



Department of History & Ancient Studies

The Owl



Volume 15 Spring 2024

Words of Welcome

Inside this Issue:

Chair's Update, 1-2

Exciting New Courses, 2

Governor General's Book Prize, 3

Dr. Grischow's Promotion, 3-4

Teaching & Research Symbiosis, 4-5

History Student Association Reports, 5-7

Faculty and Guest Speaker Research Colloquia, 7-8

Faculty Publications and Research Grants, 8-9

Welcome to the fifteenth issue of *The Owl*, the annual newsletter of the History & Ancient Studies Department at Wilfrid Laurier University's Waterloo campus.

Land acknowledgement: We acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional territories of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee peoples. Wilfrid Laurier University is situated on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, and on the Haldimand Tract, land promised to Six Nations, which includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.

Chair's Update

Dr. David Smith will soon begin his second consecutive 3-year term as Chair of the History & Ancient Studies Department at Laurier's Waterloo campus. Here is his annual update for readers of The Owl.

The Department of History and Ancient Studies will welcome the largest group of incoming first-year students in several years as the department undergoes many changes. We have made our fourth-year requirements simpler to complete and added new degree pathways to facilitate students' progress through the program. Undergraduate students majoring in History and/or Ancient Studies can now apply to accredited Co-op and the Sussex law program. We have a variety of new and timely courses, from the History of Conspiracies to the History of Computing. The Department continues to pioneer the faculty's work in generative AI and the digital humanities. This year we have a new certificate specifically in generative AI that students can complete to better prepare them for the challenges ahead.

The Department continues to pursue interdisciplinary connections vigorously: Ancient Studies courses are drawn from several other programs and we have just refreshed the History, Philosophy and Ethics of Science minor with Philosophy.

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(cont. on pg. 2)

(cont. from pg. 1)

As the stories in this issue of *The Owl* will attest, the research in the Department is also thriving. Last year's departmental research colloquium had the largest audiences so far, and we are looking forward with enthusiasm to a variety of new talks over the upcoming terms. And no wonder: faculty and graduate students in the Department have been on a tear in their publications and garnering awards. More new books are also coming soon soon from the faculty, so stay tuned!

The growth in History & Ancient Studies majors over the past few years also testifies to the enduring importance of the discipline of History and the skills that we teach. New curricular pathways, from applied history to global communities, help students to organize their courses and prepare them for post-graduate success. The Department will soon be sharing the achievements of our faculty and graduate and undergraduate students on a revamped website. This is all to say, there are many more positive changes to come!

D. Smith

Exciting New Courses for Next Year!

Laurier's History faculty have never been accused of being "stuck in the past"! We continually develop new courses designed to engage our students' interest in the past and enrich their understanding of history's impact and relevance for the present. For 2024/25 these will include one new regular course (HI132) and three HI347 Special Topics courses:

HI132: History of Computing (Fall 2024, **Dr. Marc-André Gagnon**)

Discover the history of computing, computers, and those who developed them in this course. From ancient China up to the near-present, we will explore the worlds and experiences of computing pioneers, and follow the growth of modern computing from ENIAC to the personal computer revolution. The exploration of digital computing covers the history of Silicon Valley and moves around the world, examining the invention of the transistor and the internet, and their effects.

HI347b: Canada's First World War (Winter 2025, **Emily Oakes**)

This course will examine Canada's role in the First World War with a focus both on the Canadian Expeditionary Force and the homefront. From Canada's entry in 1914 to the legacy and memory of the war, students will encounter a variety of themes as we learn about the history of the conflict. Topics include enlistment and conscription, soldiers' experiences, the importance of the homefront, how the fighting front and homefront affected each other, technological changes, medical history, demobilization, and memory of the war.

HI347y: History of Medical Disasters (Winter 2025, **Dr. Amy Milne-Smith**)

This course will explore the technologies and people that helped shape modern medical ethics. This includes both morally disruptive medical technologies and the unsung dissenters and whistleblowers that incited change. Tracing the history of medicine and public health, we will focus on moments of medical breakthroughs and public anxieties. We will also look at some of the low points of medical experimentation and how societies crafted models of informed consent.

