

# ME | HISTORY

Honors Symposium  
**2022**



# 2022 History Department Honors Students

## Krista Albertins

### **The Songs of Our Ancestors and the Music of Our Oppressors: How Choral Festivals Fostered National Identity in Nineteenth-Century Latvia**

Advisor: Kira Thurman

This thesis examines the history of Latvian choral festivals between the 1850s and 1880s, paying special attention to the first two Latvian singing festivals in the nation's history—the 1873 and 1880 song festivals. It argues that Latvians sought to create their national identity through music, in spite of continued pressure to assimilate into Russian and German cultures. The thesis considers how nineteenth-century Latvian intelligentsia members engaged in cultural preservation by collecting and categorizing Latvian folk songs and cultural creation by founding large-scale Latvian choral festivals as nation-building events.

## Lily Antor

### **Quelling Leftist “Hillbillies”: How the Chicago Police Department’s Red Squad Surveilled and Repressed the Young Patriots Organization, 1969-1972**

Advisor: Nora Krinitsky

An assemblage of poor Southerners living in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood in the late 1960s, the Young Patriots Organization donned Confederate iconography while espousing anti-capitalist, anti-racist ideologies similar to those of its Black Panther allies. This research seeks to expand the Patriots' limited historiography by investigating its claims of harassment from the Chicago Police's Red Squad. The project employs evidence contained in restricted police files at the Chicago History Museum, as well as a plethora of archival and news materials from 1968 to 1972, to reveal a striking pattern of government surveillance that specifically targeted the Patriots' free health clinic.

## Anthony DiBello

### **One Ethnicity, Under Columbus, Divided: Christopher Columbus’s Evolving Role in the Formation of Italian-American Identity and the Celebration of Italian-American Heritage**

Advisors: Deborah Dash Moore, Giulia Riccò

This thesis is about the Italian-American community's complex and evolving relationship with Christopher Columbus since his wide-scale adoption as an ethnic hero in the late-nineteenth century. It evaluates the manner in which—and extent to which—race, class, and regionalism influenced said adoption, and it challenges the modern image of Columbus as a lynchpin in the broad celebration of Italian-American heritage. Sources from the Italian American Collection at the Heinz History Center include newspaper articles, photos, videos, and advertisements. Non-archival sources include video conferences, podcasts, and secondary literature on Columbus and Columbus commemoration.

## Noah Fisher

### **The *Dearborn Independent*, Henry Ford, and the Lasting Legacy of Antisemitism in Detroit**

Advisor: Heather Ann Thompson

If one were to study the history of the Jews of Detroit, there are pillars of the community that they are bound to encounter, including the Jewish Community Center of Detroit and Sinai Hospital Detroit. What would not be clear is that their construction was inspired by the most notorious attack on the Jewish people to occur within the United States: "The International Jew" series published in Henry Ford's newspaper, the *Dearborn Independent*. This thesis will make clear that the antisemitism published in the *Dearborn Independent* had an impact heretofore underappreciated by historians that continues to have an effect today.

## Sean Gillikin

### **Picturing Asante: The Missionary Friedrich Ramseyer's Depiction of the Gold Coast Through Memoir and Photograph**

Advisor: Derek Peterson

The missionary Friedrich Ramseyer was held in captivity by the Asante Empire for over four years. Upon his release, he became a fierce advocate for increased missionary activity in Asante, while quietly working with the British Colonial Government in order to achieve that goal. This thesis argues that Friedrich Ramseyer's photography reflected his nuanced view of the Gold Coast, meanwhile he supported British colonial rule so far as it benefited his missionary objectives. This paper also explores the role of media in idea formation about the colonial world through the lens of decontextualization.

## Bridget Grabowski

### **The (In)Effectiveness of the ICTY: How the UN Tribunal Failed to Obtain Justice for Women Victims of Wartime Sexual Violence in Post-War Bosnia**

Advisor: Pamela Ballinger

This thesis explores the (in)effectiveness of the UN Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in securing justice for Bosnian women victims of sexual violence following the 1990s Yugoslav conflict. To accomplish this, it utilizes primary sources, including ICTY court documents, Yugoslav and post-Yugoslav feminist works, and an interview with ICTY prosecutor Dermot Groome. Used as a case study, the failure of the ICTY to indict Bosnian-Serb war criminal Milan Lukic for sexual violence and the contempt voiced by Bakira Hasecic, the Association of Women Victims of War president, demonstrate the ICTY's inability to obtain justice for these women.

