



Department of History

Annual Newsletter

St. Francis Xavier University

Antigonish, NS

Why study History at StFX?

At X, historians offer you excellence in teaching and historical scholarship. We offer a range of fascinating courses on themes such as war, empire, religion, gender, sexuality, race, and myth and memory. Taking courses in history will prepare you to be an engaged and informed citizen and provide you with a variety of marketable skills for today's job market—from analytic thinking to communication and research expertise.

With small class sizes, a broad course selection, and a team of committed academics, you can apply what you learn to your life and the lives of those around you. In a place where history itself is part of the academic experience, StFX is an ideal atmosphere in which to explore the past and its relevance to the present and future.

Career Options

Studying history prepares you for careers in which research, writing, and critical thinking skills are highly valued. StFX history grads have excelled in law, journalism, publishing, teaching, heritage conservation, museums and archives, management and policy, business, public service, consulting and library, and information administration.

Top 3 Reasons to Study History at StFX

1. Student-centred courses taught by distinguished faculty.

The StFX History department has a distinguished research record. Examining archival sources and collecting oral histories, faculty travel around the world to explore the past, and their work is published widely. Their expertise is featured in courses that are engaging, analytical, and student-centred.

2. Wide range of fascinating courses

Interested in history from a global perspective? Perhaps you'd like to learn more about the Middle Ages, the British Empire, Latin America, Imperial Russia, or North America? StFX history offers this – and much, much more. Courses cover a range of geographic areas and time periods

3. Extracurricular activity

The StFX History Department is a vibrant and stimulating place to study. The Department's "Contextualizing..." series, for example, features fascinating discussions of the historical contexts of current events.

Message from the Chair: Chris Frazer

The last twelve months have been eventful, even tumultuous, in Canada and abroad – with the election of President Donald Trump and the passing of numerous public figures who have played a role in shaping our contemporary world – to name but a very few: Fidel Castro, Leonard Cohen, Margaret Mitchell, Harper Lee, Muhammad Ali, David Bowie and Prince. In addition, our collective minds have been focused on important contemporary issues, including the challenges of climate change, racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia, First Nations people and the process of truth and reconciliation, the Syrian refugee crisis – an extensive list that confronts us with profound implications for the future, and which have deep historical roots. More than ever, the discipline of history is essential for critically analyzing and understanding the world we live in.

Here at StFX, the Department of History has been actively engaged in addressing the historical dimension of current issues in our contemporary world. In the fall of 2016, the department held a very compelling panel discussion on the Donald Trump phenomenon, featuring the expertise of Dr. Yvon Grenier (Political Science), Dr. Bob Zecker (History), and Dr. Nancy Forestell (Women's and Gender Studies). We followed this up with a public lecture by our guest speaker, Dr. Lachlan MacKinnon (St. Mary's University) on the topic: "White Rage or Economic Anxiety: Donald Trump, Post-industrialism, and the 'Rust-Belt Right'."

The department also continues to teach and research the historical foundations of our world, and is introducing two new 200-level courses that take a critical look at the relationship between Canada and the Global South (Dr. Forestell) and representations of history in film (Dr. McInnis). Dr. Zecker will be publishing a new book that examines the activism of radical immigrants in the USA, while in the coming academic year, three of our members will undertake half-sabbaticals: Dr. Trembinski in the fall of 2017, while Dr. Stanley-Blackwell and Dr. Semple will be away in the winter term in 2018.

Thanks to the hard work of Dr. Trembinski and Dr. Kalman, and our history students, the department hosted a very successful Atlantic Undergraduate Universities History and Classics Conference on March 3 and 4.

Finally, we are grateful to have welcomed a part-time instructor, and a recent graduate from the department, Prof. Barry MacKenzie, who taught Post-confederation Canadian history (HIST 115), as well as Canada and the Monarchy (HIST 297), and Canadian Immigration and Race to 1898 (HIST 322). Prof. Mackenzie has made an important contribution to promoting the department, and has proven popular with his students.

We are looking forward to an even better and more productive 2017-2018 and hope to see in our courses!

Dr. Frazer was the moderator for the "Contextualizing Trump" panel organized by the department in October. Dr. Forestell and Dr. Zecker were among the panelists.