HI347z: Asian Colonialism (Fall 2024, **Dr. Blaine Chiasson**)

Colonialism and empire are often conflated with Western imperial systems, but Asia has had a long history of conquest, empire, and colonization. In this class we'll be studying the emergence, spread, decline and reconfiguration of modern Asian colonialism, beginning with the Qing dynasty in 1644 and ending in 1946 when the American-controlled Republic of the Philippines gained independence. In between we will study Manchuria and Taiwan as colonial frontiers, anti-colonial and nationalist movements, and the Japanese empire.

Another Major Book Prize for Dr. Leddy!

The last issue of *The Owl* (issue 14, pp. 1-2) featured an interview with our new colleague **Dr. Lianne Leddy**, who had recently joined Laurier's History Department at the Waterloo campus after teaching for several years at the Brantford campus. In prefacing the interview, we were pleased to announce that her 2022 book, *Serpent River Resurgence: Confronting Uranium Mining at Elliot Lake* (University of Toronto Press), had been awarded three book prizes by the Canadian Historical Association: Best Scholarly Book in Canadian History, the Indigenous History Book Prize, and the Clio Prize for Ontario History.

In mid-November we learned that Dr. Leddy's book, which speaks to important issues today in public discourse and Indigenous-Settler relations, had been further honoured with the very prestigious Governor General's History Award for Scholarly Research for 2023. Way to go, Lianne! We're all very proud of you!



Dr. Leddy receiving her award from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, in a ceremony held on 22 November 2023 at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

Promotion of Dr. Grischow!

In March the Appointments and Promotions Committee of Laurier's History & Ancient Studies Department unanimously recommended **Dr. Jeff Grischow** for promotion from Associate Professor to full Professor. After reviewing Dr. Grischow's impressive record in teaching, research and service, the Senate Appointments and Promotions Committee at Laurier likewise approved Dr. Grischow for promotion in May, and these recommendations were confirmed and the promotion granted in June by **Dr. Deborah Maclatchy**, President and Vice-Chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University.

Dr. Grischow's many contributions to the History Department, the Faculty of Arts and the University include his development and delivery of many popular courses, including HI346f: "History of the Global South" and HI127: "Pirates, a World History", which he taught annually from Winter 2016 to Fall 2021. In connection with his course on the history of piracy, Jeff was the faculty representative to the History Department's Residence Learning Community in 2015-16 (for which he won the Residence Academic Partner Award) and again in 2019-20, and in 2017 he

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developed and led a travel course on the History of Puerto Rico for students who had completed HI127. This travel course was so successful, that he co-taught it the following year with **Dr. Dana Weiner**. Grischow's administrative service has included two years as Undergraduate Advisor in History, five years on the Faculty of Arts Admissions Committee, two years on the Faculty of Arts SSHRC Awards Selection Committee, and various key roles at the Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa at Laurier's Brantford campus, including two years as Associate Director. He also was editor of "The Owl" for three years (issues 11-13).

Research contributions are the most important factor to be considered for a promotion to full Professor. A brief overview of the highlights of Dr. Grischow's impressive scholarly achievements is provided by Dr. David Smith, Chair of History & Ancient Studies:

*Dr. Grischow's well-deserved promotion reflects his achievements as an internationally recognized expert of the history of human rights and disability in Africa. His current research explores the intersection of disability rights and climate change in Africa, a project that has produced a number of remarkable films that can be viewed on YouTube: <https://ghanafilm.org/films/>. The author of two books and seventeen (!) articles in refereed journals, Dr. Grischow's most recent book was published just this year. *Experiencing Disability Stigma in Ghana: Impact on Individuals and Caregivers* investigates the history of disability discrimination in Ghana, examines the social and economic consequences resulting from the stigmatization of the disabled, and provides thoughtful policy recommendations. A carefully researched study, the book provide insights into the lived experiences of everyday Ghanaians. Congratulations Dr. Grischow!*

D. Smith

Teaching & Research Symbiosis

We are often asked to explain how our historical research informs our teaching and how our teaching influences our research. This column showcases a member of Laurier's History Department whose teaching and research intersect. In several previous issues of *The Owl* (8-10 & 14) we have highlighted the teaching and research symbiosis of **Dr. Mark Humphries**, **Dr. Darren Mulloy**, **Dr. Judith Fletcher**, and **Dr. David Smith**.

