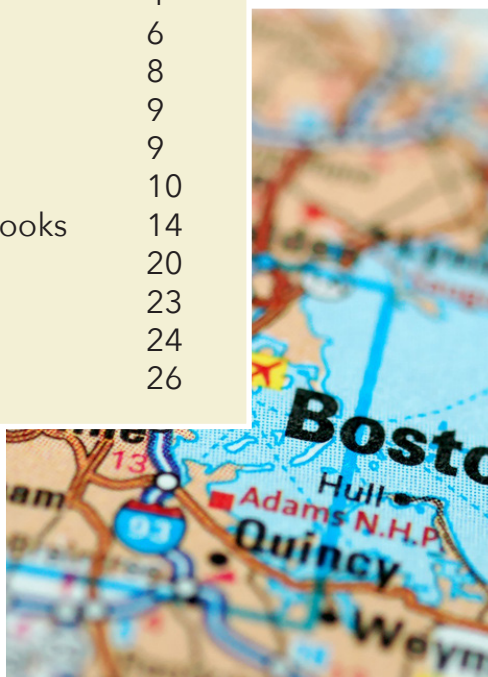


THE BOSTON AMERICANIST

American & New England Studies Program

What's Inside:

Letter from the Director	2
Program Administration	3
Letters from the Program Directors	4
Preservation Studies	6
Affiliate Faculty	8
Graduate Student Association	9
Incoming PhD Students	9
Student News	10
Alumni Profiles, Spotlight, and New Books	14
Archives and Knowledge Keepers	20
American Studies for the Future	23
Commencement	24
Donors	26



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It was a banner year for the American & New England Studies Program. At commencement we celebrated eight students who received their Ph.Ds., four students in who earned their MA in Preservation Studies, and five undergraduate majors (all high numbers for our small program). We welcomed a new, stellar, energetic cohort of Ph.D. students this fall after a pause in admissions – working across many disciplines (including history, literature, musicology, and performance studies). The relaxation of pandemic restrictions allowed us to gather in-person all year for classes, lectures, seminars, and receptions. As I finish my second year as Director, I am reminded every day of how lucky I am to lead such an extraordinary program.

You will find highlights from the year in the following pages. Our “American Studies for the Future” series featured visits to campus by Walter Johnson, the Harvard historian, and Christina Sharpe, one of the most important Black intellectuals of our time. I continued to work with Mary Battenfeld, Clinical Professor of American Studies, and Wade Campbell, Assistant Professor of Archeology, to build programming in Native American and Indigenous Studies across departments and programs at BU. This effort included a one-day Symposium, “Archives and Knowledge Keepers: Native American and Indigenous Studies and the Art of History,” which featured a welcome by MacArthur genius grant recipient jessie little doe baird (Mashpee Wampanoag), the co-founder and co-leader of the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project.

I am continually impressed with how successful our Ph.D. are at receiving grants and fellowships, publishing articles (both in scholarly and public-facing venues), and securing full-time employment after graduation. The achievements of our students sustain and bolster our reputation internationally. In addition to a list of those honors, I am very pleased this year to include in this newsletter an extended Alumni section, with long-form interviews, written and prepared by current Ph.D. student Grace McGowan.

Inside you will also see letters from some of the people who help the program flourish, especially our Program Officers: Jan Haenraets, Acting Director of Preservation Studies; Ross Barrett, Director of Graduate Studies; and Mary Battenfeld, Director of Undergraduate Studies. After two years of service as DUS, Prof. Battenfeld is stepping down and I am pleased that Kim Sichel, Professor of Art History, has agreed to serve a two-year term starting this summer. Meanwhile, Aimee McCarron, our Program Administrator, continues to hold down the fort at 226 Bay State Road for all of our students and affiliated faculty in AMNESP and Preservation Studies.