## **Sheila Lawrence**

### **Pioneers of Activism: Harriet Jacobs, Maria Stewart, and Jarena Lee Outside of the Limitations of 19th-Century Historical Categories**

Advisor: Sandra Gunning

Before and during the Civil War, the advocacy performed by Black female activists Harriet Jacobs, Maria Stewart, and Jarena Lee made groundbreaking contributions and set critical precedents. But because of the intersectional organizing these women participated in, they troubled traditional nineteenth-century historical categorizations used for important figures, such as feminist, abolitionist, or religious figure. As a result of not fitting the ideal “classification,” these women and similar figures have not been highlighted to the correct extent in popular history. This thesis is arguing for the utilization of the new terminology of “Activist Pioneers” to describe the roles these women played and acknowledge their significance in American history.

## **Hannah-Ruth Long**

### **Women of the Early Republic: A Study of Reproductive Choice**

Advisor: Mary C. Kelley

The Early Republic is marked by profound cultural changes, particularly regarding reproduction. This thesis takes a closer look at a historical time period that is often overlooked by scholars studying reproductive control. Furthermore, it examines the racial, socioeconomic, and cultural disparities between European American, African American, and Native American women, thereby creating three distinct ways to understand reproductive control. This thesis argues that the condemnation of every form of abortion is a recent development and that the debates regarding the criminalization of abortion and infanticide during the Early Republic can serve as a reminder of the shifting arguments that are so often represented as though they were timeless and absolute.

## **Hannah Mackay**

### **Facebook’s Next Billion Users: The 21st-Century Legacy of Colonialism in Africa**

Advisor: Raevin Jimenez

Digital colonialism, or the domination of people via the ownership and control of software, hardware, and network connectivity, is profitable for Facebook because it facilitates the collection of user data, a valuable commodity when it comes to targeted advertising (Kwet, 2018). My thesis will provide a comprehensive historical analysis of the evolution of digital colonialism, set within the *longue durée* of colonialism in Africa. I argue that Facebook’s investments into internet infrastructure in Africa are inherently colonial because they are extractive and perpetuate Western dependence. Facebook capitalizes on weak African political structures inherited from previous colonizers’ interference and circumvents existing privacy laws on the continent. While Facebook uses colonial rhetoric of philanthropy to justify its involvement, its investments perpetuate political instability in Africa, all the while prioritizing profit over digital subjects.

## **Samuel Mathisson**

### **“A Land Without a People for a People Without a Land”: Jewish Territorialism’s Influence on the Creation of the Balfour Declaration, 1882-1917**

Advisor: Jeffrey Veidlinger

Could there have been a Jewish State outside of Israel? Unknown to many, territorialism—the idea that an immediate refuge, regardless of location, was needed for Europe’s persecuted Jews—was an integral ideological component of the Zionist movement. In opposition, “practical” Zionists argued that settlement in Palestine constituted the only goal of the World Zionist Organization (WZO). After the WZO declined the British offer of East Africa for a Jewish State in 1905, the territorialists split off from the WZO, founding the Jewish Territorial Organization (ITO) and causing a schism in the movement. This thesis will demonstrate how the ITO sustained Herzelian political Zionism during the schism from 1905-1917. Through examination of the writings of Zionism’s most influential figures, territorialism’s role in influencing the creation of the Balfour Declaration will be revealed.

## **Sarah Mauger**

### **A Fate Worse Than Death: Dismantling the Spectacular Nature of Anatomical Dissection**

Advisor: Henry M. Cowles

This thesis explores the evolution of medical education, the legitimization of anatomical study, and the rise of surgeons’ social status in London from 1752 to 1832. This period is framed by the creation and subsequent repeal of the Murder Act, which legalized the punishment of “Death and Dissection,” or the public dissection of convicted murderers. By consulting court records from the Old Bailey Courthouse and satire from the period, this work investigates the implementation of this act and the related changes to anatomical teaching and social attitudes toward dissection. Further analysis of anatomy lectures, dissection manuals, and medical weeklies reveals how these changes impacted the status of surgeons in society. The project concludes with thoughts on the legacies of anatomy’s complex relationship with the carceral system, including ongoing debates about prisoners’ rights and the nature of scientific knowledge.

## **Andrew May**

### **Rebellion, Retaliation, And Repatriation: Property Confiscation in Revolutionary South Carolina**

Advisor: Matthew Spooner

My thesis is about the process of property confiscation that was carried out against South Carolina Loyalists during and after the American Revolutionary War in the early 1780s. It asks why this process occurred even though the United States has an ideology favorable towards property rights and free trade. My conclusions are that it primarily occurred because wartime conditions led to the extrajudicial confiscation of property for pragmatic reasons such as raising revenue and redistribution of wealth. I am using legislative and judicial records from the South Carolina General Assembly, as well as correspondences and records from both prominent generals and politicians from the conflict.

