
BLACK POWER, LAW AND ORDER, AND THE
1970 SHOOTINGS AT JACKSON STATE COLLEGE**

A TALK BY PROFESSOR NANCY BRISTOW

Co-Sponsored by the Department of African-American Studies and the Race & Pedagogy Institute

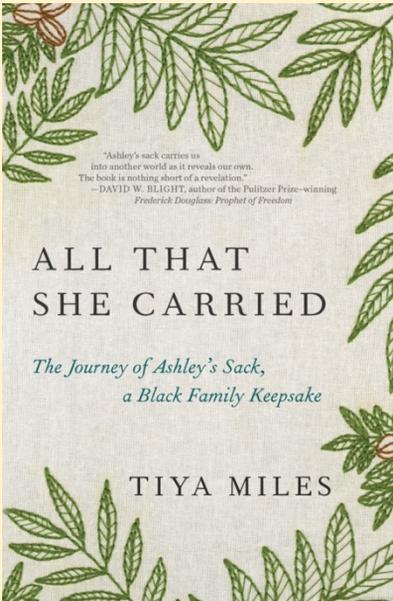


**Thursday, February 23, 2023
5:30PM – Wyatt 109**



Minutes after midnight on May 15, 1970, white members of law enforcement opened fire on students at Jackson State College, a historically Black college in Jackson, Mississippi. Twenty-eight seconds later two young people lay dead, another 12 injured. Based on her most recent book, this talk will situate this event in the broader history of the struggle for African American freedom in the civil rights and Black Power eras, and the ongoing crisis of police violence

Puget Sound is committed to being accessible to all people. If you have questions about event accessibility please contact 206499pugetsound.edu or visit pugetsound.edu/accessibility



"Ashley's sack carries us into another world as it reveals our own. The book is nothing short of a revelation."
—DAVID W. BLIGHT, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*

ALL THAT SHE CARRIED

*The Journey of Ashley's Sack,
a Black Family Keepsake*

TIYA MILES

February 23

For **Black History Month**, History Professor Nancy Bristow gave a talk on her recent book, *Steeped in the Blood of Racism: Black Power, Law and Order, and the 1970 Shootings at Jackson State College*. We have been hosting or co-sponsoring a history dept faculty research presentation each semester, which is intended not only showcase the vital and creative work history department members are doing but also offer a space to share with you all our mutual passion and deep commitment to history and its legacies. *Professor Bristow's scintillating and illuminating talk—which attracted an overflow audience (we literally had to drag more chairs into the venue)—was co-sponsored by our Race and Pedagogy Institute and by our excellent African-American Studies Department, which was the first program in the entire Northwest to offer a BA in the vital subject.*

University of Puget Sound Department of History Presents:

STEEPED IN THE BLOOD OF RACISM: BLACK POWER, LAW AND ORDER, AND THE 1970 SHOOTINGS AT JACKSON STATE COLLEGE

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March 2

During Women's History Month, the history department supported the visit by Dr. Joseph Plaster organized by our Gender and Queer Studies Program.

Dr. Plaster does innovative and inclusive archival and public history work:

Dr. Plaster gave a talk on his new book [Kids on the Street: Queer Kinship and Religion in San Francisco](#) (Duke University Press, 2023). *Kids on the Street* explores the informal support networks that enabled abandoned and runaway queer youth to survive in tenderloin districts across the United States. Tracing the history of the downtown lodging house districts where marginally housed youth regularly lived beginning in the late 1800s, Plaster focuses on San Francisco's Tenderloin from the 1950s to the present. He draws on archival, ethnographic, oral history, and public humanities research to outline the queer kinship networks, religious practices, performative storytelling, and migratory patterns that allowed these kids to foster social support and mutual aid. Plaster excavates a history of queer life that has been overshadowed by major narratives of gay progress and pride.

Dr. Plaster participated in an informal lunch conversation on the topic "What do you do with an archive?" Plaster gave an overview of his most recent public humanities project, the fabulous [The Peabody Ball Experience](#), and he talked about how to creatively and imaginatively draw in new publics to engage with the queer past.



March 28

From The Hatchet (Puget Sound's weekly newsletter):

Time, History, and Creative Nonfiction

Logger alumnus Adam Sowards '95 visited campus last week for a book reading and conversation moderated by Professor of History Doug Sackman. Sowards is an environmental historian who has published several books about conservation and the history of public lands in the U.S. If you missed his presentation, you can listen to him on the podcast [99 Percent Invisible](#), where he talks about the evolution of the concept of "wilderness."