Dr. Katherine Lennard, our outgoing Albert Cummings Postdoctoral Fellow in American Material Culture, is headed to a tenure-track position as the Frockt Family Chair in History at Western Kentucky University. Our new Cummings Fellow is Dr. R. Claire Bunschoten, a specialist in critical food studies who just received her Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Directing this program is an honor and a pleasure, and I’m very proud of what we do. I look forward to another excellent year.

Sincerely,

Joseph Rezek



PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, 2022-2023

Joseph Rezek

Director, American & New
England Studies Program;
Associate Professor of English

Jan Haenraets

Acting Director of Preservation Studies;
Professor of the Practice, Preservation
Studies

Laurence Breiner

Director of Graduate Studies;
Professor of English

Mary Battenfeld

Director of Undergraduate Studies;
Clinical Professor of American Studies

Ross Barrett

Director of Graduate Studies;
Associate Professor of
American Art

Aimee McCarron

Program Administrator

AMNESP PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Brooke Blower

Associate Professor of History

André de Quadros

Professor of Music, Music Education

Charlotte Howell

Associate Professor of Film & Television
College of Communication

William Hunting Howell

Associate Professor of English

William D. Moore

Associate Professor of American Material
Culture

Anita Patterson

Professor of English

LECTURERS AND POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW

Aaron Ahlstrom

Lecturer, Preservation Studies

Katherine Lennard

Abbott Lowell Cummings
Postdoctoral Fellow

C. Ian Stevenson

Lecturer, Preservation Studies

Sara Wermiel

Lecturer, Preservation Studies

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Mary Battenfeld

The past year has been filled with exciting accomplishments from our undergraduate students, and fruitful collaborative work with AMNESP faculty and administrators on curricular and program initiatives.

It was my great privilege to work with all our students, and especially our senior majors and minors, most of whom I met virtually during a first year defined by the COVID pandemic. The interdisciplinary breadth of our students' work is evident in their capstone projects, which include:

- Abigail Duerksen, "The Cultural Impact of the Holy Bible and Christianity in Relation to the Progression of the Abolitionist Movement in 19th Century America"
- Sydney Johnson, "A Historical Analysis of HBCU Athletics"
- Kelly Kleschen, "Between Light and Shadow: The Evolution of Racial Commentary and Representation in The Twilight Zone"
- Anna Rafferty, "In the Belly of the Whale: Applications of Critical Race Theory and Decolonization Theory to Moby Dick Performances"
- Michael Trevallion, "Trampled Souls: The Historic Mistreatment of Black Cemeteries"
- Carolyn Werth: "Woke Wealth: A Critical Race Theory Analysis of Gossip Girl"

Our undergraduates lived and learned through a challenging four years, but they persisted, finding ways to engage in deep thinking, innovative research, excellent writing, and crucial activism, all while supporting each other.

In addition to teaching and advising undergraduates, I appreciated the chance to work with core and affiliate faculty (huge shout-outs to Joe Rezek and Wade Campbell) on initiatives in Native American and Indigenous Studies, and revisions to the undergraduate program. The Native American and Indigenous Studies projects included the exciting and successful May 4



Archives and Knowledge Keepers symposium, and the formation of an ongoing Indigenous Studies working group, in partnership with the CAS D & I Student Council. This spring the Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policies Committee gave enthusiastic approval to our AMNESP program revisions, which clarified requirements around interdisciplinary pathways, transnational courses, and capstone offerings. We also submitted and received approval for AM 501 and 502 to count in the BU HUB as Writing Intensive and Research and Information Literacy courses.

As I transition out of serving as DUS, I remain grateful to be part of the AMNESP community, and especially for the guidance, leadership, and assistance Joe and Aimee McCarron have provided over the course of the past two years. Thank you!

Director Graduate Studies, Ross Barrett



Though it began in a climate of uncertainty, this year was a remarkably successful one for the AMNESP graduate program. As the university resumed in-person teaching, our doctoral students returned to the classroom with renewed enthusiasm, completed projects delayed by the pandemic, and won an impressive array of honors and awards. Eight (!) AMNESP students defended dissertations in the past year. Our current students gave talks at conferences and symposia around the country, and won research fellowships at many significant cultural institutions; this spring three AMNESP students won competitive BUCH research awards (two Graduate Student Awards and a Dissertation Completion Fellowship) for the next academic year. A full recounting of these exciting accomplishments appears elsewhere in the newsletter.

