



CENTRAL HISTORY

WINTER 2019

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

History and Biography:

Professor Daniel J. Herman has taken on a new research challenge. Herman already has written three award-winning monographs on the history of the American West, as well as numerous research articles and chapters in anthologies. Now, though, he has decided to write an American history textbook intended for use in lower-division university classes. The textbook is provisionally titled *We, the People* and it is designed to cover major themes in American history from the pre-contact period to the present. It also follows an unusual format: each chapter focuses on an era of American history and is told through biographies of two figures from that era. Herman says, "the idea is to frame each chapter around two representative individuals of each important period in U.S. history from before contact to present. The pairings usually consist of one well-known figure, such as George Washington (in the chapter on the American Revolution), and a second person who represents a marginalized or ignored group. In the Revolution chapter, the second person is Cornplanter, a Seneca chief who fought against Washington's forces, then engaged in a diplomatic struggle to hold on to Seneca land, and finally burned his old British uniform and renounced warfare entirely."

Herman hopes that this approach will provide students with a lively and different approach to American history, one that is both distinct from what students may have experienced in the past and inclusive of a variety of different voices and experiences from American history. As he says, "The challenge is to weave the standard historical framework for each period into the biographical frame. The textbook can't stray too far afield from the basic events and people covered in more traditional U.S. history textbooks, yet it must be original enough to get attention in a crowded market. I find that each chapter goes its own direction as I write, so the originality part is fairly easy." Herman is currently researching and writing the chapters covering the twentieth century. The textbook is being published by Pearson/Longman Publishing and its release should coincide with the eagerly-awaited centennial of the Harding Administration.



Professor Dan Herman, who has taught American history at CWU since 1999

INSIDE:

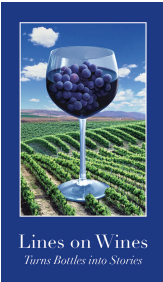
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NEWS

FACULTY

The department's faculty continue to build on their outstanding record of teaching and scholarship.

Marji Morgan has started production on the fifth season of *Lines on Wines*, her well-received podcast/internet radio show on local wine production. This season starts with her 85th show.



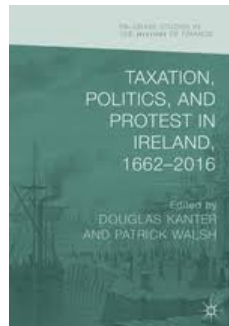
In addition to recording a new season of interviews with local winemakers, Marji will also host wine talks and tastings for the

Canyon River Ranch Resort, the CWU Retirement Association, and Prosser's Airfield Winery. Marji's show can be accessed at www.linesonwines.com.

Marilyn Levine's most recent article "Leninist Legacies and Revolutionary Life Histories in the Chinese Communist Party: A Plutarchian Case Study of Cai Hesen and Zhao Shiyan" will be published in the journal *Twentieth Century China* this fall. She also recently presented at the American Historical Association's national conference in Chicago and is turning that presentation into

an article provisionally titled "Through a Euro-Soviet Lens: Bolshevism, Loyalties, and a Chinese Euro-Soviet Cohort during the early 1920s." This article analyzes over 114 Chinese Communists who went to study in the fledgling USSR starting in 1923.

Jason Knirck had an essay published in a new volume entitled *Taxation, Politics, and Protest in Ireland, 1662-2016*. Jason's essay is called "Taxation and the Revolutionary Inheritance: Tax Proposals, Legitimacy, and the Irish Free State, 1922-1932" and it analyzes how Irish anti-colonialism and Gaelicism intersected with the new state's desire to overhaul the British fiscal system it inherited.



Congratulations to **Lacy Ferrell** and her wife Geraldine O'Mahony on the birth of their son Tarquin. Tarquin joins his sister Catherine in the growing O'Mahony-Ferrell clan.