Join us for the History Department's 2023 Alumni Talk

Time, History, and Creative Nonfiction

A Conversation around the Environmental Humanities

with Adam Sowards, '95

Tuesday March 28 | 5.30pm | Wyatt 109

An environmental historian, Adam Sowards has published a number of books, most recently histories of Public Lands in the US and of Kennecott's planned mine in the North Cascades, and writes creative nonfiction about history and place. His work has appeared in *High Country News*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *Talking River Review*.

Adam will read short selections from his work, and engage in conversation, with Doug Sackman and the audience, about nature, place, history, and our futures in this region—and how we reckon with these matters as writers, researchers and artists. The event will start with some information for history majors and minors, and food for everyone, and Adam Sowards will begin around 5.45.

more info, dsackman@pugetsound.edu



March 28

We combined the alumnus talk with info session for next Fall's courses, and enjoyed some tacos on that Tuesday as well (of course)...

HISTORY DEPARTMENT COURSES - FALL 2023

Please Join us at the info session and Alumni Talk with Adam Sowards ('95)

Tuesday, March 28, 5:30 PM in Wyatt 109

*It's on a Tuesday so there will be tacos—and talk**

Hist 153: American Experiences II MWF 10-10:50AM-Professor Nancy Bristow

This course explores the experiences and values of the United States' diverse peoples in the period from 1877 to the present. It emphasizes contests over the very meaning of "American" amidst the nation's changing role in the world.

Hist 112: Late Antiquity/Early Middle Ages MWF 9-9:50AM-Professor Katherine Smith

Far from being a stagnant "dark age," the early Middle Ages were a time of sweeping changes that reshaped the political map of Europe, the Mediterranean, and Middle East and encompassed the rise of vibrant new cultures.

Hist 200: Doing History MWF 11-11:50AM-Professor Jennifer Neighbors

The course teaches students to do the two things that historians do: develop interpretations from primary sources and critically evaluate the interpretations advanced by other historians.

MW 2-3:20PM-Professor Katherine Smith **Hist 305: Gender in Pre-Modern Europe**

This course examines the construction of gender in European contexts from Late Antiquity through the medieval and early modern period, addressing historical continuity and change in understandings of gender, as well as in related ideas about sexuality, marriage, family, and romantic love.

MWF 2-2:50PM-Professor Ben Tromly **Hist 323: Politics Eurasia**

This course examines the political development of the fifteen states that emerged from the Soviet Union after its collapse in 1991, including Ukraine.

TuTh 3:30-4:50PM-Professor Doug Sackman **Hist 369: History of the West/Pacific NW**

Explore the myth of the west; Indigenous and Asian American histories; and gender, race and the role of nature in this crossroads region of a wider Pacific World.

MoFr 12-1:20PM-Professor Nancy Bristow **Hist 375: History of Sport in US Society**

This course explores the history of sports in the United States as a lens for investigating and understanding more fully the range of issues with which that history intersect. Those issues range broadly, from fights for inclusion and equity to the economic, political, social, medical, and geo-political tensions surrounding athletics.

Hist 400: Research Seminar in Historical Method

TuTh 11AM-12:20PM-Professor Doug Sackman

Students undertake independent research and complete an advanced research paper on a topic of their own choosing.

STHS 100: Apes, Angels, and Darwin MWF 10-10:50AM-Professor Kristin Johnson

Explore the relationship between Darwin's theory of evolution and the social, political and religious history of Britain and the British Empire in the nineteenth century.

STHS 200: History of Modern Science and Technology

MWF 11-11:50AM-Professor Amy Fisher

Analyze the history of the physical and biological sciences since 1800, paying particular attention to the reciprocal relationship between scientific knowledge and social context.