As the year unfolded we continued our efforts to improve graduate students' teaching experiences and professional development opportunities. Joe Rezek and I worked to further refine the TF selection process and place students in courses that fit their interests and schedules; I thank Betsy Walters, Genna Kane, and the GSA members for supplying survey data on recent students' course placements. This spring we offered our professional development seminar, AM 899, for the second time; students in the class participated in application material workshops and heard firsthand about the job search process from AMNESP alumni working in a variety of fields.

The future of the graduate program is looking quite bright. We had a very successful graduate recruitment day in March—six of our admitted students attended the event—and I'm happy to report that we will have an incoming cohort of five excellent Ph.D. students this fall. Thank you to all the students and faculty who participated in recruitment day and helped us land this terrific class.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Larry Breiner for serving as interim DGS this past fall, and to express my deep gratitude to Joe, Aimee McCarron, Jack Matthews, and all of the AMNESP students and faculty for helping me settle into the position this spring—it's been a great pleasure working with you all.

The Preservation Studies program has had a busy and successful year, and as such, has produced a separate newsletter. That newsletter shows diverse activities and collaborations at the Program over the past year and some of the remarkable work by our alumni.

In the alumni spotlight we celebrate Michael A. "Bert" Berdeau, who recently retired. His inspiring career saw him engage in State Historic Preservation Offices, including in South Dakota, Idaho and Nevada, and develop a passion for local roadside history. This year we launched a new alumni spotlight on our website and we invite you to explore some of the other interviews, with new online alumni spotlights forthcoming. This year our alumni and internship hosts took center stage in the fall Preservation Studies Round Table, with a focus on entering careers and internships in historic preservation.

The Preservation Studies Field Trips also created opportunities to connect with colleagues and alumni in the preservation field and hear about their work, experiences and challenges. In spring we explored historic Quincy, MA, and its open air museum at the former Quincy Quarry; the industrial heritage of the Granite Railway Incline and John Winthrop Jr. Iron Furnace

Site; the "Richardssonian Romanesque" Thomas Crane Memorial Library; and the Southern Tide Mill as one of a few intact tidal mill buildings in MA. For the fall field trip we attended the Historic New England Summit in Worcester on Convening Leading Voices. Speakers addressed challenges and opportunities, including approaches to create livable, resilient communities.

Our MA students actively engaged in conferences. The newsletter illustrates David Lewis' research into the history and adaptation of Braves Field Baseball Stadium – now Nickerson Field at Boston University – which he shared at the Historic New England Summit in Worcester.

David's presentation built on his internship last summer at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and his presentation at the Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture. Kristen Dahlmann was in May invited to the Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF) conference in Plymouth, Massachusetts, to share her findings on gestures left by pilgrims in the landscape along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Ian Stevenson, one of our lecturers, gives in the newsletter a report on the VAF conference.

We have seen again excellent research by faculty, and the MA

students for their Capstone research projects, which often connect to ongoing initiatives by external organizations.

Gabby Amore developed for the City of Boston's Office of Historic Preservation a framework for a city-wide preservation plan. David Lewis compiled a National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Haverhill Powder House, Massachusetts, while Kristen Dahlmann studied the role of the cultural and social fabric of Boston neighborhoods in preservation today. Esther Yang looked closely into the Shikumen Architectural Style in Shanghai, China, with preservation case studies of Xintiandi and Tianzifang.

The Preservation Studies newsletter includes samples of student course work from the Architectural and Community History Workshop with a focus on Charlestown, Massachusetts, and also the Landscape Design and Preservation Studio, which collaborated this spring with colleagues in Kashmir, India, and envisioned ideas for the redesigns and rehabilitation of Cherry Park at Srinagar's Dal lake.

