

EISENBERG INSTITUTE

F O R H I S T O R I C A L S T U D I E S

By endowing the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Ken and Francis Eisenberg obviously thought history speaks powerfully to our own times, even when the hard work of teaching it to our students seems to be swimming upstream. To undergraduates and sometimes even those already committed to the professional study of history, the issue keeps coming up: what is history good for? Why bother studying the past, itself distant, foreign, another country? Study after study has both amused and stunned us when they show how little history our countrymen and women know. Twice as many polled know Paula Abdul was a judge on American Idol than know that the phrase "government of the people, by the people, for the people" comes from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Well, at least they didn't think that the Gettysburg Address was where he stayed during the Civil War. In the most recent poll 26 percent did not know that the thirteen colonies won their independence from Great Britain. Other candidates for the imperial ruler were France, China, Japan, Mexico, and Spain. Oh, that was what the Mexican War was about!

For professional historians teaching history cannot be reduced to teaching civics or social studies, yet as scholars and citizens we should be worried that people with the right to vote or protest are so uninformed. That affects the lives of all of us. Indeed at a moment when raw emotion and sound bite analysis have largely replaced deliberation and reason in much of our politics, don't historians have something to say about this? My own view is that in an age of popularization when "taking the easy road" sometimes substitutes for thinking hard, the pursuit of serious academic history is essential to apprehending what was unique, unavoidable, and unpredictable in the past. Serious historical research and writing must be protected and developed in an age where almost everything is subject to the laws of the market. Yet even from our

relatively privileged sanctuaries in the university, historians, like all citizens, have public obligations. Since history and historians are so complicit in creating ideas of the nation, their role is inevitably extended to the conveying of knowledge to a broader public. That knowledge is often confirmatory, "feel-good" stories of greatness and purpose, innocence and victimhood. But academic history is where the more critical, questioning approaches originate. Part of the mission of the Eisenberg Institute and particularly its Public History Initiative, aims to widen the audience for our historians and to bring the tools of our profession to raise doubt about unquestioned assumptions. Common sense might be a good thing in everyday life, but it can also be the enemy of critical thought.

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If nothing else history as a discipline is about a certain practice of analysis that is as valuable in the archive as in daily life. I see it as involving the five cons -- context, constraints, contradictions, contingencies, and conjunctures. Imagining what is possible today requires knowing what happened, couldn't happen, and was capable of being changed in the past.

In her latest novel, *The Lacuna*, Barbara Kingsolver writes, "The past is all we know of the future." For historians, often caught trying to defend their seemingly esoteric interests in medieval gardens or Russian witches, the question of relevance might seem secondary or, well, irrelevant to their particular passions. At the Eisenberg Institute we appreciate that history is the individual and collective experience of humans, the only record of how men and women have thought and acted through time, and therefore whether employed as a tool or simply read as a moment of informed pleasure is relevant to understanding how we arrived where we are and where we might be going.

Join us this fall as we continue our Thursday lectures (4-6pm) and Friday workshops (12-2pm) in 1014 Tisch, exploring our theme "Paucity and Plenty" and engaging both the aesthetics of the historian's craft as well as the hard questions about what happened and why.

Ron Suny
Director

Fall Semester
2010

2010-2011
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Committee

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Paucity & Plenty

enactments expectations

EISENBERG INSTITUTE FOR HISTORICAL STUDIES

Thursday Lecture 1014 Tisch Hall 4-6pm

September 9

Nelson Lichtenstein, University of California, Santa Barbara
"The Return of Merchant Capitalism"

September 23

Laurent Dubois, Duke University
"The Aftershocks of History in Haiti"

October 7

Valerie Kivelson, University of Michigan
"Torture and the Moral Risks of Excess in Muscovite Witch Trials"

October 21

Elizabeth Thompson, University of Virginia
"Poor People's Movements and the Cold War in the Middle East"

November 4

Matthew D. Lassiter, University of Michigan
"Innocence Lost: Crime, Drugs, and Double Standards in Suburban America"

December 2

Tony Ballantyne, University of Otago, New Zealand
"Economic Systems, Colonization and the Production of
Difference: Thinking Through Southern New Zealand"