STHS 370: Science and Religion in the United States: From

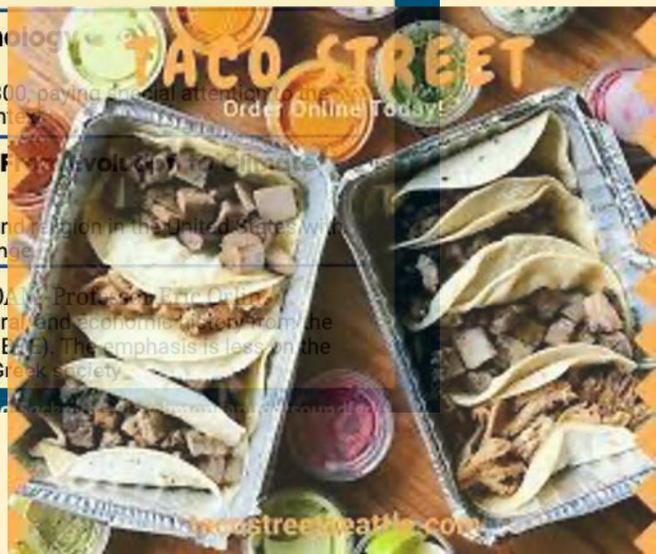
Change MW 2-3:20PM-Professor Kristin Johnson

This course examines the historical relationship between science and religion in the United States, with particular attention to debates over human origins and climate change.

GLAM 211: History of Ancient Greece MWF 9-9:50AM-Professor Adam Sowards

This course makes an odyssey through Greek political, social, cultural, and economic history from the Bronze Age (c. 1200 BCE) to the death of Alexander the Great (323 BCE). The emphasis is less on the chronicle of events than on understanding the changing nature of Greek society.

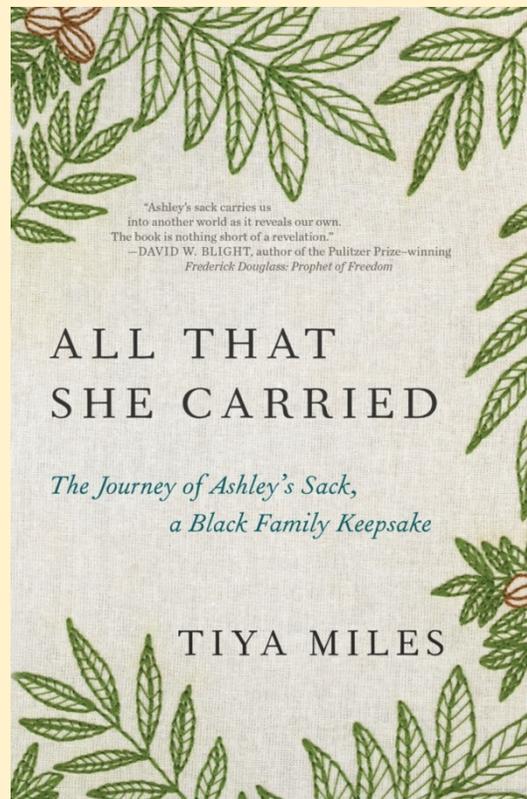
*please address your orders at the bad pun, and any questions, to Doug Sackman



March 29 & 31

Students, faculty and staff got together for a “book club” session on Tiya Miles amazing work *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley’s Sack, a Black Family Keepsake*. Focusing on the sack, which was filled with precious goods by a mother named Rose who gave it to her daughter Ashley before they were separated, who then passed it on in her family, from slavery to freedom, *All that She Carried* is a revelatory tour de force. To tell the story of the sack and the family relations it carried, Miles brings together the insights of material culture studies, public history, environmental history, gender history—and her own creative research and empathic imagination—to create this unique work of African American history.

It was fun to get together to discuss a common reading outside of class. One larger group met on Wednesday, and a smaller group met in the Wyatt first floor lounge on Friday afternoon. Students are asking what the next book will be so this might become a tradition, who knows?



March 31

Continuing this year's extraordinary series of history-related events, there was a full day conference on "Resisting Memory: Towards a Decolonial Approach," organized by three language professors (German, French, and Spanish)

Professor Ben Tromly was slated to present in the first session. John Lear moderated a session. History senior Matthew Babor presented as part of the last session. We encouraged students to take a look at the poster, and find a session (or more) that fit their schedules and met your interest.

Tromly's talk was about the mine (and mind) fields of doing work on the history and memory of Soviet Nazi collaborators in WWII during today's charged atmosphere where Putin is definitely using his preferred version of the past to justify his invasion of Ukraine.

About senior Matthew Babor's presentation on Berlin's Humboldt Forum, one first year student said "I could listen to him all day long..."