Jan Haenraets,
Acting Director, Preservation
Studies



Acting Director, Jan Haenraets, and MA graduate Gabby Amore at Commencement.



Attendees at the November Preservation Studies Roundtable.

Thank you everyone for your continued support for the program. We will continue to post news from the preservation field and BU on the website or our Twitter profile. Don't hesitate to send us your updates or announcements!



Preservation Studies graduates Kristen Dahlmann, David Lewis, and Eshter Yang.

AMNESP Affiliate Faculty

As an interdisciplinary program, AMNESP is dependent upon our affiliate faculty in relevant disciplines across the university.

Marié Abe

Associate Professor of Music, Musicology and Ethnomusicology
College of Fine Arts

Daniel Abramson

Professor, American & European Architecture

Paula Austin

Associate Professor of History and African American Studies

Ross Barrett

Associate Professor of American Art

Mary Battenfeld

Clinical Professor of American Studies

Michael Birenbaum Quintero

Associate Professor of Musicology and Ethnomusicology and Chair
College of Fine Arts

Brooke Blower

Associate Professor of History

Laurence Breiner

Professor of English

Japonica Brown-Saracino

Professor of Sociology

Wade Campbell

Assistant Professor of Archaeology

Deborah Carr

Professor of Sociology

Robert Chodat

Professor of English

Louis Chude-Sokei

Professor of English; George And Joyce Wein Chair In African American Studies

Victor Coelho

Professor of Music

Adriana Craciun

Professor and Emma MacLachlan Metcalf Chair,
Department of English

André de Quadros

Professor of Music, Music Education
College of Fine Arts

Jonathan Foltz

Associate Professor of English

Maia Gil'Adí

Assistant Professor of English

Margarita Guillory

Associate Professor of Religion

Jan Haenraets

Professor of the Practice, Preservation Studies

Melanie Hall

Associate Professor, History of Art and Architecture

Ianna Hawkins Owen

Assistant Professor of English

Linda Heywood

Professor of African American Studies and History

Charlotte Howell

Associate Professor, Film and Television
College of Communication

William Huntting Howell

Associate Professor of English

Paul Hutchinson

Senior Lecturer of Organizational Behavior
Questrom School of Business

Deborah L. Jaramillo

Associate Professor, Film and Television
College of Communication

Nazli Kibria

Professor of Sociology

Maurice Lee

Professor of English

John T. Matthews

Professor of English

David Mayers

Professor of Political Science and History

Brendan McConville

Professor of History

Ashley Mears

Associate Professor of Sociology

Susan Mizruchi

Director, Boston University Center for the Humanities; Professor of English; William Arrowsmith Professor in the Humanities

Leland Monk

Associate Professor of English

William D. Moore

Associate Professor of American Material Culture

Thomas Otten

Lecturer of English

Anita Patterson

Professor of English

Anthony Petro

Associate Professor of Religion and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Sarah Phillips

Associate Professor of History

Carrie Preston

Professor of English and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies; Director, Kilachand Honors College

Stephen Prothero

C. Allyn and Elizabeth V. Russell Professor of Religion

Ana-Maria Reyes

Associate Professor of Latin American Art

Takeo Rivera

Assistant Professor of English

Jon Roberts

Tomorrow Foundation
Professor of History

Andrew Robichaud

Assistant Professor of History

Jeffrey Rubin

Associate Professor of History

Heather Schoenfeld

Associate Professor of Sociology

Bruce Schulman

William E. Huntington
Professor of History

Kim Sichel

Professor of History of Art & Architecture

Nina Silber

Jon Westling Professor of History

John Stone

Professor of Sociology

Adam Sweeting

Associate Professor of Humanities

John Thornton

Professor of African American Studies and History

Robert Weller

Professor of Anthropology

Thomas Whalen

Associate Professor of Social Sciences

Merry White

Professor of Anthropology

Gregory Williams

Associate Professor, History of Art & Architecture

Graham Wilson

Professor of Political Science

Graduate Student Association

2022 – 2023 Officers

President: Anne Boyd
Vice President: Genna Kane
Secretary: Betsy Walters
Treasurer: Jesse Dritz
Social Chair: Betsy Walters
Faculty Liaison: Meghan Townes
Undergrad Liaison: Graham Peterson
Americanist Forum Coordinator:
Fallon Murphy
Preservation Liaison: Kristen Dalhmann
GSO Representative: Makenzie Coker