Faculty Activities 2016-2017



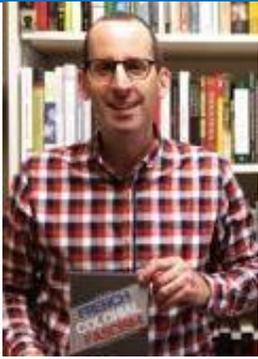
Dr. Nancy Forestell

Dr. Forestell returned from sabbatical July 1, 2016 and is once again teaching in the Department of History as well as the Women's and Gender Studies Program. She has particularly enjoyed teaching students this year in the Social Justice Colloquium. A new 200 level course which she developed will be taught in the Winter 2018 term, *Canada and the "Global South": Connections and Disconnections in the Twentieth Century*. During this past academic year she participated in a history department forum, *Contextualizing Trump*, co-organized an educational and interdisciplinary forum, *Race, Gender and Cultural Appropriation*, and was one of the main organizers of International Women's Week which had the theme of *Creative Resistance*. Nancy continues to do research on feminist activist engagement in the post-World War II era and will be presenting a conference paper on this topic entitled, "Challenging White Privilege?: Commonwealth Feminists During the Era of Decolonization, 1947-1967", at the *Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association*, at Ryerson University this coming May. She has completed a book chapter which is in print, "Historical Feminisms in Canada to 1940: Further Reflections on the So-called First Wave," which will appear in the *Companion to Canadian Women's Gender and History*, from the University of Toronto. She is also working collaboratively once again with Dr. Maureen Moynagh in the Department of English on a book chapter on women's suffrage in the context of settler colonialism in Canada.



Dr. Chris Frazer

Dr. Chris Frazer is serving his first year (of a three-year appointment) as chair of the Department of History. In 2016-2017, Dr. Frazer taught the History of Colonial Latin American (HIST 255), as well as Global History (HIST 111 and HIST 112) as part of the Social Justice Colloquium. In addition Dr. Frazer continues to serve as LGBTQ Student Advisor, and is continuing his research on the history of drag performance in Nova Scotia. The historical and political landscape in Latin America continues to shift profoundly in response to the recent election of Donald Trump as U.S. president, the death of Fidel Castro in Cuba, and the political coup that overthrew the leftist government of Dilma Rousseff in Brazil. These developments are rendering an understanding of Latin American history more relevant and important than ever. Next year (2017-2018), Dr. Frazer will address these and other issues in HIST 256 (History of Modern Latin America). He will also teach once more in Social Justice Colloquium (Global History 111 and 112). Dr. Frazer will continue producing the famous StFX drag show, "Priscilla: Queen of the Highlands".



Dr. Sam Kalman

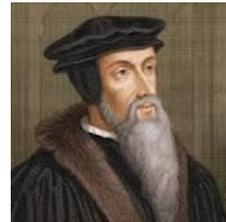
Dr. Kalman is currently working on a book manuscript entitled *Law, Order, and Empire: Policing and Criminal Justice in French Algeria, 1871-1954*, funded by a 2015-2019 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Insight Grant. His book chapter “Criminalizing Dissent: Policing Banditry in the Constantinois, 1914-1918” appeared in the collection *Algeria Revisited: Contested Identities in the Colonial and Postcolonial Periods* (Bloomsbury, 2017). In the last year, he has delivered papers at the Society for French Historical Studies conference in Nashville and the annual gathering of the French Colonial Historical Society in Ottawa, and will speak at the Society for the Study of French History conference in Glasgow this June. Finally, he is the university’s Jules Léger Scholar in the Humanities and Social Sciences, and also a member of the editorial board of the journal *Historical Reflections/Réflexions historiques*.



Dr. Guy Lalande

To mark two important historical events – the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution (1917) and the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation (1517) -, Dr. Lalande will be teaching in 2017-2018 HIS 320: The USSR, 1917-1991 and HIS 363: Reformation Europe. He will also continue as the coordinator of the Catholic Studies Programme at St. F.X. In July 2017, he will give a lecture on the Enlightenment for “Classics for Classics”.