RESISTING MEMORY

Towards a Decolonial Approach

Interdisciplinary Symposium

March 31, 2023 -- 8.15am to 4.45pm

Wyatt Hall 101

Co-organized by Professors Rokiatou Soumaré, French & Francophone Studies, Kristopher Imbrigotta, German Studies, and Nagore Sedano Naveira, Hispanic Studies, this all-day symposium includes five panels with presentations featuring visiting scholars, affiliated faculty, and students will interrogate the intersections, misencounters, and dialogues between postcolonial, decolonial and memory studies.



program	Global Perspectives to Decolonizing Memory Studies I
8.30 am to 9.45 am	"Spain's Postcolonial Amnesia: from History to (Black) Legend and Back" Pedro García-Caro (University of Oregon) "Decolonization in German Generational Novels" Verena Hutter (University of Portland) "Studying Historical Memory in a Time of War and Decolonization in Eastern Europe" Benjamin Tromly (University of Puget Sound)
10.00 am to 11.15 am	Global Perspectives to Decolonizing Memory Studies II "Simon Schwartz's First Man: Possibilities and Pitfalls of Reimagining the Colonial Past," Olivia Albiero (University of Puget Sound) "Linking Monstrosities: Margolles' Frontera" Jairo Hoyos Galvis (University of Puget Sound) "Sharia as Memory Infrastructure: 'Allal al-Fasi's Vision for an Islamic State" Sam Kigar (University of Puget Sound)
11.30 am to 12.45 pm	Collective Memory, Silence and Resistance in Spain The Transmission of Contemporary Basque culture. Denting the Silence of Post-Francoism" Larraitz Ariznabarreta (University of Nevada, Reno) "The Resurgence of Roma Collective Memory and the Resignifying of Antigypsyism during the Spanish Transition" Julia de León (Frostburg State University) "El judío es el culpable": The Blue Division in the Collective Imaginary of the Far-Right in Spain" Macarena Tejada López (Cornell University)
2.15 pm to 3.30 pm	Film, Visual Arts and Embodied Memory in Latin America "The Poetics of Affect and the Politics of Memory: The Child's Gaze in Argentine Cinema" Cecilia Enjuto Rangel (University of Oregon) "State-sponsored Violence, the Colombian Armed Conflict and the Child's Bodily Preservation of Historical Memory in Víctor Gaviria's <i>Rodrigo D: No futura</i> (1990), José Luis Rugeles's <i>Alias María</i> (2015) and Juan Andrés Arango's <i>La Playa DC</i> " Sophie Heller (Georgetown University) "Crisscrossed Times and Performing Remains in Adela Goldberg's <i>RINXUI</i> (2019-2022)" Irina R. Troconis (Cornell University)
3.45 pm to 4.45 pm	Student Panel: Memory, Affect, and the Silenced Past "Berlin is Split on the Humboldt Forum, and You Should Be Too," Matthew Babor "Oh Guitarra": A Sonic Investigation of the Musical Melancholia of Federico García Lorca in <i>Bones of Contention</i> ," Will Balaam "How autobiographies can expand our concept of individual and collective trauma," Alex Brehmeyer "Transition: Understanding the use of Lorca's poetry in <i>Bones of Contention</i> (2017)," Katie Gutierrez-George

all campus community members are invited

April 6

Professor Jennifer Neighbors facilitated the visit of Dr. Margaret Lewis, Professor of Law at Seton Hall and a Member of the Council of Foreign Relations. She is an expert on human rights in China and on China's influence on human rights around the world. Dr. Lewis gave her public talk, and participated in another session for students interested in careers in law and human rights.

CHINA'S CHALLENGE TO HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME AND ABROAD

April 6 | 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Wyatt 109

For decades, the U.S. government and other outside observers have focused on human rights inside the territorial boundaries of China. Today, deep concerns about human rights violations within China persist. At the same time, concerns are rising regarding the extended reach of the Chinese government beyond its borders. A shift in thinking is needed to encompass not only what levers might improve human rights within China, but also the game plan for safeguarding human rights with China in the world.