Over the past year, the GSA has organized numerous social events, held two Learn the Ropes courses (on grants/fellowships and oral exams), and welcomed our new cohort of Master's and PhD students. In the process, we've cultivated a wonderful community among all the AMNESP and Preservation Studies students. I'm looking forward to next year's GSA, as we will welcome new people into AMNESP and on the Executive Board!

Anne Boyd,
AMNESP GSA President

Incoming PhDs

Anjali Carroll

Anjali received her BA in Spanish from Brown University. Her research areas are Latinx and South Asian American literature and culture.

Mary Jatkowski

Mary is joining us with a B.A. in History from the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor and a Masters in Library and Information Science from Wayne State University. Her areas of interest are memory, material culture, and museum studies, specifically pertaining to 19th century historic sites.

Zoe Johnson

Zoe has a B.A. in American Studies from Northwestern University. She plans to study ethical perspectives in popular American television and film as a site of epistemic in/justice.

Hannah Muhlfelder

Hannah received a B.A. in Environmental Studies and International and Global Studies from Brandeis University. She is interested in studying environmental and land history through cultural and sociopolitical analysis, focused on the New England region.

Carolyn Parker-Fairbain

Carolyn earned her B.A. in Afro-American Studies from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her research interests are in 18th and 19th century Black and Indigenous communities and coalitions for freedom and sovereignty, framed as forms of futurism.

Americanist Forum

In March 2023, the GSA hosted the Americanist Forum, a one-day panel of BU graduate student presentations. English PhD students Will Glover and Nicholas Bloechl delivered talks, while Grace McGowan, Liv Jacobs, and Betsy Walters represented the American & New England Studies Program. Topics included Toni Morrison, abolitionist Jonathan Walker, the ambivalent nature of swamps, trans representation in horror films, and the Oscars. These subjects reflect the interdisciplinarity and diversity of American Studies.



Awards, Fellowships, & Placements

Jenna Bennett was awarded a scholars' grant from The Culinary Historians of New York, for her research project "Candy Coated Gambling: La Guardia's Fight Against Candy Gambling Games for Children."

Anne Boyd was accepted to the NEH Summer Institute, "Visual Culture of the American Civil War and Its Aftermath, and she was awarded a graduate summer internship at the Massachusetts Historical Society through Boston University's Center for the Humanities.

Julia Carroll was awarded a one-month research fellowship at the Huntington Library. She also received a prestigious Bloom Dissertation Fellowship from BU, to conduct research this summer on her

dissertation, "The Protestant Sanctioning of Race-Based Slavery in Language & Landscape in the Anglo-American South, 1739-1791."

This coming year **Sean Case** will hold the Henry A. Kissinger Visiting Scholars Postdoctoral Fellowship with the Johnson Center for the Study of American Diplomacy with International Security Studies, at the Jackson School of Global Affairs at Yale University.

Jesse Dritz was awarded a Director's Scholarship from Rare Book School.

Genna Kane held an Internship at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation.

Alyssa Kreikemeier accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship in the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of New Mexico.

Grace McGowan received the BU Women's Council New England Women's College Award as well as a long-term dissertation fellowship from the Boston University Center for the Humanities.

Perri Meldon received a Boston University Center for the Humanities Graduate Student Award and a National Park Service Excellence in Cultural Resources Award.

Fallon Murphy received a stipend to attend an NEH Institute for Higher Education Faculty, and she was the recipient of a Public Humanities Incubator Award from the Modern Language Association.