John Calvin



Trotsky





Dr. Lisa Pasolli

I have been teaching in the Women's and Gender Studies Program this year, and two of my courses have been cross-listed with History. In the fall, I taught Caregiving and Citizenship, a new course that gave me and the students the opportunity to explore historical patterns of caregiving and our current "crisis of care." In the winter semester, I taught Women in Canada: Modernity, which explores many themes in 20th century women's history. A highlight of this course was a project that several students took on outside of regular class hours, as part of International Women's Week. These students prepared monologues featuring "women's words" from Canada's past and did a wonderful job performing them at the 4th annual Feminist Cabaret. Research-wise, I have continued my explorations into the history of Canadian child care politics, and my new article, "The Labor Relations of Love: Workers, Child Care, and the State in 1970s Vancouver, British Columbia," which is co-authored with my colleague Julia Smith from Rutgers University, will be published in the journal Labor in December 2017. Finally, I have very much enjoyed co-supervising (with Dr. Forestell) History honours student Kristina Celli, who has done a fantastic study of the Sixties Scoop.



Dr. Rhonda Semple

By the end of the semester I think for students History can mean just the pounding out of yet another paper, so I want to include three ways in which doing history can feel real. The first has to do with a recent article I published on a collection on 'Colonial Childhoods'. My article focuses on 'non-kin domestic intimacy' in north India, which might feel like a mouthful, but basically examines the experiences and meanings of fostering and adoption in the 19C British empire. It is both about the past but also examines how past practices shape current notions of international/ethnic adoption. Non-kin domesticity also serves as a powerful example of ways in which informal identities and actions acted to reinforce imperial authority. My second experience of history made real was when I walked into the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul for the first time last Winter. After reading about it for years, to be in that awesome space with all the deep and varied history that has gone on in it was just amazing. My favorite thing (I think) was the graffiti left behind by Viking mercenaries in the 12C up on a balcony. Finally, in my classes students often do oral histories and then do research inspired by them. Last year Moriah MacLeod '17 wrote a paper on the Kindertransport during WWII, based on an interview with Fred Alexander, the brother of my friend Charlotte Weinberg. Charlotte's husband was also part of the Kindertransport, although in a mad twist of fate his brother spent the war interned in Kannanaskis in Alberta. Her paper was well received by the family and was subsequently published in a newsletter of the Kindertransport Association. It is great to see a student's work have life beyond handing it in for a course assignment.



Dr. Laurie Stanley-Blackwell

This past year, Dr. Laurie Stanley-Blackwell continued working on her SSHRC-funded project related to Scottish immigrant cemeteries in Eastern Nova Scotia. In June and July 2016, her research took her to Scotland on an extensive investigation of cemeteries in northern Scotland, where she waded through bracken and dodged deer ticks and sheep to locate remnants of early headstones. The highlights of her trip were excursions to the islands of Canna and Eigg, as well as attendance at *Rannasachadh na Gàidhlig* at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Skye, where she co-presented with Dr. Michael Linkletter, “Finding the Right Words: Gaelic Inscriptions in the Cemeteries of Cape Breton and Eastern Nova Scotia”. In October 2016, Stanley-Blackwell attended the Harvard Celtic Colloquium as a co-presenter of “Inscribing Ethnicity: An Analysis of Gaelic Headstone Inscriptions in Cape Breton and Eastern Nova Scotia”. In November, she was an invited participant to the ERSC-funded seminar, “Scotland’s Diasporas in Comparative International Perspective”, hosted by the University of Edinburgh and organized by Drs. Tom Devine, Angela McCarthy and Nick Evans. At this event, assisted by Dr. Linkletter, she provided a detailed overview of their research findings, entitled “Looking for Thistles in Stone Gardens: The Cemeteries of Nova Scotia’s Scottish Immigrants.” In May 2017, Dr. Stanley-Blackwell will continue to build on her research interests by co-hosting a one-day seminar, “Death, Dying and Diaspora: Nova Scotia’s Immigrant Scots in 3-D”. She is looking forward to teaching the following courses in September to December 2017: History 113 (Pre-Confederation Canada), History 229 (Post-Confederation Maritime Canada), and History 319 (Myth and Memory in Canadian History). She is also pleased to continue her collaboration with webmaster Professor Barry MacKenzie on the departmental Facebook, which introduced this past year such popular features as “Artefact of the Week” and “Histocaching” with Hamish the Historian.