Friday Workshop 1014 Tisch Hall noon-2pm

September 10

"Writing the History of Modern Capitalism"
Nelson Lichtenstein, Dario Gaggio (History), Josh Mound (PhD candidate, History/
Sociology), Chaired by Matthew D. Lassiter (History/Urban and Regional Planning)

September 24

"The Banjo and the Historian"
Laurent Dubois, Adriana Chira (PhD student, Anthro/History) and Paul Hébert
(PhD Student, History). Chaired by Jean Hébrard (History)

October 22

"Political Economies of Empire"
Elizabeth Thompson, Kevin Jones (PhD candidate, History), Ali Sipahi (PhD student
Anthro/History), and Kimberly A. Powers (PhD student, Anthro/History).
Chaired by Davide Orsini (PhD student, Anthro/History)

December 3

"Empire: Producing Difference"
Tony Ballantyne, Ian Moyer (History), Maria Paz Esguerra (PhD candidate, History),
Damon Salesa (History/American Culture) and Colleen Woods (PhD candidate, History),
Chaired by Ron Suny (History/EIHS Director)

An EIHS/Global History Initiative collaboration

Sept. 9-10



Nelson Lichtenstein

is MacArthur Foundation Professor of History and director of the Center for the Study of Work, Labor, and Democracy at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He completed his PhD in History at the University of California, Berkeley in 1974. His research and teaching focus on political economy, labor history, and social thought from the nineteenth century to the present. His recent publications include *The Retail Revolution: How Wal-Mart Created a Brave New World of Business* (Metropolitan Books, 2009), *American Capitalism: Social Thought and Political Economy in the 20th Century* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006) and *State of the Union: A Century of American Labor* (Princeton University Press, 2002). He also authored *Walter Reuther: The Most Dangerous Man in Detroit* (University of Illinois Press, 1997) Lichtenstein is currently working on a history of capitalism, in which he examines how the rise of global retailers in the 20th and 21st centuries has led to a second era of merchant capitalism characterized by commodity production and cheap, unfree labor.

Sept. 23-24



Laurent Dubois

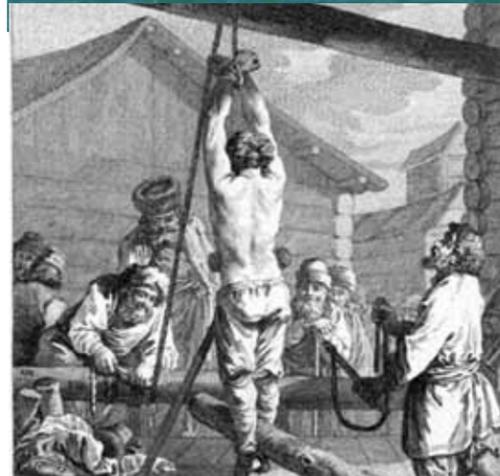
is Professor of French Studies and History and director of the Center for French and Francophone studies at Duke University. Dubois completed his PhD in Anthropology and History at the University of Michigan in 1998. His dissertation, *A Colony of Citizens*, was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2004 and was the recipient of several awards, including the Atlantic History Prize from the American Historical Association. His recent publications include the monograph *Soccer Empire: The World Cup and the Future of France* (University of California Press, 2010) and the collection *The Origins of the Black Atlantic* (Routledge, 2009), co-edited with Julius Scott. Dubois is currently working on a cultural history of the banjo, a project for which he has received a National Humanities Center Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Oct. 7



Valerie Kivelson

is Professor of History and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor at the University of Michigan. She is the author of *Autocracy in the Provinces: Russian Political Culture and the Gentry in the Seventeenth Century* (Stanford University Press, 1997), and of *Cartographies of Tsardom: The Land and Its Meanings in Seventeenth-Century Russia*, (Cornell University Press, 2006), awarded the Bainton History and Theology Prize and the Held Prize for the Best Book by a Woman in Slavic Studies for 2007. She has co-edited three volumes of essays: *The New Muscovite Cultural History: A Collection in Honor of Daniel B. Rowland*, with Karen Petrone, Nancy Shields Kollmann, and Michael Flier (Slavica Publishers, 2009); *Picturing Russia: Explorations in Visual Culture*, with Joan Neuberger (Yale University Press, 2008); and *Orthodox Russia: Studies in Belief and Practice*, with Robert H. Green (Penn State University Press, 2003). She is currently finishing a book on Russian witchcraft, from which her talk derives.