Emily Palombella received a Boston University Center for the Humanities Graduate Student Award. She also received short-term research fellowships from the Huntington Library and the Beinecke Library at Yale University.

Kayli Rideout was accepted to the NEH Summer Institute "Visual Culture of the American Civil War and Its Aftermath."

Astrid Tvetenstrand received the Social Art History Fellowship at the Preservation Society of Newport County and honorable mention for the College Art Association's Professional Development Fellowship in Art History

Betsy Walters won this year's Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award for AMNESP.

Maddie Webster began a new position as New Program Director with the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics, City of Boston

Marina Wells continued to hold the Photography Collection Curatorial Fellowship at New Bedford Whaling Museum.



Astrid Tvetenstrand, Julia Carroll, and Megan LeBarron



MaryKate Smolenski, Katie Tinch, and Betsy Walters

Conferences & Publications



Meghan Townes and Rachel Kirby ('22) at the 2022 ASA Conference.



Former AMNESP director, Will Moore, joins current and past AMNESP PhDs for dinner at the 2022 ASA Conference in New Orleans.

Anne Boyd presented papers at the American Studies Association Annual Conference, the Material Culture Symposium for Emerging Scholars at the University of Delaware, the Popular Culture Association National Conference, and Brown University's graduate student conference, "Social Lives of Things."

Sean Case delivered papers at the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Conference, the Policy History Annual Conference, the Society for U.S. Intellectual History Annual Conference, and the International History Workshop at Columbia University.

Makenzie Coker delivered a paper at the Popular Culture Association National Conference entitled "Writing the Game: Sports Romance Novels as an Assertion of the Right to Interpret."

Jesse Dritz delivered a "Spotlight Talk" at the Boston Athenaeum for a program called "What They Saw: Historical Photobooks by Women, 1843-1999." She was also part of an Emerging Scholars Symposium at the University of Delaware.

Genna Kane presented a paper at the Society for American City and Regional Planning History Conference entitled, "The 'Aesthetic Menace': Razing Tenements as Urban Planning in the North End of Boston."

Alyssa Kreikemeier published an article, "Sonoran Soundscapes: Military Airspace and Public Lands," with the Newsmagazine of the American Historical Association: *Perspectives on History*.

Grace McGowan published an article, "A Duet With History: Lizzo and James Madison's Crystal Flute," in *Nursing Clio*. She presented papers at the GCWS Graduate Student Conference at MIT,

the American Literature Association Conference, the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture, and a conference called, "I'm Your Venus: Receptions of Antiquity in Cosmetics Advertising," organized through the University of Glasgow and the University of Cardiff.

Perri Meldon published an article in *Virginia Humanities* entitled "Trapping Black Bears in the Great Dismal Swamp." She presented a paper at the "Objects, Pathways, Afterlives: Tracing Material Cultures in Early America," symposium hosted at the Huntington Art Museum in California.

Fallon Murphy presented papers at the American Literature Association's Annual Conference and the Modern Language Association Annual Conference.

Emily Palombella participated in the History of Capitalism Seminar at Cornell University.

MaryKate Smolenski published an article with the Decorative Arts Trust, "A New Vision for Newport's Hunter House." She also presented papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society and the New England Museum Association Conference, and was featured in *BU Today* for her work on Newport's ties to the institution of slavery.

Astrid Tvetenstrand gave papers at the Feminist Art History Conference at American University, the American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, the History of Capitalism Seminar at Cornell University, and the College Art Association's Annual Conference. She also published a chapter in the New Bedford Whaling Museum's recent exhibition catalogue *Re/Framing The View: Nineteenth- Century American Landscapes*.

Betsy Walters presented papers at the American Studies Association Annual Conference, the Media Industry Studies Conference at King's College, London, and the Critical Studies in Television Conference. She was also interviewed by *Forbes Magazine* for her expertise on the Academy Awards.

Maddie Webster gave talks at the American Studies Association Annual Conference and at the Leventhal Map & Education Center. She was also interviewed for features published by BU's Initiative on Cities and *StreetsblogMASS*.