## **Zev Miklethun**

### **Radical Causes: The Student Left, the Counterculture, and New Urban Politics in Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1967-1974**

Advisor: Matthew Lassiter

Many who are familiar with Ann Arbor know it as a liberal city, and some know that it was a hotbed for the New Left and the counterculture during the 1960s. Yet the details of Ann Arbor's radical history are much less well known, and they have far broader implications for the city today than is often recognized. This thesis tells the story of two radical organizations whose efforts during the momentous upheavals of the late 1960s and early 1970s helped transform Ann Arbor into the place it is now. Through a critical assessment of the New Left and the counterculture in Ann Arbor, it aims to reveal lessons about culture, politics, and patterns of urban development that may be useful for leftist activists today.

## **Annelise Perry**

### **An Investment in Loyalty: The South African Native National Congress in the First World War**

Advisor: Derek Peterson

At the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, the South African Native National Congress (SANNC) was in the midst of a series of campaigns in Britain advocating for constitutional reform in South Africa. In response to the war, the SANNC declared loyalty to South Africa and the British Empire and resolved to suspend all grievances against the South African government. This thesis uses a combination of newspapers, archival sources, and official correspondence to examine the debates surrounding this declaration and understand how it fit into the larger picture of the SANNC's political actions in the 1910s.

## **Paris Shusterfallou**

### **"Legitimate Political Discourse": The Boogaloo Movement, the Proud Boys, the January 6th Attack, and the Radicalization of the Post-2016 American Right**

Advisor: Stephen A. Berrey

This thesis explores how radicalism took hold in the post-2016 American right through an examination of the Boogaloo movement, the Proud Boys, and the January 6th attack. Catalyzed by the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement, violent and radical ideas held by those in the Boogaloo movement, a revolutionary militia movement, and the Proud Boys, a Western-chauvinist all-men's group, went mainstream. These same violent and radical ideas were replicated on January 6, 2021, by Trump supporters largely unaffiliated with such movements or groups.

## **Lindsey Willow Smith**

### **Ancestry For Sale: Native Identity on Ancestry.com Forums**

Advisor: Arland Thornton

This thesis views ways that discussions of Native identity have shifted in the past twenty years, using manually coded posts from Ancestry.com forums. These posts span from 2000 to 2021, divided into two posting time periods. In addition, the posts come from forums relating to two different tribal identities—Anishinaabe and Cherokee—as a way to compare what Native identity is broadly, as well as possible tribally specific characteristics of identity. This thesis argues that these Ancestry.com forums view Native identity as something formed from historical documentation, and are separate from Indigenous views of identity, in which living communal ties are valued.

## **Abigail Snyder**

### **The Bomb and the Budget: Fiscal Conservatism and Defense Spending During the Cold War**

Advisor: Howard Brick

This thesis is about the ideological clash between American political conservatism's reverence for and dedication to fiscal restraint and the pressure for increased military buildup during the Cold War. It examines American conservatives' arguments and justifications for fiscal forbearance and increasing defense spending, how they shift over time, and what political strains come out of this defining period. The thesis consults the work of key conservative intellectuals of the period, including Phyllis Schlafly and William F. Buckley, Jr., and studies how this key issue played out in the administrations of the Republican presidents of the Cold War period.

## **Liat Weinstein**

### **Mandated by Law: The Role of Detroit's Citizens' District Councils in Urban Redevelopment, 1968-2000**

Advisor: Matthew Lassiter

In 1968, just a year after the 1967 Detroit Uprising against racial violence and police brutality spread across the city, Michigan state laws mandated the formation of Citizens' District Councils (CDCs) in all neighborhoods deemed by the city as "urban renewal zones." Twenty years after the Housing Act of 1949 authorized the destruction and clearance of majority Black, low-income neighborhoods in the name of "urban renewal," the CDCs were tasked with overseeing and implementing community redevelopment programs in their respective neighborhoods. Yet as entities of both their neighborhoods and the city government itself, the CDCs often struggled to enact tangible change as they faced administrative hurdles and direct opposition to their work from city leadership. This thesis asks how the CDCs reconciled their activist leadership with their role as groups "mandated by law" in order to advocate for redevelopment in their neighborhoods.

**Ziqian Zheng**

**Reimagining the Communist World: China and the 1956  
Polish-Hungarian Crises**

Advisor: Brian Porter-Szűcs

The year 1956 marked a major turning point in the history of the international Communist movement. In February 1956, Nikita Khrushchev denounced the personality cult of Joseph Stalin at the 20th Congress of the CPSU. With the abandonment of the restrictive policies issued in the Stalinist era, leaders of the communist countries were facing both confusion and possibilities for new ideas. By focusing on China's involvement in the 1956 Polish-Hungarian crises and its changing positions within the Socialist camp, this thesis examines the development of the domestic and foreign policies of the People's Republic of China from the early to late 1950s.