Nine Years As A “Freeway-Flyer”

Vanessa Crispin-Peralta completed her UCSB PhD dissertation in 2013 under the direction of Ann Plane. Here she describes her arduous teaching career in the period before she attained a full-time teaching position.

Like many eager grad school applicants, I entered my program at UCSB with grand notions of landing the big research university job and writing the seminal book in my field. Those dreams changed rather abruptly when I accepted my first teaching assistant position. I entered that process scared at the prospect of trying to teach, but by the end of the quarter, I had found my passion. Little did I know that this passion would lead me to become a “freeway flyer.” From 2007 until 2016 I worked at four different colleges, spanning a distance of more than 80 miles to try to cobble together enough classes to eke out a living.

My first adjunct position was for a summer class at the local community college. I was so excited to have landed a job that I didn’t really stress about the low pay or the fact that I didn’t have a guarantee of any future courses. After my first few weeks teaching I interviewed for a temporary job teaching just

Public History Program Marks Fortieth Anniversary

By James F. Brooks and Sarah Case. Brooks is the Editor of The Public Historian, Co-director of the Public History Program, and Professor of Anthropology and History. Case is Managing Editor of the journal and Lecturer in History.

Last year, the UCSB Public History program celebrated the four decades of success that followed a 1976 Rockefeller Foundation grant to train historians for public and private sector careers beyond conventional academic employment. Since then, we have produced more than one hundred professionals who apply their historical skills, knowledge and insights in public settings – in museums and heritage sites, businesses, government agencies, non-profit groups and private foundations.

Today, UCSB offers a joint program with California State University, Sacramento. Students study at both campuses, enhancing the range of their public history education and experience, and allowing students to emphasize doctoral training while at
one course at a college nearly 80 miles away. My hope was that I would have at least one course for the upcoming fall semester. I ended up with one class at each school and for the next five years I made the commute between them. One rather brutal semester I had to make that drive with just an hour between classes. It is truly a miracle that I didn’t get a ticket as I raced down the 101. Over that five-year period I taught more classes, but neither department could offer me enough work to ensure health insurance or financial stability, so I had to keep teaching at both. The most concerning issue, however, was the lack of consistent work. I never knew more than one semester in advance how many courses I might be teaching or when they would be offered.

Because the nature of adjunct work is that you take it where you can get it, I continued to increase the number of places I taught. I never felt that I could say no to a teaching opportunity. Teaching at two or three different campuses at a time makes it nearly impossible to put down roots anywhere. Without an office to call my own, the back seat of my car had to fill this role (see picture). In fact, my car became my office, lunchroom, and occasional nap space. What can I say? It’s not the most glamorous life. But it’s not all bad. Over those nine years I worked with some truly remarkable students. I got to know colleagues who challenged me to grow as a scholar and as a teacher. I developed a set of skills that I could use with students at every level of academic preparedness. And I truly believe that this diverse set of tools helped me to land the ideal teaching job for me.

I’m now in a full-time, tenure track position at Long Beach City College. The students are great, my colleagues are amazing, and most importantly, my commute is ten minutes! I truly feel as though I won the lottery. Just this morning while I waited for exams to run through the copier I struck up a conversation with a colleague who is teaching her very first adjunct course. She was very excited to share her experiences and as she spoke I found myself wondering where her road will take her. Will she join the ranks of the “freeway fliers” or will she find her academic home someday? The odds say that it will likely be the former, but sometimes our lucky numbers hit and we win the jackpot.

Grad Students Rock

Ben Ma (Baltieri-Low), who defended his dissertation on “Scribes in Early Imperial China” last July, has accepted a renewable postdoctoral position at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Study in Freiburg, Germany. He joins a research group on imperial economies and inter-imperial relationships in the Afro-Eurasian region (“Beyond the Silk Road: Economic Development, Frontier Zones and Imperiality in the Afro-Eurasian World Region, 300 BCE to 300 CE”).

Francisco Beltran (Spickard), who has been appointed assistant editor and editorial manager for the Journal of Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos, a joint publication by the University of California and la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

Cheryl Jimenez Frei (Cline) has published an article in a special digital issue of The Public Historian entitled "Towards Memory, Against Oblivion: A Comparative Perspective on Public Memory, Monuments, and Confronting a Painful Past in the United States and Argentina." She gave the Van Gelderen Lecture last February.