Marina Wells delivered papers at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, the GCWS Graduate Student Conference at MIT, and the College Art Association Annual Conference.

Earlier this year, AMNESP PhD candidate Grace McGowan reached out to recent alumni to find out what they have doing since they graduated. Channon Miller ('17), Chris Stokum ('22), and Christine D'Auria ('22) shared what they're working on now. On March 15, 2023, our program hosted Samantha Pickette ('22), who recently published her book, *Peak TV's Unapologetic Jewish Woman: Exploring Jewish Female Representation in Contemporary Television Comedy*. She sat down with Grace before the event to talk more about her research and her insights on publishing.



Channon S. Miller, 2017

Assistant Professor of History at the University of San Diego and Incoming Assistant Professor of American Studies and History at Trinity College.

What was your professional path after graduation?

After graduating in May of 2017, my professional journey began with a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Department of History at the University of San Diego in the fall of the same year. At the conclusion of my first year as a fellow, I was invited to interview for a tenure-track position. I would start this role in the Spring of 2019 after taking some additional time to experience the fellowship and its benefits. Beginning in the Fall of 2023, I will be joining Trinity College, my undergraduate alma mater, as an advanced Assistant Professor of American Studies and History.

What you are working on now?

I am currently revising an article manuscript that is long overdue. Not only has this project been of interest to me for some years, but I completed the manuscript a few months before the rise of the pandemic - which delayed the review process severely. I recently picked it back up and resubmitted to another journal. I am hopeful for its publication. It discusses the environmental activism of a group of poor, Black mothers living in a chronically neglected, Hartford public housing project in the 1960s. Their struggles and organizing haven't been captured in existing scholarship and I look forward to being a part of introducing them.

Is there anything exciting on the horizon for you?

As shared above, I will be joining another institution soon. I am beyond excited to return to the place where my American Studies journey began, and my hometown of Hartford, the city that grounds my work.



Chris Stokum, 2022

Project Manager for Reuse and Redevelopment at Eckley Miners' Village, a 90-acre, 200-structure, 19th-century anthracite coal mining company town in Weatherly, PA.

What was your professional path after graduation?

I began my current position at Eckley in March 2021 while my dissertation was still in its end stage, which made for a smooth transition from academic to public history.

Since defending my dissertation in November 2021 and graduating the following January, I have expanded my role at Eckley beyond coordinating the site's adaptive reuse initiatives to also help organize author talks, musical performances, and seasonal folk festivals.

What you are working on now?

With support from the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, we are planning an interdisciplinary, place-based research and learning center that will eventually occupy a former mine owner's home at Eckley. The center will carve out a permanent foothold for serious inquiry at the heart of Pennsylvania's Coal Region and allow us to rethink the museum's role in preserving and grappling with anthracite heritage. Like other extractive regions, Northeastern Pennsylvania has had parts of it removed to fuel other places. Eckley itself is ringed by open pit mines and underlaid by miles of abandoned tunnels. But while the landscape might be hollowed-out, it's not empty, and the people who remain here have a complex and little-understood appreciation of this place. We envision the research and learning center as a hub where historians, geographers, ecologists, and other researchers interested in the region will not only collaborate across disciplinary lines, but also engage with local residents whose experiential knowledge too often is left out of efforts to understand how this place came to be, what it can tell us, and what prospects its future holds.



Christine D'Auria, 2022

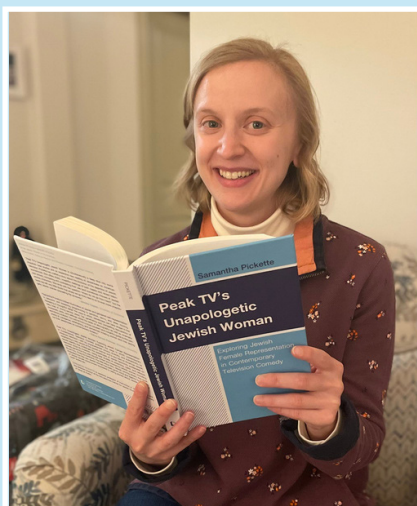
Assistant Director of the Learning Lab, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard University

What was your professional path after graduation?

