



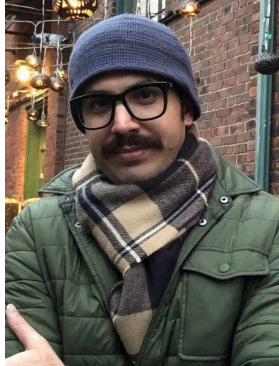
# HCENTRAL HISTORY

Spring/Summer 2023 Central Washington University History Department

## History Welcomes Dr. Amin Mansouri

The CWU History Department is pleased to announce the arrival of Dr. Mohammad Amin Mansouri who will teach the history of the Islamic world before 1500.

Dr. Mansouri grew up near the rugged peaks of the Kermanshah province of Iran, which began his love of history with its monuments and archaeological zones. He states that the Taq-e Bostan whose “rock reliefs and cave



inscriptions dating back to the Sassanian period (3rd to 7th centuries CE) ... captured

my imagination and sparked my interest in history, religion, and culture from a very young age.”

As a teen, his family relocated to the oil-producing province of Khuzestan and the city of Ahvaz where what he calls

“the rich tapestry of civilizations, including the Elamites, Persians, and **(Con’t page 5)**”

## CWU History Hosts PAT

Phi Alpha Theta (PAT) is the student honor society for historians in the United States. Every year, CWU sends students to present at the Northwest regional program. For

the first time in many years, PAT came to Ellensburg.

On April 21st and 22nd, young scholars from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and

Montana along with their mentors flocked to Ellensburg. Professor Lacy Ferrell and History Secretary Senior Kristy Magdlin organized an excellent conference staged in the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC). Dr. Josué Estrada delivered the keynote address.



CWU Seniors (L to R): Caleena Wyman, Natalie Hammill, and Nathan Achterman at PAT.

## History is Moving

The CWU History Department is trading one Stalinist architectural monstrosity for another this fall and is moving to its temporary exile in the Psychology building on the north side of campus.

Governor Inslee and the legislature approved the construction of a new North Academic Complex which will sit where the Language and Literature Building currently sits. The new building will house History (and others) starting in 2026.

Mild chaos (see below) currently reigns as faculty sort through decades of books and files.



INSIDE:	
FACULTY NEWS.....	2
STUDENT NEWS.....	3
FALL UPPER-DIVISION COURSES.....	3
ALUMNI.....	4



# NEWS

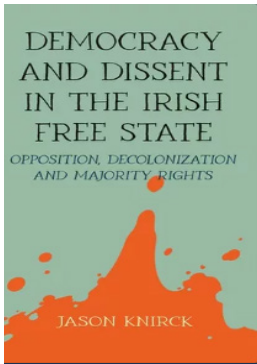
## FACULTY

### Dr. Jason Knirck

Manchester University press issued Dr. Knirck's newest book *Democracy and Dissent in the Irish Free*

*State: Opposition, Decolonization, and Majority Rights* in February.

The work discusses the way Irish politicians and voters envisioned post-independence democracy in the 1920s and 1930s.



Dr. Knirck completed his first year as the interim Dean for the College of Arts and Humanities and will serve again during academic year 2023/24.

### Drs. Stephen Moore and Daniel Herman

Both finished sabbatical leaves during the 2022/23 academic year. Dr. Moore is completing a project on Canadian and US relations during WW II.

Dr. Herman is finishing his book manuscript on Democratic U.S. Senate and House members of the mountain and inter-mountain west who were key to issues such as civil rights.

### Dr. Mohammad Amin Mansouri

Dr. Mansouri issued his first publication as a CWU faculty member with "Sayyid Haydar Āmulī (d. ca. 787/1385) and Ismailism," in *Studia Islamica* 117, no. 2 (2022).

### Dr. Jason Dormady

Dr. Dormady presented at the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies in Antigua, Guatemala. His paper, *El otro lado del triunfo: correspondencia y petición como contra-narrativo de la vida urbana en la época de oro mexicano*, was part of a panel on petitions and citizen mobilization with scholars from Argentina, Colombia, and Guatemala.

### Dr. Roxanne Easley

Dr. Easley's article, "A. F. Kashevarov, the Great Reforms, and Russian Colonial Identities," was

published in the Spring 2023 issue of *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*. Dr. Easley also continues as the chair of the History Department.

### Dr. Josué Estrada

Dr. Estrada has been hired as a Senior Consultant for the Racial Restrictive Covenants Project of Washington State. The project's goal is to identify and map counties with racist deed provisions and restrictive covenants. Dr. Estrada and his students find racial covenants in Central Washington. The program is in collaboration with the University of Washington and Eastern Washington University History Departments.

Dr. Estrada presented at two conferences. "Latinx Peoples Democratizing the American West" was presented at the Labor and Working-Class History Association, New Brunswick, New Jersey. He also participated in the Symposium on Contracting Freedom and Latinx History at the University of Washington.