Jason Dormady continues to organize and host the popular Thursday Thinks events at the Iron Horse Brewery. These presentations showcase the activities of CWU faculty. Recent topics have included social justice choirs and the use of Zumba to communicate with Syrian refugees in Dublin.

HISTORY CLUB

History Club meets most Tuesdays at 5pm in the L&L Lounge, hosting films, lectures, and hang-out sessions with snacks and conversation. All are welcome to join!

History MA student **Liz Seelye** spoke at a club event this quarter regarding her research into Soviet-era punk rock. Her work, which will eventually encompass a written thesis and a museum exhibit, deals with the careers of several Soviet punks who used both their music and their personas to dissent from the dominant Soviet culture. Liz also discussed the means by which punk music was created and disseminated in the USSR.

The History Club is also preparing to attend the Phi Alpha Theta regional conference in Pocatello. Eighteen students submitted research proposals.





GRADUATE STUDENT UPDATES

The history department has three MA candidates preparing to defend research theses this year. **Sophia Andarovna** is writing about the thematic elements of blood, water, and Mars in Soviet scientific research. These themes show the strong utopian foundations of Soviet society, which invariably centered around forging a new environment and, in so doing, a new variety of human to inhabit it. In the minds and experiments of some of the radical men behind Russia's Revolution, blood was to create a more advanced, biologically "equal" humanity capable of potential immortality, while water was harnessed with the millenarian aim of transforming the Soviet Union's vast landscape into fields of bountiful fertility, as well as cities of efficient industry. Mars represents an extended, sweeping metaphor for the revolutionary dreams that long outlived October and came to symbolize all that Earth could hope to achieve through communism. Authors, philosophers, politicians, and scientists all took part in explaining utopian visions of Soviet man conquering the Earth and the cosmos in their writings and activities. The thesis studies Bolshevik blood exchange experiments, the attempt to create a new form of water called "polywater," and the role of Mars in Soviet science, philosophy, and science fiction. Sophia's thesis is directed by Roxanne Easley.



Luke Pearsons' thesis is on Cold War-era spy films, with a specific focus on the James Bond films and their numerous imitators. The goal is to explore why these films were popular, particularly during the decade of the 1960s, and how these films and characters were used to address a number of anxieties that faced the United States in a period marked by threats of mutual assured destruction. Films that directly addressed these Cold War anxieties prior to the Bond films, despite efforts from the studios and in some cases the State Department, were not particularly successful with the American public, both critically and financially, with audiences often citing them as being too bleak, depressing, and in many cases, boring. That would soon change with the arrival of the James Bond franchise, which premiered in the US in the immediate wake of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Bond's presence asserted that Cold War containment was in capable hands, and that those who fought it were having fun doing it. Policymakers, politicians, and the

CIA used the image of Bond to their benefit, as Bond's popularity coincided with Kennedy and Johnson's policy of flexible response, which favored elite strike forces rather than nuclear warfare. Magazines from *Life* to *Playboy* promoted the "Bond lifestyle" and a new type of Cold War masculinity that moved away from domesticity and the family and glorified the individual masculine bachelor. There was an entire industry of Bond merchandise, including Bond-licensed clothes, cologne, toys, hair kits, drink mixers, and gun endorsements, all of which gave the buyer the sense that they too could live the Bond lifestyle and in sense be Bond themselves. The Bond media figure demonstrates that Cold War militarization took many forms and that characters from pop culture can have a significant impact on how people view themselves and the world around them. Luke is working with Steve Moore on the thesis.