Oct. 21-22



Elizabeth Thompson

is Associate Professor in the Corcoran Department of History at the University of Virginia. Thompson completed her PhD at Columbia in 1995 and is currently involved in three projects concerning citizenship in the late colonial Middle East. One of these book projects, *Struggles for Justice in the Middle East*, has received fellowships from the United States Institute of Peace (2007-08) and the Carnegie Corporation of New York (2005). Thompson's monograph *Colonial Citizens: Republican Rights, Paternal Privilege, and Gender in French Syria and Lebanon* (Columbia University Press, 2000) received the American Historical Association's Joan Kelly Memorial Book Prize as well as the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians's First Book Prize in 2000.

Nov. 4



Matthew D. Lassiter

is Associate Professor of History and Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Michigan. He is the author of *The Silent Majority: Suburban Politics in the Sunbelt South* (Princeton University Press, 2006), winner of the 2007 Lillian Smith Award presented by the Southern Regional Council. His article for the *Journal of Urban History*, "The Suburban Origins of 'Color-Blind' Conservatism: Middle-Class Consciousness in the Charlotte Busing Crisis," was republished in *The Best American History Essays 2006* (Palgrave, 2006). He is also coeditor of *The Myth of Southern Exceptionalism* (Oxford University Press, 2009) and *The Moderates' Dilemma: Massive Resistance to School Desegregation in Virginia* (University of Virginia Press, 1998). His current book project is *The Suburban Crisis: The Pursuit and Defense of the American Dream*.

Dec. 2-3



Tony Ballantyne

completed his PhD at Cambridge in 1999 and is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Otago in New Zealand. Ballantyne's research aims to incorporate South Asia into a larger imperial system of exchange and mobility in the long nineteenth century and to develop more culturally-inflected approaches to world history. His recent publications include *Between Colonialism and Diaspora: Sikh Cultural Formations in an Imperial World* (Duke University Press, 2006) and the collection, edited with Antoinette Burton, *Moving Subjects: Gender, Mobility and Intimacy in an Age of Global Empire* (University of Illinois, 2009). Ballantyne is currently supported by the Marsden Fund for his project on knowledge and the colonization of Murihiki.

Paucity & Plenty

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THURSDAY SPEAKER SERIES - FALL 2010

2010-2011 EIHS INTERNAL FELLOWS

Paulina Alberto

is Assistant Professor of History and Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan. She received her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in 2005. Her forthcoming book, *Terms of Inclusion: Black Intellectuals and the Politics of Belonging in Twentieth-Century Brazil* (University of North Carolina Press, 2011), traces the role of thinkers of color in shaping and contesting the racialized contours of citizenship in their nation since the early 1900s, particularly the idea of Brazil's "racial democracy." Her new project explores the role of recent history, historiography, and, above all, historical fiction in the transformation of racial and national identity in contemporary Argentina.



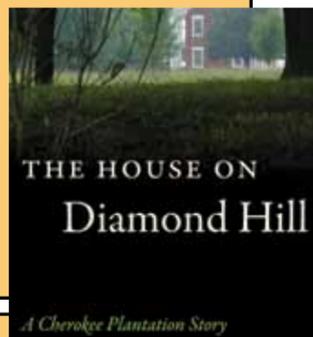
Stephen A. Berrey

is Assistant Professor of History and American Culture at the University of Michigan. He received his PhD in history from the University of Texas in 2006. His research and teaching focus on race, culture, and social movements in the twentieth century U.S. South. In his writing, Berrey is particularly interested in how race is articulated, enacted, and modified by blacks and whites in their daily lives. His current book project explores racial transformations in 1950s Mississippi and addresses issues of resistance and repression within the everyday realm. Focused on the period just before the emergence of the mass civil rights and Black Power movements, the study considers how daily racial practices changed and how racial disparities survived the death of Jim Crow.