Dr. Donna Trembinski

This year Dr. Trembinski completed a couple of articles, both for edited collections. One, about using trauma as a tool for historical analysis is forthcoming in a volume entitled *Trauma in the Middle Ages* edited by Christina Lee and Wendy Turner and published by Brepols Press. A second article, also forthcoming in an edited collection entitled *Illuminating Jesus* is about Francis’ desire to imitate not Jesus himself but Christ’s apostles. She is nearing completion (hopefully) of her book project on Francis and disability and is looking forward to beginning a new project on the history of medicinal eye care in Siena when she begins her sabbatical on July 1. This year, Dr. Trembinski taught a variety of courses, including History 101: Western Civilization to 1648, surveys of the early and high Middle Ages and a 300 level course about rites of passage and daily life in the High Middle Ages. For the first time she also taught history of Engineering and technical communication to a first year engineering class at St.FX—a new and fun experience. Dr. Trembinski was also delighted to help a student organizational committee plan and execute this year’s Atlantic Undergraduate Universities History and Classics conference, which took place on March 3 and 4 at St. FX. The conference hosted some 25 papers and brought together students from all over the Atlantic provinces. When she returns from sabbatical in January of 2018, she looks forward to teaching *Crusades and their Cultures*, *The Medieval Body* (a course that has not been taught since 2011), and *Premodern Explorers and Exploration*.



Prof. Barry MacKenzie

Professor Barry MacKenzie joined the department this year as a part-time instructor. A Doctoral Candidate in Canadian History at the University of New Brunswick, his current research focuses on twentieth-century Royal Tours of Canada as a lens through which one might understand contemporary issues about empire, gender, politics, identity, and the military. He was delighted, therefore, to have the opportunity to offer HIS 297, a course which examines the role of the Monarchy in Canadian history. He taught this in Fall 2016, along with a section of Post-Confederation Canada. In Winter 2017, Professor MacKenzie offered HIS 322 (Canadian Immigration, Race and Ethnicity to 1896), a course which was near to his other area of research, the history of immigration. As part of this course, his students worked with artifacts at the Antigonish Heritage Museum. In Spring 2017, he will be offering the post-1896 section of HIS 322 online through the School for Continuing Studies.

Professor MacKenzie is currently working on a research project for the Juno Beach Centre, which includes curating part of an online exhibition which will be titled "From Vimy to Juno" and which will be unveiled later this year as part of the 150th anniversary of Confederation and the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Professor MacKenzie was pleased to take on the responsibility for increasing the History Department's presence on Facebook and Twitter, which has generated a lot of interest.

As an Alumnus of the History department at St FX, Professor MacKenzie considers it a great honour to be able to return to teach at his alma mater.



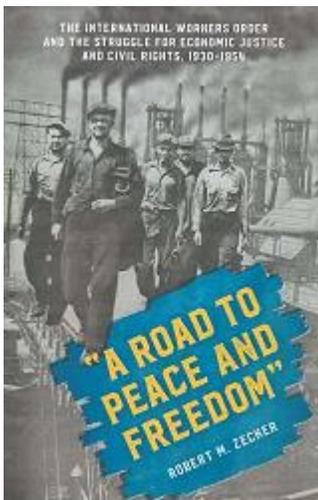
Dr. Peter McInnis

Dr. McInnis is currently preparing research on the Nova Scotia Museum of Industry and the historical memory and representations of de-industrialization. These findings will be presented this June at the Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies (Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences), Ryerson University, Toronto. Research continues for a project on North American postal unions. The conference presentation, 'Militant Mail: Postal Workers and the Achievement of Collective Bargaining in the United States and Canada,' was made before the European Social Science History Conference, Valencia Spain, March 2016. Another project, "What Can Be Done?: Faculty Mobilization and the Neoliberal University," was presented in June 2016, at the Annual Conference of the Society for Socialist Studies (Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities), University of Calgary. The revised version, 'Resistance and Redirection in Canadian Post-Secondary Education,' will be published in David Robinson, ed., *Academic Freedom in the Managed University: Controversy, Conflict, and Control* (Toronto: Lorimer, 2017). Dr. McInnis also contributed the entry, 'The Postwar Settlement,' for the British Columbia Open Textbook Project, John Douglas Belshaw, ed., *Canadian History: Post-Confederation* (2016). A multi-media project entailing a 90 min. digital interview on the significance of the 'postwar compromise and public sector unions' was conducted for Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE) centennial history project. Dr. McInnis continues to review manuscript submissions for the University of British Columbia Press and University of Toronto Press. He remains on the editorial board of the journal *Labour/Le Travail*; is an elected executive member of the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers (ANSUT); and is re-elected to the national Executive Committee (as Chair, Academic Freedom & Tenure), Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). In 2016-17, Dr. McInnis taught "The Cold War Era," "The Sixties: A Social History", and "A History of Canada: Post-Confederation."