Dr. Margaret
Member of the
Fellow with the

SPONSORED BY: HIST
JU

QUESTION



Dr. Margaret K. Lewis

CAREERS IN LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

Join Dr. Margaret K. Lewis, Professor of Law at Seton Hall University, Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and Public Intellectuals Fellow with the National Committee on United States-China Relations for a lunch-time discussion of how students should prepare for careers in the fields of law and human rights advocacy

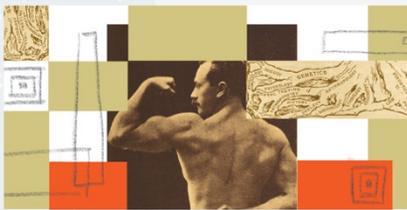
Thursday April 6, 2023
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Wyatt 311

Lunch will be provided

Questions? Email jneighbors@pugetsound.edu

Puget Sound has a long tradition of exploring the social and historical contexts of science and technology. We have a program in Science, Technology, Health and Society, which is galvanized by two exceptional historians of science: Amy Fisher and Kristin Johnson. They brought to campus two historians in the Spring to speak in the weekly Thompson Hall Science & Mathematics Seminars (most speakers are in STEM fields, but the series regularly includes historians and other scholars who shed light on science and technology). First up was Grace Eberhardt ('20), a Puget Sound alum and now a graduate student who investigated the role of the eugenics on our campus in the last century. Eberhardt's work has been central to a larger set of events and speakers brought together in the last two years to explore this vexing and racist history, and you can see the fruits of this work on this [website](#). Next up will be renowned historian of nuclear technology and secrecy, Alex Wellerstein. Many of the courses taught by Professors Fisher and Johnson also count for history, and we feel fortunate to join forces with them to enhance the History major.

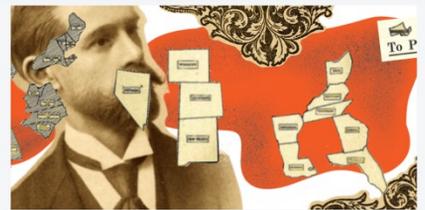
FROM THE ARCHIVES: EUGENICS AT PUGET SOUND



General Historical Context



Eugenics in Popular Culture



Eugenics in State and National Policies



Eugenics in Biology Curricula



Eugenics at Puget Sound

'From the Archives: Eugenics at Puget Sound' is based on the research of Puget Sound Biology, Bioethics, and African American Studies student Grace Eberhardt '20, a project that was advised by Professor Dexter Gordon (African American Studies), Hajung Lee (Bioethics), Kristin Johnson (Science, Technology and Society), and Peter Wimberger (Biology). Help with navigating primary sources was also provided by Professor Jairo Hoyos Galvis (Hispanic Studies and Latina/o Studies), Emily Wright '22, Anneke Taylor '22, Kate Gladhart-Hayes '20, and Annelise Phelps '20. With special thanks to Katya Ramich '21, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian Adriana Flores, and Director of the Collins Memorial Library, Jane Carlin. Ellie Barber '12 designed the artwork above, and Kyle Muir '20 helped with website design.



Mental Hygiene and Eugenics—A study of the problems of mental physiology, laws of heredity, sex, and racial progress. The questions of responsibility for conduct; mental and nervous defects; crime and delinquency, racial betterment, the relative importance of heredity and environment in the development of the individual, are thoroughly considered. This course gives the sociological aspect of Biology.

Lectures and recitations 3 hours.
Offered every even year only (1921-22).



April 10

Professor Andrew Gomez engaged living legend Rita Moreno in a conversation for the annual Pierce Lecture. An Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Award-winning actress, singer, and dancer, Rita Moreno is most famous for her role in the original *West Side Story* film—and she had a role in the recent remake as well.



AN EVENING WITH

RITA MORENO

IN CONVERSATION WITH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY ANDREW GOMEZ

APRIL 10, 2023
SCHNEEBECK CONCERT HALL
ASL INTERPRETED

7 p.m.

TICKETS ARE \$48; FREE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS,
FACULTY AND STAFF
GET TICKETS AT [TICKETS.PUGETSOUND.EDU](https://tickets.pugetsound.edu)



The Susan Resneck
Pierce Lectures



April 18

Watson Fellow Kyra Zapf ('21) returns from her travels to share what she learned about the "hidden history behind your clothes..." Many other students with an historical interest have over the years developed great proposals to win a Watson Fellowship, which is a year of funded global travel to pursue a passion project.