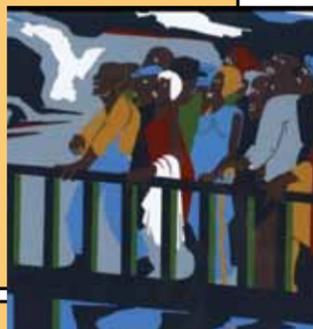
Tiya Miles

is Associate Professor in the Program in American Culture, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, Department of History, and Native American Studies Program at the University of Michigan. She is author of the prize-winning book, *Ties That Bind: The Story of an Afro-Cherokee Family in Slavery and Freedom* (University of California Press, 2005) and various essays on Cherokee women's history and Afro-Native historical intersections. She is co-editor, with Sharon P. Holland, of *Crossing Waters, Crossing Worlds: the African Diaspora in Indian Country* (Duke University Press, 2006). Her next book, *The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story*, is forthcoming from the University of North Carolina Press.



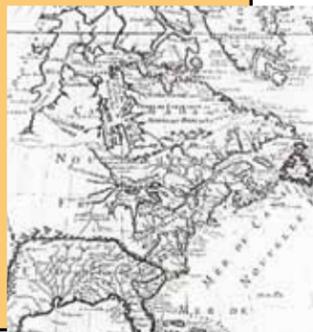
Peggy Somers

is Professor of Sociology and History at the University of Michigan. Her book *Genealogies of Citizenship: Markets, Statelessness, and the Right to Have Rights* (Cambridge, 2008), was awarded the 2009 Giovanni Sartori Award for qualitative methods and concept formation by the American Political Science Association. She is currently working on *Free-Market Utopianism: From Market Fundamentalism to Karl Polanyi and the Reality of Society* (with Fred Block; Harvard, 2011) and *The People and the Law: The Making of Modern Citizenship Rights*, a work of comparative historical sociology with a focus on English legal history. In 2009-10 Somers was a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University.



Michael Witgen

is Assistant Professor in the Program in American Culture, Native American Studies, and the Department of History at the University of Michigan. He completed an MA and PhD in history at the University of Washington. His publications include "The Rituals of Possession: Native Identity and the Invention of Empire in Seventeenth Century Western North America," in the journal *Ethnohistory*, Vol.54, No. 4, Fall 2007, and *An Infinity of Nations: How the Native New World Shaped Modern North America*, forthcoming in 2011 with the University of Pennsylvania Press, Early America Series. His current book project examines the intersection of race, national identity, and state making on America's northern borderland.



2010-2011 RESIDENCY RESEARCH FELLOWS

Charlene Boyer Lewis

is Associate Professor in the History Department at Kalamazoo College. She received her PhD from the University of Virginia. She specializes in women's history, Southern history, and American cultural and social history in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. She has published *Ladies and Gentlemen on Display: Planter Society at the Virginia Springs, 1790-1860* (University of Virginia Press, 2001) and is currently completing a book manuscript entitled *Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte and American Identity: Contesting National Culture in the Early Republic*. Her next project, which she will be researching while at the Institute, is a study of American gardens and gardening and their significance and purposes for individuals and communities as well as the nation's identity between 1750 and 1850.



Alexander Day

is Assistant Professor of History at Wayne State University. He received a BA in East Asian Studies from Colby College and a PhD in the history of modern East Asia with a research focus on modern China from the University of California, Santa Cruz, in 2007. He is working on a manuscript, entitled *In the Wake of Revolution: History and the Politics of the Peasant in Postsocialist China*, that examines contemporary debates on China's emerging rural crisis and its relationship to intellectual politics in the reform era (1979 to the present). His research interests include the history of radicalism and populism, the politics of the rural-urban relationship and inequality, and the connection between historical writing and politics.



Christine Evans

received her PhD from the University of California, Berkeley in 2010. Her dissertation, entitled "From Truth to Time: Soviet Central Television, 1957-1985," explores the production and content of Soviet Central Television during the Khrushchev and Brezhnev eras. She is also the co-author of two recent chapters in edited volumes, one on the creation of a university for "Third World" students in Moscow in 1960, and the other on the relationship between terrorists in early 20th century St. Petersburg and the modern urban landscape in which they operated. Her research interests include the relationship between mass media and political and cultural change, and the place of uncertainty, risk, and game-playing in Soviet culture and everyday life.



Karen Miller

is Associate Professor of History at LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York. She received her PhD from the University of Michigan's Department of History in 2003. She is currently completing her book manuscript, *Managing Inequality: Northern Racial Liberalism and Black Activism in Interwar Detroit*. At the Eisenberg Institute she will be starting a new project that examines the career of Frank Murphy, mayor of Detroit, Governor-General of the Philippines, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice, in order to explore race-making as it relates to colonial governance and domestic policy.