Dr. Robert Zecker

Dr. Zecker is delighted that his book, “*A Road to Peace and Freedom*”: *The International Workers Order and the Struggle for Economic Justice and Civil Rights, 1930-1954*, is being published this year by Temple University Press. The book is a look at the interracial activism of radical immigrants in the IWO, a Communist-affiliated organization that was suppressed by the U.S. government during the McCarthy era. He has also this past year had two articles in the journal *American Communist History* and a chapter in the book *Whiteness Interrogated* (Oxford, England: Inter-Disciplinary Press.) He is now working on co-editing a volume (with Rachel Buff of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) on the civil-rights activism of various ethnic groups in America. Tentatively titled *Alliances Made, Alliances Lost*. Dr. Zecker has recently given papers at the American Historical Association, Working Class Studies Association and the Organization of American Historians, and is looking forward to being the keynote speaker at a conference of immigrants’ foreign-language newspapers, to be held this coming October at the University of Paris-Diderot.



Two History students, Rebecca Semple and Gavin Semple, on Galatea Bridge, Istanbul

Congratulations Chris Greencorn!
Chris received the Hogan-Phillips History prize for highest average in history courses in his graduating year! Chris was also the inaugural recipient of the Angus L. MacDonald Research Award at Student Research Day.



As part of Prof. Mackenzie’s HIST 322, students worked with artifacts at the Antigonish Heritage Museum

All the News that's Fit to Tweet

This past year, the History Department has launched a revitalized social media presence on campus. The Department Facebook and Twitter have content, from the historically sublime to the historically ridiculous, for everybody. We hope that this renewed effort to reach out to our students and the wider community will help remind people of the centrality and relevance of history to everyday life. New features this year have included “What’s it?”, “Artefact of the Week”, and “Hamish the Historian: Histocaching”. StFX’s Social Media Team recently remarked that we are “one of the most active departments on campus, especially in terms of engagement with students and our social media presence.” The department’s Social Media platforms are managed by Professors Barry MacKenzie and Laurie Stanley-Blackwell with input from their colleagues in the department. We urge you to find us on Twitter [History@X] and follow us on Facebook [St.FX History Department]. Be sure to like and share.



Meet Hamish the Historian

For Your “Pinterest”



As one of its *Canada 150* projects, the History Department plans to establish a new tradition. This year, for the first time, our History graduates will be awarded a special pin symbolic of their dedication to the study of history. The design of this pin is inspired by the collar badge that was issued to members of the StFX officers training unit during the Second World War. We hope that our students will proudly wear this pin as a badge of their StFX history experience.

Congratulations to the History students hosting the Atlantic Universities Undergraduate History & Classic Conference 2017. It was a big success!



Stephen Wilfeard (UPEI), Anjuli Ripley (Acadia), Kristina Celli (StFX)



Connor Burton (StFX)



Alanna Rayner (StFX)

Honours Theses

Kristina Celli



My name is Kristina Celli. I'm a 4th-year history honours student from Penticton, British Columbia. This year I am writing my thesis on the Sixties Scoop, an era of Canadian history that saw tens of thousands of Canada's Indigenous youth forcefully removed from their homes and permanently fostered and/or adopted into non-Indigenous families. As I have proceeded with my work, I've tried to keep in mind three overarching questions: What was the Sixties Scoop? What were some of the underlying causes that created a situation in which the Sixties Scoop could occur? What effect did the Sixties Scoop have on individual children and their communities?