Amanda Widney recently defended a thesis on 18th-century Scottish agrarian modernization. Focusing on the figure of Henry Home, Lord Kames, Amanda's work studies the intersection of the Scottish Enlightenment, the Highland Clearances, the Act of Union with Britain, and a growing concern with environmentalism. Kames was a noted Enlightenment thinker whose work spanned a variety of subjects, including theories of history, Scottish patriotism, and the role of the passions, but Amanda's work focuses in particular on his prescriptions for agricultural development. Blending Enlightenment-era development theory with specific recommendations for tools, land-use systems, and livestock, Kames outlined an approach to agrarian development that he then implemented on his own lands. Amanda's work explores the contradictions between Kames' promotion of Scottish "patriotism," his interest in providing work for displaced Scottish Highlanders, and his insistence that much of Scotland's agrarian infrastructure needed to be reoriented in "modern" ways. Jason Knirck is advising Amanda's thesis.



In February, first-year MA student **Katie Omans** presented an excerpt from her ongoing thesis research at *Comhfhios*, an interdisciplinary Irish studies conference hosted by Boston College's Center for Irish Programs. Katie's research focuses on the connections between consumerism, gender, patriotism, and identity as revealed by the Belfast Boycott, an attempt by Irish nationalists in 1920-22 to boycott Protestant-owned businesses in Belfast in response to increasing violence against and economic discrimination toward Belfast Catholics. The boycott was organized by the Sinn Féin revolutionary movement during the Irish revolution as a way of both punishing business owners perceived to be complicit in the violence and also promoting the purchase of "Irish" goods made outside of Belfast. The boycott was eventually widened to include English goods in Ireland. Katie's paper analyzed the role of gender in the boycott, as women were often leading members of local boycott committees and prominent targets of buy-Irish campaigns. She also studies the connections between the boycott and Irish identity, as supporters of the boycott both defined Belfast as non-Irish and hoped that the boycott would somehow stop the partition of Ireland.

Upper-Division Spring Courses

The department loves connecting with alumni, so please let us hear from you! Send updates of your current whereabouts and activities to Jason.Knirck@cwu.edu

CAH and the History Department hope to connect more current students with recent graduates for mentoring. Please let us know if you would be interested in this opportunity!

Pacific Northwest History
with Al Miller

Narcotics in World History
with Jason Dormady

Visual Cultures of Africa
with Lacy Ferrell

East Asian Civilization with
Chong Eun Ahn

Ireland and Empire with
Jason Knirck

The American Revolution
with Dan Herman

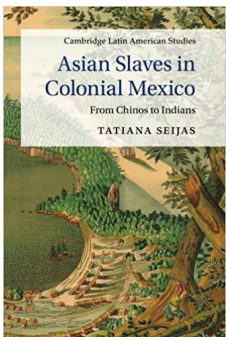
History of American Foreign Relations 1900-1941 with
Steve Moore

Modern Japanese History: Tradition and Change with
Marilyn Levine

Russia since 1881 with
Roxanne Easley

Fascism in the 1920s and 1930s (graduate seminar)
with Jason Knirck

GUEST SPEAKER ON THE HISTORY OF THE PACIFIC WORLD



A large and enthusiastic audience gathered on January 28th to hear Rutgers University professor Dr. **Tatiana Seijas** discuss her book *Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico: From Chinos to Indians*, as well as her ongoing transnational research on the history of the Pacific World. The book analyzes the Pacific slave trade, through which slaves from East and South Asia were brought to Mexico on Spanish ships. While these slaves arrived from places as varied as the Philippines, India, and East Africa, the Spanish colonial government ended up classifying such peoples as "Indians," meaning that they were legally prohibited from being enslaved. Dr. Seijas sees this transnational and intercontinental

contact--often absent from broader discussions of the slave trade--as a subject that sheds light on the mutability of racial classifications in Spanish America. She also argued for greater scholarly attention to the "Pacific World" as a unit of analysis, similar to the attention that has been paid by historians and other scholars to the "Atlantic World" in recent decades. As part of this ongoing drive to analyze the Pacific World, Dr. Seijas discussed her current research into the Moro wars, a series of colonial conflicts between Spain and Muslim peoples in the Philippines. Dr. Seijas also talked with a variety of student groups on campus, including Jason Dormady's Colonial Latin American class.