Leslie Page Moch

is Professor of History at Michigan State University. An historian of migration, she is author of *Moving Europeans: Migration in Western Europe since 1650* (Indiana University Press, 2003) and *The Pariahs of Yesterday: Bretons in Paris during the III Republic* (forthcoming) as well as other books and articles. Because her interest in migration is turning from Western Europe to Eurasia, she will use her time at the Eisenberg Institute to initiate intensive reading and research for a coauthored large-scale study, "Repertoires and Regimes of Human Mobility in Imperial Russia, the USSR, and the Post-Soviet States."



Elizabeth Smith-Pryor

is Associate Professor in the Department of History at Kent State University. She earned an AB in Government from Harvard in 1984, and a JD from Stanford Law School in 1987. After practicing law for 6 years in New York, Smith-Pryor returned to academia, earning a PhD in American History from Rutgers University in 2001. At Kent State, she teaches the survey course in modern American history, as well as undergraduate and graduate courses in African-American History, The History of Race and the Law, Historical Methods, American Women's History, and Race, Gender, and Sexuality in American History. In 2009, the University of North Carolina Press published her first book entitled *Property Rites: The Rhinelander Trial, Passing, and the Protection of Whiteness*.



Post-Doctoral Fellow

Will Redfern completed his PhD in Southeast Asian history at the University of Michigan in the spring of 2010. Before returning to graduate school, he practiced law for a decade, including six years in Southeast Asia. His dissertation, entitled 'Sukarno's Guided Democracy and the Takeovers of Foreign Companies in Indonesia in the 1960s', investigates the takeover by the Indonesian government of virtually all foreign companies in the country in the early 1960s. His broader research and teaching interests include economic and business history, decolonization, international relations, and modern Chinese history.



Global History Initiative

EIHS and the Global History Initiative Partnership, Fall 2010

September 16

4-6 pm, 1014 Tisch Hall

Kären Wigen, Stanford University

"A Malleable Map: The Unlikely Career of an Ancient Province in Modern Japan"

September 16

4-6pm, Kelsey Museum

Ian Morris, Stanford University

"The Ancient World: Putting the Greeks and Romans in Their Place"

*because of scheduling overlap, both of these events will be video recorded and made available at a later date

September 17

noon-2pm, 1014 Tisch Hall

"Global History in Practice"

Ian Morris (Stanford), Kären Wigen (Stanford), Ananda Burra, (PhD student, History), Mrinalini Sinha (History)

December 3

Friday Workshop, noon-2pm, 1014 Tisch Hall

"Empire: Producing Difference"

Tony Ballantyne (University of Otago), Ian Moyer (History), Maria Paz Esguerra (PhD student, History), Damon Salesa (History/American Culture) and Colleen Woods (PhD candidate, History), Chaired by Ron Suny (History/EIHS Director)

Janey and Melvin Lack Fellows

Maria Paz Esguerra

"Interracial Romances of American Nationhood: Marriage, Migration, and Miscegenation Law in Early Twentieth Century California"

Monica Kim

"Humanity Interrogated: Empire, Nation, and the Political Subject in United States-controlled Prisoner of War Camps during the Korean War, 1942-1960"

Josh Mound

"Inflated Hopes, Taxing Times: The Politics of Economic Crisis in the Long 1970s"

Kimberly A. Powers

"Constructing Legal Categories, Inscribing Cultural Differences: Family Law and Practice in Late 19th Century Central Asia"

Eisenberg Fellows

Davide Orsini

"Learning to Live Together: The History of La Maddalena. Cultural encounters and Social Stratification"

Colleen Woods

"Freedom Inc.": Independence, Security, and the Making of an American Cold War in the Philippines"

Winter, 2011
Thursday Speaker Series

January 13-14

Steven Mintz, Columbia University

January 27

Gabrielle Hecht, University of Michigan

February 10

Kathleen Canning, University of Michigan

March 10-11

Sandra Sherman, Fordham University

March 24-25

Alice O'Connor, UC, Santa Barbara

April 7-8

Symposium on the Theme "Paucity and Plenty"