Good News About Alumni

Visiting Assistant Professor Anil Mukerjee (Dutra) was recognized in an awards ceremony this fall at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for his "exceptional service in support of the Office of Diversity, inclusion, and retention."

Alison Jefferson is a featured historian in KCET’s “Lost LA” series, Episode 5 (“Coded Geographies”) which debuted on November 7 and can be viewed online.

Jason Kelly (Guerrini) is a co-editor of Rivers of the Anthropocene (UC Press), a volume of essays presenting transdisciplinary research on global freshwater systems.

Sandra Trudgen Dawson (Rappaport) is a co-editor of Home Fronts: Britain and the Empire at War, 1939-45 (Boydell and Brewer). She contributed to the book an essay entitled “Rubber Shortages on Britain’s Home Front.” Jean Smith (Rappaport) also has an essay in the book). In addition, Dawson’s earlier monograph on Holiday Camps in 20th-Century Britain is cited in bestselling travel writer Bill Bryson’s The Road to Little Dribbling (2015, p. 256).
Rethinking the Russian Revolution
After a Century

Professor Emeritus Tsuyoshi Hasegawa has published two books this year. The February Revolution, Petrograd, 1917 (Brill) is a revised, enlarged, and reinterpreted version of his 1981 book on this subject. The second book, Crime and Punishment in the Russian Revolution (Harvard University Press), is described by Rex Wade of George Mason University as a work that “changes the way we think and write about the Russian Revolution, making this one of the more original things I have seen in a very long time.” The following description is taken from an interview Hasegawa gave to Rototoko (a British online review).

The story of the Russian Revolution has more often been told from the perspective of the active participants in the revolution, whether they were the leaders of political groups or social groups who actively participated in the revolutionary process. Rarely has it been told from the perspective of ordinary people who were swept up in the process of revolutionary change. This book examines how the revolution affected ordinary people and, in turn, how their reaction influenced the course of events.

There was euphoric excitement after the February Revolution. Having acquired freedom and equality, people expected life to improve immediately. But life only got worse. Electricity and the water supply dwindled, and soon stopped. Garbage piled up in the streets and courtyards, uncollected. The city stunk so bad that newspapers commented that even an elephant would faint. Worst of all, basic food became scarce. People stood for hours in long queues for a mere loaf of bread. Horses, dead from starvation, lay strewn about in the city’s major streets, and signs were posted not to eat dead horses. Dogs disappeared, ending up in people’s stomachs. Epidemics spread, and hospitals were overwhelmed.

As horrible as this all was, the most frightening change was the sharp rise of crime, especially violent crime. The tsar was gone and with the tsar the tsarist police was also annihilated. The newly created municipal police, inexperienced and untrained, was infiltrated by former criminals. Pickpockets became muggers. Robbers became murderers. People believed that merchants were taking advantage of shortages and the economic decline to the detriment of a population already suffering from rationing and deprivation. An ugly specter of anti-Semitism reared its head in the mob justice against merchants.

The old court system was paralyzed, and temporary new courts passed erratic verdicts without solid legal basis. Soon, even the temporary courts were abolished, leaving the citizens nowhere to go to lodge their complaints. Likewise, the prison system broke down, leading to mass escapes and returning criminals to the streets.

How did people react to all this? Longing for order and security that political authorities could not provide, people took the law into their own hands. Crowds turned to mob justice. When witnessing a crime, people attempted to catch the thieves, even petty thieves, then surrounded the perpetrators, and there on the spot, beat them up, kicked them, sometimes even tearing their limbs, or shot them point-blank, or paralyzed them through the streets, tied them to carts, and then often ended the punishment by throwing them into the canals and rivers to enjoy watching them drown.

Mob justice was not merely an expression of rage against criminals and speculators. This was an expression of the frustration and anger of ordinary people felt about deteriorating life in general. This brutal violence is one of the most prominent, frightening, and often ignored aspects of the Russian Revolution. The revolution brought out the worst of human emotions—hatred, cruelty, brutality, and vengeance.

It is important to recognize that the Bolsheviks approved and often encouraged this breakdown of social order. Lenin thought mob justice was the expression of...
UCSB. In addition, many doctoral students at UCSB choose to include public history as an outside field. A few have the opportunity to work at the flagship journal in the field, *The Public Historian*, founded at UCSB in 1978, as assistant reviews editor, allowing them an inside peek into journal publishing and connecting them with public historians across the world.