In those previous reports, the featured faculty member had developed one or more courses based on their published and/or on-going research. The subject of this year's report is the opposite, as a course developed and taught by **Dr. Amy Milne-Smith** preceded and inspired her own original research on the subject. Just one year after joining Laurier's History Department in 2012, Milne-Smith developed and taught a new course, HI318: "Crime, Sex, and Scandal in Victorian Britain," first offered in Fall 2012 and taught by her three times since then. In Winter 2014 Milne-Smith offered a new interdisciplinary seminar for first-year students, AF101J: "Finding Jack the Ripper". She taught this very popular course a second time in Fall 2014, as students delved not only into the five unsolved Whitechapel murders of 1888 themselves, but also the nature of East-End London society and culture at the time, the

(cont. pg. 5)

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sensationalist coverage of these horrendous crimes by newspapers, and the later treatment of the subject in films, popular history, and academic work.

In 2015 Milne-Smith was awarded an Insight Development Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for the project “Mapping Ripper’s Whitechapel: Digital Humanities & Perceptions of Space in Late-Victorian England”. For this two-year project Milne-Smith led a research team comprising four Laurier History students, one Laurier Geography major, and a Geography doctoral student at the University of Waterloo who had graduated from Laurier with a Master of Science in Geomatics (for details on the research team, see “About Us” on the project website). These paid research assistants contributed to the development of Milne-Smith’s “Mapping Ripper’s Whitechapel” website (<https://whitechapel.wludh.ca/index.html>), either by conducting original research on Victorian source documents (the History majors) or developing the interactive map provided on the website (the Geography students). The target audience for this interdisciplinary open access resource is broadly conceived, including not only the general public, but also professional historians, who can access a large set of downloadable data from primary sources and a comprehensive bibliography, and teachers, as the website generously provides materials and ideas for lesson plans and assignments.



After completing her recent book on masculinity and mental illness in Victorian Britain (see *The Owl* issue 13, 2022, pg. 5), Milne-Smith returned to the subject of the Whitechapel murders with her book chapter “Policing in the Shadow of Jack the Ripper: Myths, Monsters, and the Real Limits of the Late-Victorian Detective,” in *British Murder Mysteries, 1880-1965* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022), and she is currently writing a chapter for a forthcoming volume from Routledge, *The Handbook of Jack the Ripper Studies*, which is expected to appear in 2025 or 2026.

History Student Association Reports

Elizabeth Spence, History Students Association Co-President for 2023-24:

The HSA had another amazing year, continuing to work towards last year’s goal of ensuring all members of our diverse student body feel welcome to participate in the activities and opportunities this organization has to offer. This year, we also focused our attention on outreach to first-year students. We began the year with

a successful first-year scavenger hunt event, which provided us with the chance to discuss all aspects of the history program with these students. Thank you to all of the professors who attended this event; your participation was incredibly valuable. We received positive feedback from many students afterward, who appreciated the opportunity to meet their professors in this setting. We have discussed the importance

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of ensuring the HSA remains well connected to history students throughout this past year. Our hope is that with events such as this, combined with the value we place in our first-year executive positions, we will be able to encourage history students to view the HSA as another part of their broader Laurier experience.

Throughout the rest of the year, we hosted a variety of both academic and social events. As with previous years, trivia events hosted at Wilf's were our most popular. Motivated by prize incentives, these events provided an opportunity for students to socialize with others in their program in a more relaxed setting. Thank you to all the professors who advertised our events and communicated the value of the HSA to their students this year!

*We had a terrific executive team this year, and I would like to thank my Co-President **Noah Hryniuk**, Vice-president Academic **Aly Firth**, Vice-president Administration: **Rosemarie Forsberg**, Vice-president Finance **Lilyth Bell**, and Vice-president Outreach and Social Media **Sara Khaireddin** for all their hard work in making our events such a great success!*

*Special thanks are also to **Dr. Adam Crerar**, whose support and ideas for how to move forward with the HSA in our ever-changing university environment were vital to the success of our organization this year.*

John McConnell, MA rep for 2023-24:

I am honoured to have served as the MA representative for Laurier's History MA cohort this year. I would like to congratulate my peers in the program on their hard work and significant achievements throughout the past year.

