DODGE FAMILY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
The UNIVERSITY *of* OKLAHOMA

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the OU Department of History Newsletter's inaugural issue. We are excited to start sharing news and information from the department with you. This issue spotlights the department's faculty and their recent achievements. In future issues we will highlight our graduate and undergraduate students, and special departmental programs. One of these is the undergraduate internship program, which allows history majors to receive supervised course credit for working as interns in a wide variety of positions at OU, in Norman and Oklahoma City, and across the country. A generous donor gift has allowed us to fund student expenses associated with some of these internship opportunities that require travel. You will see an example of one of these highly successful internship experiences below. You will also see an announcement for a special event celebrating the work of Professor Emeritus David Levy, whose contributions to OU and the discipline of history have been exceptional. Please save the date, April 23 at 3pm, if you can make it to Norman for this event. For OU Giving Day this year (April 8), we will once again feature the David Levy Fund, for those of you who might like to contribute in support of history students in Dr. Levy's name. Thanks for reading!

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

JENNIFER HOLLAND NAMED WELSH CHAIR IN WESTERN HISTORY

We are pleased to announce Dr. Jennifer Holland as the new Welsh Chair in Western History. Holland joined the history department in 2014 and is currently an associate professor and L.R. Brammer, Jr. Presidential Professor of History. She specializes in histories of gender, sexuality, conservative politics, and the American West.

Her first book, *Tiny You: A Western History of the Anti-Abortion Movement* (2020), chronicles the intimate and everyday activism of the anti-abortion movement at the end of the twentieth century. *Tiny You* received four prestigious book prizes, including the W. Turrentine Jackson Prize for the best first book on the history of the American West from the Western History Association. The book took on new importance after the fall of Roe v. Wade. In the last two years, Holland has spoken about her research to journalists in television, radio, podcast, and print media venues, including PBS Newshour, CBS News, NPR, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, and the Associated Press. She recently returned to OU after spending a year as a Senior Fellow at the Clements Center at Southern Methodist University, where she engaged in research for her next project, entitled *Straightening Out: A History of Anti-Queer Politics in Rural America*. This project explains how rural places, not suburban ones, became the bedrocks of social conservatism in America.

As holder of the Welsh Chair, Dr. Holland will direct the Oklahoma History Summer Institute, which provides professional development opportunities to secondary school teachers of Oklahoma history.

RHONA SEIDELMAN NAMED DIRECTOR OF THE SCHUSTERMAN CENTER FOR JUDAIC AND ISRAEL STUDIES

This July, Dr. Rhona Seidelman became director of OU's Schusterman Center for Judaic and Israel Studies, following in the footsteps of Dr. Alan Levenson and Dr. Noam Stillman before him. Dr. Seidelman holds the Schusterman Chair in Modern Israel Studies and is the author of the book *Under Quarantine: Immigrants and Disease at Israel's Gate*.

She looks forward to building on the outstanding work that Dr. Levenson, Dr. Stillman and her other Schusterman colleagues have done to create a center that is esteemed locally and internationally. Dr. Seidelman offers the following thoughts: "Through our research, the classes we teach and the programs we offer, the Schusterman Center will continue to share and celebrate Jewish creativity, joy and curiosity. And I am deeply grateful to all who support us and join us along the way."

Visit the Schusterman Center web site for more information on news and upcoming events.

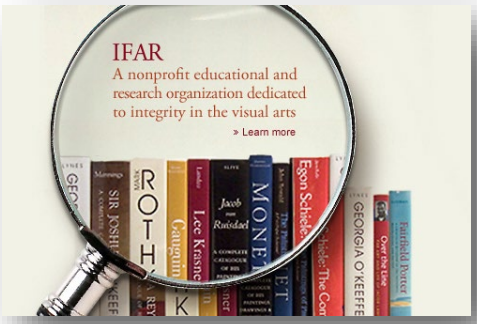
UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIPS

GRACE CORBIN INTERNS AT IFAR

A senior majoring in History and minoring in Constitutional Studies, Grace Corbin worked as an intern at the International Foundation for Art Research in New York City from June to July of 2024.

At IFAR her work consisted of organizing and digitizing institutional records: board minutes, memos, correspondence, contracts, brochures, and financial records. She compiled an annotated bibliography to make the sources more accessible for future researchers. The primary sources revealed a complicated historical relationship between IFAR and the ALR (Art Loss Register.) Grace found that existing narratives accessible online and in books concerning IFAR were not borne out by her examination of the primary sources. Her work provided helpful insights that will be used by IFAR and subsequent researchers.

Thanks to a generous gift from anonymous donors, the Department of History is able to support undergraduate internships such as this during the summer and the regular semester at museums, archives, non-profit and for-profit organizations in Norman, Oklahoma City, and beyond. These internships provide our students with opportunities to use the research and analysis skills they learn from the study of history in ways that help the sponsoring organization and offer the students additional skills and open up possibilities for future employment opportunities.



For more information on Undergraduate Resources including Fellowship Opportunities, Internship Programs, etc. please visit our website here.

FACULTY UPDATES

DR. SARAH HINES RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Dr. Hines is currently using the grant for her research into Indigenous ecological knowledge in the Bolivian highlands. The author of the book *Water for All: Community, Property, and Revolution in Modern Bolivia*, Dr. Hines continues her research into South American environmental history with this new exploration of glaciers and climate change in the Andes. You can read more about Dr. Hines work here.