Recently, the program has been striving to involve graduate students and faculty in local public history projects and institutions. Nora Kassner, now a second year graduate student, last year collaborated with Professor Randy Bergstrom and public history alumna Anne Peterson, executive director of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, on a public history initiative funded by California State Parks. This initiative, called the Relevancy and History Pilot Project, seeks to transform historical interpretation at California State Parks, connecting park history to the experiences of more California residents and to a broader range of contemporary issues. Santa Barbara’s Presidio served as an ideal pilot site for this initiative thanks to the strength of its extant historical interpretation, commitment to engaging Santa Barbara’s diverse communities, and long history of collaboration between UCSB and SBTHP. During the first year of the Relevancy and History Pilot Project, Nora, Randy, and Anne created programming that explored the long history of (im)migration in Santa Barbara. For Nora, the collaboration offered an opportunity to explore public history early in her career at UCSB. She writes, “the public history program was a major draw for me to come to UCSB for my PhD. Through the Relevancy and History Pilot Project, I was able to explore how historical research and community engagement intersect. I hope to continue working in public history throughout my time at UCSB.”

In this spirit of community collaboration and inspired by the anniversary, the program held a vision retreat on May 19. Our goal was more than celebratory: faculty, graduate students, and notable alumni gathered for the day to design a program for the future. Shelley Bookspan, Beverly Schwartzberg, Rose Hayden-Smith, Michael Adamson, SBTHP director Petersen, Monica Orozco, and Lily Tamai Welty joined program co-directors Randy Bergstrom and James F. Brooks, program coordinator Sarah Case to explore new skills essential for the twenty-first century. Bookspan shared her work in environmental research litigation, Schwartzberg’s hers as successful grant writer, Hayden-Smith as editor of the UC Food Observer, Adamson as founder of Adamson Historical Consulting (now at FTI Consulting), Peter sen as executive director of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Orozco as executive director of the Mission Santa Barbara, and Welty as curator of the Japanese American National Museum.

Digital literacy, bidding and contracts, donor cultivation, team-based research, web-based marketing, and communication with nonacademic audiences emerged as prominent areas of concern. Many questioned the usefulness of the "solitary genius" model for the public history dissertation, when in the wider world collaborative research, writing, and dissemination are much more desirable skills. We explored introducing a contract history program, in which doctoral students engage as a team in fulfilling objectives as defined by the National Park Service, the Forest Service, or the Bureau of Land Management through Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESUs) that provide research, technical assistance, and education to federal land management, environmental, and research agencies and their partners. Hayden-Smith, Schwartzberg and Bookspan each volunteered to lead two-day workshops in the coming year in their areas of expertise. The Public History program will bring recommendations to the full history department in the near future, and look forward to positioning our curriculum for another generation of success.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU: Send letters to: Editor, Historia, Dept. of History, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9410 (or e-mail to: jsmcgee @ his-
Justifiable popular anger against the bourgeois order. When they came to power, the Bolsheviks were blissfully ignorant about the necessity to maintain public order. Carried away with their utopian vision, they assumed that all they had to do was to dismantle the old bourgeois militia and replace it with proletarian universal militia. But things went from bad to worse under the Bolsheviks. Both crime and mob justice grew in size and cruelty. Moreover, under the Bolsheviks, a new element of mob violence was added: alcohol pogroms. Mobs began to attack wine and vodka cellars in November and December. The most violent raid took place in the wine cellars of the Winter Palace, where the cellars turned into a sea of wine. Many were drowned to death. A Bolshevik high official helplessly observed that the Bolshevik power was drowning in a sea of wine and vodka.

Kudos for Faculty Members

In November, Nancy Gallagher received the annual Middle Eastern Studies Association Mentoring Award.


Stephan Miescher, Javiera Barandiaran (Global Studies), Mona Damluji (Film and Media Studies), David Pellow (Environmental Studies), and Janet Walker (Film and Media Studies) have been awarded, by the Andrew F. Mellon Foundation, a yearlong grant to support a Sawyer Seminar on "Energy Justice in Global Perspective" for AY 2018-19. The grant will support a postdoctoral fellow, two year-long UCSB graduate student fellowships, as well as visiting scholars and filmmakers. The Seminar will aim for a deep and far-reaching exploration of energy justice, focusing on the development of alternatives to existing energy systems and practices in the industrialized societies of the Global North, where a fraction of the global population consumes a super-sized portion of fossil fuels.