Our cohort has fostered a supportive and enriching environment, and I am proud to be part of such a community. I wish you all the best as you continue your research and academic pursuits.

*I would also like to extend my gratitude to our professors, who have guided us through the challenges of the MA program and provided unwavering support. A special thank you should be extended to **Dr. Blaine Chiasson**, who is wrapping up his term as our Graduate Advisor. Your ability to give detailed guidance and instruction in addressing our every question have made us feel incredibly supported, and your social gatherings were eagerly anticipated highlights for our cohort.*

This year, we enjoyed many exciting and enriching graduate events, including the annual Tri-U Conference at the University of Guelph. It was a pleasure to meet and learn from students from all three schools within the Tri-U program.

Thank you again, to the students, professors, and administrators who make this program so exceptional.

Kess Carpenter, PhD rep for 2023-24:

It was another successful and productive year for the PhD cohort, both at Laurier and across the Tri-U program.

Back in March, several PhDs gave wonderful presentations at this year's Tri-University Graduate conference, hosted by the University of Guelph. This year's theme, "Conflict, Cooperation, and Commemoration: Examining Interactions in the Past", enabled Laurier students to flex their research and presentation muscles across a variety of panels, connecting historical issues to

(cont. on pg. 7)

(cont. from pg. 6)

contemporary ones we face as students in 2024. A special congratulations to Laurier's own **Dorota Kupis**, who won this year's Tri-U History essay prize for her article, "The Political Struggle Behind the Delgamuukw Case: The 1994-1996 Trilateral Treaty Negotiations with the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en," published in *BC Studies*.

The Tri-U Graduate Students Associate (TUGSA) hosted several events. We embarked on hikes that highlighted environmental, local, and indigenous history, put on our best thinking caps during a trivia night at the University of Guelph, and mingled at a Tri-U holiday mixer at the University of Waterloo in December. TUGSA also hosted a variety of grad student panels throughout the year, which included topics such as local history, the history of gender and sexuality,

environmental history, and public history. Hats off to the TUGSA representatives from each university for making it another successful year!

Finally, congratulations are due to the Laurier students who passed significant milestones. This year **Cody Groat** successfully defended his dissertation entitled, "Always a Part of the Land: Settler Colonialism, Indigenous Histories, and the Commemoration of National Historic Sites, 1919-2019." **Brittany Dunn** successfully defended her dissertation, "Grief Amidst the Guns: Death in the Canadian Expeditionary Force on the Western Front" in February. In March, **Eric Story** successfully defended his dissertation, "Scarred by the White Plague: A Health History of Tuberculosis and the Great War." A massive congratulations to Dr. Groat, Dr. Dunn, and Dr. Story!

Faculty & Guest Research Colloquium Talks (2022-24)

In recent years the department has been very active in organizing research talks by our own faculty members as well as colleagues in other departments, the History Department at Laurier's Brantford campus, and from other universities. Many thanks to the Promotions and Events Committee members who have organized these colloquia (**Dr. Judy Fletcher**, **Dr. Blaine Chiasson**, and **Dr. Kevin Spooner**). Thanks are also due to **Dr. Eric Story** of the Laurier Centre for the Study of Canada, who provided technical support for several events that were held at that venue, and to **Heather Vogel**, Senior Administrative Assistant of the History & Ancient Studies Department, whose support for all our events is essential to their success.

Dr. Chris Nighman: "Digital Data Mining for Textual Nuggets: a Motherlode of 'Exceptional Commonplaces' from the Janus Intertextuality Search Engine" (18 November 2022)

Dr. Kevin McGeough (Univ. of Lethbridge, by webinar): "The Ancient World in Hollywood Cinema" (24 November 2022)

Dr. Dana Weiner: "Telling Stories: Historical Research, Rumours and Liars in the Archives" (8 February 2023)

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Dr. Christina Han (History, Brantford): “Time Travel to Brantford, 1900-1920: Telling Brantford’s Early Immigrant Stories” (15 February 2023)