DR. LAUREN DUVAL RECEIVES GIBSON FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Duval, assistant professor specializing in the era of the American Revolution, has received a Gibson Postdoctoral Fellowship to be in residence at the Karsh Institute at the University of Virginia. The fellowship will allow Dr. Duval to conduct research for a book on "founding mothers." She will also work on a public history project and develop programming for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, sponsored by the Karsh Institute. Dr. Duval is the author of the book, *The Home Front: Revolutionary Households, Military Occupation, and the Making of American Independence*, forthcoming from the Omohundro Institute (in conjunction with University of North Carolina Press). You can read more about Dr. Duval's work with the Karsh Institute here.

OU FACULTY AWARDED NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES GRANT

Dr. Kathleen A. Brosnan (History), Dr. Emily Burns (Art History and Russell Center Director), and Dr. Kalenda Eaton (African American Studies) are the recipients of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The grant will support a 2025 Summer Institute hosted by the three scholars at OU. The "Visual Wests" NEH Summer Institute will bring 25 higher education faculty members from across the nation to Norman to explore the visual and cultural narratives that have shaped perceptions of the American West since the 19th century. You can learn more about this project here.

Dr. Kathleen Brosnan, who holds the Travis Chair in Modern American History, has been awarded an OU Provost's Manuscript Finishing Fellowship for completion of her second monograph, *Napa Nature: An Environmental History of America's Premier Wine Region*.

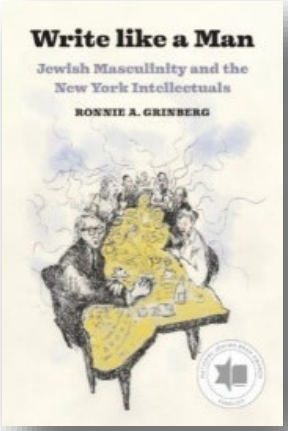
Dr. Du Fei, new assistant professor of South Asian history, has been awarded an OU Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellowship to work on his first book manuscript, *Local Women, Global Histories? Gendering Economic Life, Law, and Islam in Early Modern Transregional India*.

Dr. Jenn Holland has been awarded an OU Arts and Humanities Faculty Fellowship to work on her second book manuscript, *Straightening Out: How Anti-Queer Politics Captured Rural America*.

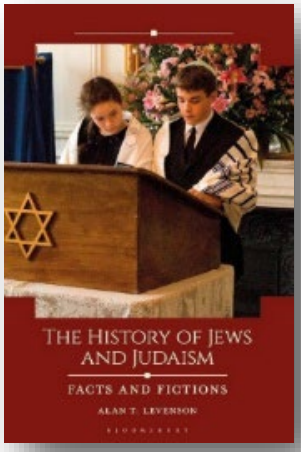
Dr. Lewis Eliot, assistant professor specializing in the history of British empire, slavery, and the Atlantic world, received an OU Research Council Junior Faculty Fellowship for work on his second book project *on The Forgotten Slave Port: Cape Town and the Slave Trade, 1795-1910*.

RECENT FACULTY BOOK PUBLICATIONS

Department chair Dr. Elyssa Faison, L.R. Brammer, Jr. Presidential Professor and associate professor specializing in the history of modern Japan, co-edited with Dr. Alison Fields (OU Art History) the volume *Resisting the Nuclear: Art and Activism Across the Pacific* (University of Washington Press 2024). *Resisting the Nuclear* is an interdisciplinary collection featuring historians, anthropologists, artists, and activists who explore the multifaceted forms of resistance to nuclear regimes.



Write like a Man: Jewish Masculinity and the New York Intellectuals (Princeton University Press 2024), by Dr. Ronnie Grinberg, associate professor specializing in modern American and American Jewish history, examines how the New York intellectuals shared a uniquely American conception of Jewish masculinity that prized verbal confrontation, polemical aggression, and an unflinching style of argumentation.



The History of Jews and Judaism: Facts and Fictions (Bloomsbury Academic Press 2025), by Schusterman/Josey Chair and Regents' Professor **Alan Levenson**, addresses false beliefs about Jews and Judaism, among them that Jews in ancient Israel practiced Judaism, that Judaism opposes Christianity, that Jews are a race, and that Judaism thrived under Islam.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF DR. DAVID W. LEVY

Many of you will know the name David Levy from your time at OU. The beloved professor retired from the Department of History in 2006 but has continued making significant contributions to OU as professor emeritus ever since. Before his retirement, Dr. Levy held the David Ross Boyd Professorship, the Sam K. Viersen Presidential Professorship, and was the Irene and Julian Rothbaum Professor of Modern American History. He has published books on the debate over the Vietnam War, Mark Twain, Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, the progressive thinker Herbert Croly, two volumes of the history of OU, and just this year *Sooner Doughboys Write Home: The University of Oklahoma and World War I*. He has been recognized as an outstanding educator through his induction into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame.

Please join us on April 23, when the Department of History and the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences will host an event celebrating Dr. Levy's work and his many contributions to OU. The celebration and reception will take place at 3pm in the Community Room (906) of Dale Hall Tower on the Norman campus and is open to all. For more information, please call the Department of History at (405) 325-6002.

LEAD ON

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA'S CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE

To contribute to the History Department general fund, or in support of Graduate or Undergraduate students, click here. Or use the QR coded provided here.

BRING IT BIGGER

OU GIVING DAY 4.8.25 | GIVESOONER.ORG

Add OU GIVING DAY to your CALENDAR

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More information regarding the OU GIVING DAY to be sent soon.

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