## Model History Students

Students in History 479: History of Korea, felt inspired by Professor Chong Eun Ahn and created a model project on their own initiative. Daryn Kaczmarczyk and Bailey Strom read parts of *War Diary of Admiral Yi Sun-sin* and learned about the Imjin Wars (1392-1398, Hideyoshi's invasion of Joseon Korea). They created a battle scene replica called "Nighttime Raid" based on their readings and lectures. The replica has the famous turtle ship (3D printed) burning and both Japanese and Korean soldiers painted with artistic taste and historical accuracy. Dr. Ahn says that "It will be my family treasure."





# Student News

## Scholarships and Dean's Waivers

**Scholarships** were earned by three History majors this year. **The Harold and Martha Bar-to Scholarship** for \$10,000 was granted to **Georgia Buie**.

**The Nancy and Ben Remak History Scholarship** for \$10,000 was granted to **Nolan Galvin**.

**The Paul E. LeRoy History Scholarship** for \$8,610 was granted to **Cora Debarber**.

After a brief hiatus, the College of Arts and Humanities returned

to granting a Dean's Waiver to outstanding History majors. The following received a \$500 tuition waiver.

**Jordan Ammerman**  
**Lacey Colmore**  
**Alex Cordon**  
**Malia Davis**  
**Morgan Gasperin**  
**Jason Goddard**  
**Dante Hagen**  
**Charity Hines**  
**Stephen Hoberg**  
**McKenzie Klaus**  
**Hayden Olin**  
**Dexter Seuberlich**

## Upper Division Fall Courses

**Hist 485: Trauma, History, and Memory in East Asia**  
with Dr. Chong Eun Ahn

**Hist 321: Latin America Through Film, Art, and Music**  
with Dr. Jason Dormady

**Hist 301: Pacific Northwest** with Dr. Josué Estrada

**Hist 330: Africa to 1800**  
with Dr. Lacy Ferrell

**Hist 442: Jefferson, Jackson, and American Growth, 1800-1848**  
with Dr. Daniel Herman

**Hist 435: The Holocaust**  
with Dr. Melissa Jordine

**Hist 457: Rock and Roll as Art and History**  
with Dr. Marilyn Levine

**Hist 316: History of Islamic Civilizations**  
with Dr. Amin Mansouri

**Hist 421: Methods & Materials for Social-Studies Teachers**  
with Dr. Stephen Moore

## 2022/23 MA Program Graduates

Five graduate students completed the MA in History during the 2023/24 academic year. **Catherine Colwell** (Director Jason Knirck, Modern Ireland), **Jazmyn Bragg** (Director Jason Knirck, Modern Ireland), **Thomas Hull** (Director Stephen Moore, Pacific Northwest), **Lilian Alcazar-Oseguera** (Director Josué Estrada, Modern United States), and **Ulysis Cruz-Antonio** (Director Josué Es-

trada, Modern United States).



(L to R) Ulysis Cruz-Antonio, Thomas Hull, Jazmyn Bragg, Lilian Alcazar-Oseguera

**Teaching and Research Assistants, 2023-24:** Naomi Whiting (Easley, Imperial Russia); Alex Muetze (Moore, Cold War); Mikaela Phillips (Easley, Imperial Russia); Alicia Callahan (German); Caleena Wyman (Soviet Russia); Daniell Hegarty (Soviet Russia). Elliot Day (Easley) and Kevin Cassidy (Levine) are not teaching assistants and will continue their studies in the fall, as well.

Interested in being a graduate student at CWU and earning a MA degree in History? Contact [roxanne.easley@cwu.edu](mailto:roxanne.easley@cwu.edu).

# Alumni News

**Sam Giordanengo, (MA)** traded Hawai'i for the plains of Montana and started as the Associate Dean of Instruction and eLearning at Miles Community College in Miles City, Montana.

**Aaron Goings, (MA)**, is an Associate Professor of History at St. Martin's University in Lacey, WA and is a leading scholar on labor history in the Pacific Northwest. He recently published an article in Counterpunch titled "[Mayday and the Murder of William McKay: 100 Years Past.](#)" His latest book (#3) came out in 2020 with the University of Washington press: *The Port of Missing Men: Billy Gohl, Labor, and Brutal Times in the Pacific Northwest.*

**Alexis Daggett, (BA)**, completed her Masters in Education at Harvard University and now teaches high school history in Arlington, MA.

**Amy Erickson, (MA)** works as the Director of Rhode Island Programs at Innovation Studios, a not-for-profit organization that supports entrepreneurs and business owners. Amy wrote the following to Dr. Herman: "I really enjoyed my time at CWU, it was a crucial interlude in my life. I think about what I learned often and even refer to it daily. It's funny, in my work I focus on helping people start and run their businesses. And while it doesn't seem like scholarship,



most of what I do is active listening, research and storytelling and so it's really not so different. And grant reporting - a lot of grant reporting. It's all connected. It took me awhile to get here and I'm certainly not at my final career destination but I am really enjoying it now."