Dr. Barrington Walker: “Critical Histories of Blackness in Canada: R. v. R.D.S.” (22 March 2023)

Dr. Ehaab Abdou (Global Studies), “Looking Back to Move Forward: Why Inclusive and Balanced Representations of Ancient Histories Matter” (30 January 2024)

Dr. Lianne Leddy: “Indigenizing Those Many Tender Ties: Tracing Indigenous Women’s Fur Trade Kinship Networks” (27 February 2024)

Dr. Debra Foran (Archaeology & Heritage Studies): “Life on the Periphery: The Town of Nebo in the Hellenistic Period” (15 March 2024)

Dr. Mark Humphries: “On Pythons and Furs: Using AI in Historical Fur Trade Research” (28 March 2024)

We have also celebrated the publication of two new books with research talks presented by their authors:

Dr. Amy Milne-Smith, “Out of his Mind” (26 October 2022)

Dr. Kyle Falcon (WLU History PhD): “Spirits, Psychics, and Prophecies: How the Great War Haunted the British Empire” (22 November 2023): sponsored by the Laurier Centre for the Study of Canada

Faculty Publications & Research Grants

Dr. Blaine Chiasson

Book review of *Internationalist Aesthetics: China and Early Soviet Culture* by Edward Tyerman, *Canadian Slavonic Papers* 65 (Nov. 2023): 535-36.

WLU Category A Research Grant: “Translation of German, Italian and Japanese materials” (\$13,000).

Dr. Darryl Dee

“Overview: Absolutist France to 1715,” in *The Routledge Handbook of French History*, D. Andress ed. (London and New York: Routledge, 2024), ch. 17 (in press).

Dr. Jeff Grischow

with Magnus Mfofo-M’Carthy & Festus

Moasun, *Experiencing Disability Stigma in Ghana Impact on Individuals and Caregivers* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2024).

with Steve Sider, Kimberly Maich, Magnus Mfofo-M’Carthy, Wisdom Mprah, & Jacqueline Specht, “Considering inclusive education through international research partnerships involving organizations from Ghana and Canada,” *Exceptionality Education International*, 34.1 (2024), 4-16 (<https://doi.org/10.5206/eei.v34i1.16931>).

Dr. Mark Humphries

with Lyndsay Rosenthal & Eric Story, “Editors’ Introduction,” *Canadian Military History* 32.1 (2023): 1-7 (<https://scholars.wlu.ca/cmh/vol32/iss1/1/>).

(cont. on pg. 9)

(cont. from pg. 8)

with Lianne C. Leddy, “The Future of History,” *Intersections* 6.3 (2023): 21-22 (<https://cha-shc.ca/publications/intersections/>).

with Eric Story, “Generative AI,” *Intersections* 6.3 (2023): 13-17 (<https://cha-shc.ca/publications/intersections/>).

“History and Generative AI,” *Teaching History* 57.3 (Sept. 2023): 4-9, (<https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/informit.322748974380724>).

Dr. Lianne Leddy

with Brittany Luby, Kimberley McLeod, Emma Stelter and Kim Anderson, “Refusing Confederation: Indigenous Feminist Performance as a Tool for Colonial Reckoning and Community (Re) Building,” *NAIS: Journal of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association* 10.2 (Fall 2023): 5-35 (<https://doi.org/10.1353/nai.2023.a904181>).

with Kimberley McLeod, Kim Anderson, Brittany Luby & Emma Stelter, “‘I Guess it Was Unsettling’: Indigenous Performance, Nationalist Narratives, and Conciliation,” *Theatre Research in Canada* 44.1 (2023): 55-81 (<https://doi-org.libproxy.wlu.ca/10.3138/tric-2022-0001>).

with Mark Humphries, “The Future of History,” *Intersections* 6.3 (2023): 21-22 (<https://cha-shc.ca/publications/intersections/>).

Dr. Amy Milne-Smith

“Queen Victoria’s Stalker” *History Today*, 74.1 (Jan. 2024): <https://www.historytoday.com/archive/history-matters/queen-victorias-stalker>).

Dr. Darren Mulloy

Book review of *Hope and Fear: Modern Myths, Conspiracy Theories and Pseudo-History* by Ronald H. Fritze in *History: Review of New Books* 51.3 (June 2023): 47-48.