This topic became of interest to me because of its relevance to present time. The repercussions of the Sixties Scoop have never been properly addressed by the federal government (though encouragingly we are beginning to see this change following the recent ruling by the Ontario Superior Court, made possible by Indigenous activism). Furthermore, Canada is arguably experiencing a continuation of this period and is in the midst of a "millennial scoop."

Rebecca Semple



In my thesis, I am specifically looking at the development of poor relief and charity and how this affected the iconography of the poor in art. This is developing through a discussion of the legislation implemented by the government, and church reform, which both affected charity and poor relief in Venice. I've found that with increased interests in charity, there was a movement towards more personal and compassionate depictions of the poor in art work.

This topic came to me through my interests in Italian Renaissance art history. I have been increasingly interested in Venice as a unique city-state. It was interesting to see the way poor relief in Venice developed differently from other city-states. With this, it is valuable to see how this affected art production, and I am able to analyze works by some of my favourite artists. I have enjoyed being able to combine my interests in social history with art history to create an image of Venetian society.

Department of History Course Offerings 2017-2018 **(Subject to Change)**

Fall

100 Level Courses

HIST 101 Western Civilization - Earliest Civilizations/Hum. Colloquium (Guy Lalande) G1/G2/G3
HIST 101 Western Civilization - Earliest Civilizations (Sam Kalman) HJ/JH
HIST 111 Introduction to Global History 1300-1795/Social Justice Colloquium (Chris Frazer) F1/F2/F3
HIST 111 Introduction to Global History 1300-1795 (Bob Zecker) B1/B2/B3
HIST 113 Life and Times: Pre-Confederation Canada (Laurie Stanley-Blackwell) M1/M2/M3
HIST 113 Life and Times: Pre-Confederation Canada (TBA) D1/D2/D3

200 Level Courses

HIST 229 History of Maritime Provinces – Post-Confederation B1/B2/B3
HIST 244 The United States After 1865 (Bob Zecker) DP/PD
HIST 262 Europe in the 20th Century (Sam Kalman) N2
HIST 283 Making Britain Great (Rhonda Semple) Q1/Q2
HIST 298 World War II: Causes and Battles (Guy Lalande) A1/A2/A3

300 Level Courses

HIST 314 Canada and the Cold War Era (Peter McInnis) GH/HG
HIST 318 Canadian Women's & Gender History: Modernity HJ/JH
HIST 319 Myth and Memory in Canadian History (Laurie Stanley-Blackwell) E1/E2/E3
HIST 320 The USSR, 1917 to 1991 (Guy Lalande) K1/K2/K3
HIST 383 Victorian Britain: Quakers, Queens, and Queers (Rhonda Semple) T1/T2
HIST 384 20th Century Britain (Rhonda Semple) N1

Winter

100 Level Courses

HIST 102 Western Civilization: Columbus to Decolonization/Humanities Colloquium (Guy Lalande) G1/G2/G3
HIST 102 Western Civilization: Columbus to Decolonization (Sam Kalman) HJ/ JH
HIST 112 Introduction to Global History from 1789 (Bob Zecker) B1/B2/B3
HIST 115 A History of Canada: Post-Confederation (Peter McInnis) D1/D2/D3
HIST 115 A History of Canada: Post-Confederation (TBA) M1/M2/M3

200 Level Courses

HIST 247 Crusades and their Cultures (Donna Trembinski) GH/HG
HIST 256 History of Modern Latin America (Chris Frazer) C1/C2/C3
HIST 2XX Canadian History (TBA) T1/T2
HIST 257 Canada and the "Global South" (Nancy Forestell) HJ/JH

300 Level Courses

HIST 320 The USSR, 1917 to 1991 (Guy Lalande) K1/K2/K3
HIST 332 The Medieval Body (Donna Trembinski) DE/ED
HIST 341 A History of Canadian-American Relations (Peter McInnis) EF/FE
HIST 343 The Place of Race in the United States (Bob Zecker) DP/PD
HIST 353 Explorers and Exploration before Columbus (Donna Trembinski) LA/AL
HIST 364 The Holocaust (Sam Kalman) N2

400 level Courses

HIST 457 Senior Seminar in Post-World War II America (Bob Zecker) Q1/Q2