James Brooks is spending the current academic year at Vanderbilt University as the William S. Vaughn Visiting Faculty Fellow at the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities. His recent book, Mesa of Sorrows: a History of the Awat’ovi Massacre (Norton, 2016), has received the Caughery History Prize from the Western Historical Association. It goes annually to “the most distinguished book on the history of the American West.”

Undergraduate Bloopers

“The church not only punished the actual offenders, but also punished anyone who aided and abetted sexual immortality.”

“A bawd was an individual of either sex who procured or pandered to immortality.”
In Memoriam: Otis L. Graham, Jr.

By Mary Furner and Betty Koed.

Emeritus professor Otis Livingston Graham, Jr., died in Westlake, California on November 14, 2017 from complications of Parkinson’s disease. He is fondly remembered by colleagues as—quoting Professor Harold Drake—“a charismatic teacher and scholar possessed of boundless energy and irrepressible good humor.”


Having taught briefly at Mount Vernon Women’s College in Washington, D.C., Otis joined the UCSB history department in 1966, a time of change and growth in the department. In the early years he worked closely with the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, which was founded by Robert Hutchins, housed New Dealer Rexford Tugwell, Linus Pauling, and Paul Ehrlich as fellows, and functioned as a think tank in Santa Barbara from 1957 through 1977. He worked closely with founding editors Robert Kelley and Wesley Johnson to develop the department’s graduate program in Public History and aided in launching the Public Historian, the major journal for the field, which continues to be located at UCSB. In 1980, Graham relocated to the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He returned to UCSB in 1989 to assume leadership of the graduate program in Public History and serve as editor of The Public Historian.

Over the next half-dozen years, he brought energy and innovation to these tasks, establishing the “First Thursday” events, expanding the journal’s focus to include museum exhibit and film reviews and “gray literature,” and guiding a talented cadre of public history students to successful and path-breaking careers. After retiring from UCSB in 1995, he continued editing the journal through 1997 while teaching at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington until his second retirement in 2002. In 1999 the National Council on Public History awarded him the Robert Kelley Memorial Award for distinguished service to the field. After losing his wife Delores to cancer in 2011, he returned to Santa Barbara, living at Maravilla, a local senior living center. He later moved to Westlake to be nearer to his children, a son Wade Graham and a daughter Lakin Graham Crane, and his four grandchildren.

Graham’s record of publications is vast. His single-authored and co-authored books number in the dozens, inspecting major themes through the chronology of U.S. history. Thus his The Great Campaigns: Reform and War in America, 1900-1928 (1971) and Toward a Planned Society: From Roosevelt to Nixon (1976) examined the history of relations between expertise, bureaucracy, and state agency through most of the twentieth century. His lifelong interest in environmental policy shaped much of his work, including Environmental Politics and Policy 1960s to 1990 (2000), which took the story from Rachel Carson to the environmental justice movement, and his final monograph, Presidents and the American Environment, published in 2015!

Otis took very seriously the historian’s obligation to inform the wider public regarding issues of active controversy in public policy debates. Thus, his Losing Time: The Industrial Policy Debate, supported by the Twentieth Century Fund in 1992, aimed to contrast the rather helter-skelter provisions that passed for an American industrial policy with the more coherent designs on offer in other nations. In A Limited Bounty: The United States since World War II (1996), Graham placed issues of population growth, limited natural resources, and the environment at the center of his discussion of post-war U.S. history. Casting a critical eye on immigration policy since Chinese exclusion, with Roger Daniels, Graham also
New Faculty Books in 2017

Besides Toshi Hasegawa’s two books (see p. 3 above), 2017 saw the publication of works by Erika Rappaport, Laura Kalman, Kate McDonald, Sarah Case, Hal Drake, and a collection of essays edited by Paul Spickard (and two colleagues). Here follow descriptions of the first three, and the others will appear in the winter issue of this newsletter.

Erika Rappaport’s *A Thirst for Empire: How Tea Shaped the Modern World* (Princeton University Press) tells the extraordinary story of how one of the most popular commodities in the world yielded profits that paid for wars, drove colonization and brought about huge changes in land use, labor systems, market practices and social hierarchies which affect us still. The book explores a wide and deep historical view of how the tea industry in Europe, Asia, North America, and Africa shaped global tastes and built our modern consumer society.