“Fly-over (White) Country”: a book review of *Imagining the Heartland: White Supremacy and the American Midwest* by Britt E. Halvorson and Joshua O. Reno in *Patterns of Prejudice* (March 2023): 215-16.

Dr. Susan Neylan

“Dibaajimowin, Stories from this Land: Indigenous-Settler Museum Collaboration, Decolonizing Local History Narratives, and the Power of Art,” *Understanding Canada*, K. Pritchard (ed.), February 2024 (<https://studyofcanada.ca/dibaajimowin-stories-from-this-land>).

Dr. Chris Nighman

“The lemma *De predicatoribus* in Iacobus de Benevento’s *Viridarium consolationis*: an unexpected preaching tract in a Dominican florilegium,” *Medieval Sermon Studies* 67 (October 2023): 19-28. (https://scholars.wlu.ca/hist_faculty/29/)

Dr. David Smith

“How Milton Friedman Read his Adam Smith: the Critique of Corporate Social Responsibility and the History of the Liberal Suspicion of Business,” *Modern Intellectual History*, 21.2 (March 2024), pp. 1-27 (<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1479244324000027>)

“The Sixteenth Century,” in *The Cambridge Constitutional History of the United Kingdom*, Cambridge University Press, 2023, vol. 2, 131-159.

Full-Time Faculty, 2023-24

The History & Ancient Studies Department at Laurier's Waterloo campus comprises 20 tenured professors, including two who are cross-appointed to other departments or programs:

Dr. Gavin Brockett, Associate Professor & Vice-Dean of Arts (cross-appointed to Religion & Culture and Global Studies): Middle East & Islamic History, Modern Turkey

Dr. Blaine Chiasson, Associate Professor and Graduate Advisor: Modern China, Sino-Russian Relations

Dr. Adam Crerar, Associate Professor: 20th-Century Canada, Rural Ontario

Dr. Darryl Dee, Associate Professor: Early Modern France, Early Modern Europe

Dr. Judith Fletcher, Professor: Ancient Greece & Rome; Gender, Law & Culture; Representations of the Ancient World in Modern Culture

Dr. Leonard Friesen, Professor: Russia & the Soviet Union, Global Ethics

Dr. Karljürgen Feuerherm, Associate Professor: Ancient Near East, Digital Humanities

Dr. Jeff Grischow, Associate Professor: Africa (especially Ghana), World History, Comparative Development

Dr. Mark Humphries, Professor: Canadian Military History, Epidemics

Dr. Sofie Lachapelle, Professor & Dean of the Faculty of Arts: History of Science

Dr. Lianne Leddy, Associate Professor: Canadian First Nations

Dr. Amy Milne-Smith, Professor: 19th-century British Social History, Crime in Victorian England

Dr. David Monod, Professor: Modern American Cultural & Social History



The Tri-University Graduate Program in History combines the faculty and resources of three of Canada's premier universities: Laurier, the University of Guelph, and the University of Waterloo. Since 1994 our program has been educating students in innovative ways while providing them with a solid grounding in traditional historical methods. The Tri-U program integrates the scholarship and experience of over seventy graduate faculty, making it one of the biggest graduate history programs in the country.

For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.triuhistory.ca>

Dr. Darren Mulloy, Professor: Post-1945 U.S. History, Political Extremism

Dr. Susan Neylan, Associate Professor: Canadian Indigenous Peoples, Cultural History

Dr. Chris Nighman, Professor & Co-ordinator of Medieval & Medievalism Studies: Medieval & Renaissance Europe, Digital Humanities

Dr. Eva Plach, Associate Professor: Modern Europe, Poland, Women's History

Dr. David Smith, Associate Professor & Chair of History: Early Modern Britain, Law & Society, Commerce in Europe & the New World

Dr. Kevin Spooner, Associate Professor (cross-appointed to Political Science & North American Studies) & Director of the Laurier Centre for the Study of Canada: 20th-century Canadian Foreign Policy

Dr. Dana Weiner, Associate Professor & Undergraduate Advisor: Pre-1877 US; Women's, Gender & African-American History

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