**Jonathan Eldridge, (BA)** and **Shannon Rodman, (MA)** returned virtually to CWU to present in our job and work series where we help students discover what work they can engage in with a History degree. Jonathan and Shannon led a discussion on working for community college systems in California and Washington. Jonathan is Assistant Superintendent/ Vice President of Student Learning & Student

Success at College of Marin in California. Shannon is currently teaching faculty at Wenatchee Valley College - Omak.



life."

**Ava Barabasz, (BA)**, is working on her graduate degree in Public History at American University in Washington, D.C. Ava selected AU because: "The dedication to a local and global community is what drew me to the school in the first place as that is incredibly important to me in both my personal and professional

**Jacquelyn (Jackie) Stroud, (BA)**, graduated with an MA from Oregon State University. Their degree is in Applied Ethics with a minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. They focused on ethics concerning the environment, women, children, Latinx communities as well as Indigenous communities. Jackie also focused on LGBTQ+ Justice and rights, both as a member and an ally.

**Jody Quitadamo, (BA and MA)**, visited campus during spring quarter for the College of Arts and Humanities alumni day as the honored alumni from History. She visited with graduate and undergraduate students and answered questions about working in community colleges and secondary education.



Jody is a history instructor at Big Bend Community College and a history teacher at Insight School of Washington (online) with 16 years of teaching experience. She served on the Holocaust Center for Humanity Board and currently serves on Washington State's Social Studies Cadre with OSPI.

Jody's accomplishments include National Board Certification and recognition by the state's House of Representatives as a finalist for Washington State Civics Teacher of the Year.

The department loves connecting with alumni, so please let us hear from you! Send updates of your current whereabouts and activities to [history@cwu.edu](mailto:history@cwu.edu).

# CWU History Newsletter

## (MANSOURI from page 1)

Arab/Islamic cultures” along with the 1700 year-old Jundi Shapur University inspired his study of history. Of life in Ahvaz, Professor Mansouri writes that “The palpable presence of history in my surroundings, the scent of antiquity in the air, and the awe-inspiring architectural marvels have fueled my curiosity and propelled me on a journey of discovery to unravel the mysteries of the past.”

In addition to surroundings, Dr. Mansouri was guided by a saying attributed to the Prophet Muhammad to seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave. “Becoming a university professor has been my lifelong aspiration, and it embodies the essence of this motto. It allows me to engage in a dynamic and fulfilling career that revolves around constant learning and the sharing of knowledge. The prospect of being able to inspire and guide students, while also expanding my own knowledge, fills me with excitement and fulfill-

ment.”

After completing his undergraduate training and a MA degree in Iran, Dr. Mansouri enrolled at the University of British Columbia in Canada where he completed a second MA degree. After that, he completed his PhD in religious studies at the University of Toronto. His U of T experience proved pivotal, and he says that, “The department provided me with invaluable opportunities to engage in intensive training and research focused specifically on Islamic history, which further fueled my scholarly interests. I am particularly indebted to my mentors who have been of extraordinary support throughout my career at UofT and have shaped my intellectual identity.”

At CWU he is particularly looking forward to helping students develop a deeper understanding of Islam in history. “Many initially view Islam as something exotic, Oriental, and distant, but soon realize that studying Islam also changes our understanding of ourselves in the West. There have been numerous historical exchanges between Islamic civilizations and what is commonly referred to as ‘the West,’ challenging our assump-

tions and providing a critical perspective on cultural diversity.” He will also be developing courses on Islam during the Mongol era. “I am excited to demonstrate to students the vibrant artistic, cultural, social, and intellectual achievements that flourished during this era and highlight the active and creative engagement of Muslims with the new socio-political realities.”

Regarding his scholarship, he is completing a book on Islam during the Mongol era, but he is also pleased to announce his first publication as a CWU History Department member, “Sayyid Haydar Amuli and Ismailism,” released in November in *Studia Islamica*. “This achievement holds immense pride for me, as it represents my initial endeavor to illustrate the interconnectedness of ideas and practices within the realm of postclassical Islamic history, highlighting the remarkable cosmopolitan nature of Islamic intellectual development. The paper specifically emphasizes the necessity of an inclusive approach that transcends sectarian boundaries between Sunnism, Twelver Shi’ism, and Ismaili Shi’ism, which regrettably remain understudied in Islamic scholarship.”

We are pleased to have Dr. Mansouri join us in the History Department. Stop by in the fall and give him a warm welcome to the Central Washington University community and the town of Ellensburg.



The Taq-e Bostan of Iran that inspired Dr. Mansouri to consider the study of history. Image courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

## What Do You Do With A History Degree? Tell us!

The History Department hosts virtual workshops for students about career paths for people with a history degree. These workshops often draw from the experiences of our alumni. Are you interested in speaking with our students about finding a career? Contact Jason Dormady at [dormadyj@cwu.edu](mailto:dormadyj@cwu.edu) and we can discuss your participation in our workshops.