Victoria de Grazia of Columbia University wrote that “Rappaport’s big, beautifully illustrated book” presents “the first global history of how tea became a universal beverage.” It “accomplishes this feat by circling the world created by British imperialism, connecting tea pickers, plantation owners, traders, retail shop owners, chain stores, teetotalers, workers on their breaks, and ladies that lunch. Exploring the tea leaf’s transformation from plant to drink, Rappaport tells a rigorous, vivid story of the workings of modern capitalism.”

In *The Long Reach of the Sixties: LBJ, Nixon, and the Making of the Contemporary Supreme Court* (Oxford University Press), Laura Kalman used a broad range of sources, including newly released—and consistently entertaining—recordings of Johnson’s and Nixon’s telephone conversations to reveal how they struggled to mold the Court in order to protect their Presidencies. The fierce ideological battles—between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches—that ensued transformed the meaning of the Warren Court in American memory. Kalman argues that the fear of a liberal court has changed the appointment process forever.

Calling the book “engagingly written,” Amanda Hollis-Brusky (Pomona) said that it is “rich in detail and peppered with intriguing insights” and will benefit all who wonder “what history can teach us about the politics of the present.”

Kate McDonald’s *Placing Empire: Travel and the Social Imagination in Imperial Japan* (UC Press) analyzes the Japanese attempt to expand and maintain its colonial empire in Korea, Manchuria, and Taiwan. They sought to encourage tourism to these places and thereby make the colonies seem more “Japanese” and thus acceptable to Japanese people. In this way, tourism became essential to establishing and sustaining the Japanese empire from the nineteenth century until the 1940s. According to Helen J. S. Lee (Yonsei University), the book is “richly researched and written in an accessible language.” It focuses on “the mechanisms of imperial tourism to explain how colonial territories... were incorporated into the empire, not only in...
terms of geography but, more important, of social imagination.”
McDonald asks us to “think about how these narratives are making
colonialism part of the dead past rather than the living present. Tourism is
not just a story about the Japanese empire. It’s a story of the 20th and
21st centuries.”

Cont. from p. 6 — Otis Graham

coaauthored Debating American Immigration, 1882–Present (2001), in
which the two offered opposing interpretations of U.S. attitudes toward
and reception of varied immigrant populations. In Unguarded Gates: A
History of America’s Immigration Crisis (2003) and Immigration Reform
and America’s Unchosen Future (2008) he offered an unrestrained cri-
tique of the turn toward “wide-open door” policies after 1965 that elimi-
nated national origin quotas dating back to the 1920s, fostered family
reunification, and led to higher levels of immigration in the 1970s and
1980s. In this connection, Graham was a founder and board member of
the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), which lob-
bies for restrictions on immigration.

True to his calling as a public historian who anticipated the profes-
sion’s move into public humanities, Graham also wrote and co-wrote
books on sites and events of local interest, among them Sifting through
the Ashes: Lessons Learned from the Painted Cave Fire (1993); Stearns
Wharf: Surviving Change on the California Coast (1994); and Aged in
Oak, the Story of the Santa Barbara County Wine Industry (1998).

Through the impact of his enormous volume of published work, the
perseverence of important programs he founded, the continued influence
of his contributions as editor of The Public Historian, the ongoing in-
fluence of the many students he mentored, and the memories of him
that former colleagues hold dear, Otis Graham’s legacy will live on.

Sad Losses

Besides Otis Graham, we have in 2017 lost two long-serving members
of the UCSB History Associates board of directors — Ann Moore and
Eric Boehm — and Helen Nordhoff, the History Department’s found-
ing administrative assistant. Helen headed the departmental staff from
the beginning early in the 1960s until her retirement in 1994. She was a
nonpareil — superbly efficient, fiercely loyal, always discreet, reserved in
manner but sensitive to and thoughtful about the needs of faculty, staff,
and students. Ann Moore worked tirelessly for numerous good causes
which benefit the Santa Barbara community, and her quick wit and in-
fectious laugh enlivened many of our board meetings. Eric Boehm, who
immigrated from Germany just before the Second World War, was a
pioneering chronicler of the Holocaust and the founder of ABC-Clio
and other innovative businesses connected with information manage-
ment. They will all be remembered fondly by those of us who had the
good fortune to know them.