Dye Me A River: A (very) hands-on approach to fabric history



Watson Fellow Kyra Zapf '21 shares extraordinary tales of her travels to more than twelve countries in pursuit of the hidden history behind your clothes, secret weaving techniques, and censorship by the Indian press.

April issue of The Hatchet

Professor Katherine Smith was asked 5 Questions for her profile in The Hatchet. Her thoughts on history (and more) are a good bookend this review of the year so far, but we are still looking forward to the presentations of 11 seniors writing theses on a fascinating range of topics in the Spring and our annual celebration and cookout on the last day of classes, dubbed **History Day** (because, at that point, the year of classes, like everything eventually, is history).



Historical Parallels

Professor of History Katherine Smith studies what scholars sometimes refer to as “the long 12th century,” encompassing the social and political events from around 1050 to 1200 CE. Both of her books, *War and the Making of Medieval Monastic Culture* and *The Bible and Crusade Narrative*, were inspired by classroom discussions. She is currently working on a new book that examines life in the Middle Ages through everyday objects. We sat down with Smith to talk about the parallels between the 12th century and today, about helping students find fellowship opportunities, and about what we can learn from the study of history.

Q: Let’s talk about your background. What got you interested in the study of history?

A: I always knew I wanted to study history. I grew up in New York City, and when I was in third grade, I went to The Cloisters, which is the medieval branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It’s located at the tip of Manhattan in a series of buildings that were partially constructed from medieval materials that were sort of half-bought, half-stolen by robber barons and brought to the U.S. in the early 20th century. And I remember being fascinated by the idea that the past was another world that you could go visit, the way you could visit another country.

Q: The focus of your research is on 12th-century Europe. What is it about that time period that interests you?

A: The more I study this period, the more I feel like it’s an inflection point where a lot of things changed. One of the things that’s so interesting about studying the Middle Ages is you realize this was a world much like today where there was xenophobia and sexism, and where you see the origins of antisemitism and Islamophobia. But on the other hand, it was an age where women did have legal rights, including rights over their bodies, that are now being called into question. There was also a tremendous amount of multicultural exchange that didn’t necessarily make people anxious the way it sometimes does today. There are a lot of parallels to be drawn, but many of the ideas that we ascribe to the Middle Ages—that it was a time of darkness where people were simply killing each other all the time—none of that is true. It’s a lot more complicated.

Q: You’re also involved in helping students find postgraduate opportunities. Can you tell me about that work?

A: Right now, I serve as the chair of the graduate fellowships committee. In partnership with Kelli Delaney in the Fellowships Office, we work with students in every stage of the process from identifying a fellowship they might be interested in applying for, to pulling together their essays and materials, to doing mock interviews with them. We also recruit students who may not see themselves as fellowship material. When I was an undergraduate, I thought a fellowship was something you got if you had straight As, you were the president of every club, and you were the smartest person in your whole college, but that’s not true. It’s incredibly gratifying, even if they don’t get the fellowship, to watch how students come to see themselves in a different light.



History gives you the perspective to make a reasoned dissent and to envision what an alternative could look like.

Q: What do you hope students take away from your classes?

A: One thing I hope my students learn is that a lot of the problems that we think of as “now” problems like the legacy of colonialism, racism, misogyny, and religious intolerance, are problems that have existed at different points of time in all kinds of past societies, and there’s a lot we can learn from those experiences. If you can understand that our problems are socially and politically constructed in time, rather than being a natural part of the human condition, then you are empowered to change things. History gives you the perspective to make a reasoned dissent and to envision what an alternative could look like.

Q: How do you spend your time when you’re not on campus?

A: I love to cook. I get all *The New York Times* veggie recipes every week, and try to cook as many of those as I can. I also love to garden and I read a ton of books of all different sorts. Recently, I read *Home: A Short History of Private Life* by Bill Bryson, *The Ghost Map* by Steven Johnson, and *Matrix* by Lauren Groff. And I have a 15-year-old dog who’s surprisingly young and spry for his age and we go on long walks. He’s very popular on campus.

University of Puget Sound History Department *Year in Review*



University of Puget Sound Department of History

~looking glass~

Dale Chihuly, an artist with one seeing eye from Tacoma, created this seaform glass art for the windows of Wyatt Hall.

Glass
is
molten
sand, vitrified. Sand,
falling, measures time. So
glass art is made of & reflects history.
We all can see the past filtering through it.

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