I began working at the Learning Lab in the fall of 2021, so I shifted right from my work as a graduate student in AMNESP and a graduate program coordinator at the BU Center for the Humanities to my current role. It was a big transition but a (mercifully) quick one! I definitely had (and continue to have!) a lot to learn here at the Learning Lab, but I was well-equipped from my time teaching, working in administration, and researching at BU.

What you are working on now?

I run the Media & Design Fellows (MDF) program, so a lot of my work involves supporting and documenting the work of our graduate student fellows. They work in an array of disciplines and integrate media forms into the classroom and their departments in astonishingly creative ways, so I'm very excited each term to see what projects they will come up with and to think of exciting ways to capture and share what they do with the broader community. As part of this work—and the course support we offer more generally at the Learning Lab—I've learned a lot about documentation using the a/v equipment and digital tools we use here at the Learning Lab. In collaboration with our fellows and our staff, I'm thrilled that my professional life continues to involve working with students—both those who are a part of our Learning Lab team and those who come to our workshops through their courses at the university. I'm always excited to keep learning (hence how I ended up at AMNESP years ago!), and I feel extremely fortunate to have a position in which constant learning is a necessity.



Samantha Pickette ('22), recently sat down with AMNESP PhD candidate, Grace McGowan, to discuss her new book and to share her insights into publishing. Since graduating with her PhD in American and New England Studies, Pickette joined the faculty of the University of Texas, Austin, as Assistant Professor of Instruction in Jewish Studies and Assistant Director of the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies.

In her new book, *Peak TV's Unapologetic Jewish Woman: Exploring Jewish Female Representation in Contemporary Television Comedy*, she analyzes the ways in which contemporary American television—with its unprecedented choice, diversity, and authenticity—is establishing a new version of

the Jewish woman and a new take on American Jewish female identity that challenges the stereotypes of Jewish femininity proliferated on television since its inception. Using case studies of streaming, cable, and network comedy series from the past decade written and created by Jewish women, including *Broad City*, *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, among others, this book illustrates how this new Jewish woman has been given voice and agency by the bevy of Jewish female showrunners interested in telling stories about Jewish women for wider audiences.

Thank you so much Dr. Pickette for sitting down with me today. I'm so looking forward to hearing more about your research and it's very exciting that your book is now available! My first question is, how did you come to this project? So this book is actually a separate project from my dissertation, which focused more on representations of the Jewish American Princess in popular literature, film, and television from the 1970s. This project actually sprung out of an article that I published in the *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*, which itself came from a conference paper. That article was about the intersection of Jewish femininity and psychosis in *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* (2015-19). My publisher approached me after the publication of that article to ask me whether I would be interested in expanding it to a book project. I was halfway through my dissertation at that point and it was also peak COVID, and everyone was trapped inside and unable to do anything, and that was really what allowed me to take on this project alongside my dissertation.

It's incredibly impressive that you were able to juggle both of those projects. Would you give an overview of what your book is exploring?

Sure, my book looks at case studies of Jewish female driven comedy series from the past decade. What I really talk about in the book is the way these series, because of changes in the television industry due to streaming technology and an influx of Jewish female voices, break from older stereotypes of Jewish femininity.

So, throughout my book I look at case studies such as *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* (2015-19), *The Marvelous Mrs Maisel* (2017-present), *Broad City* (2014-19), *Difficult People* (2015-17), *Russian Doll* (2019-present), *Grace and Frankie* (2015-2022), *Transparent* (2015-17), and use these as examples to trace the ways depictions of Jewish femininity reshapes what the Jewish woman looks like on television. It also emphasizes how the contemporary moment has diversified Jewish femininity and given us not just one singular model but a whole host of different ways of being a Jewish woman that complicate what has existed until now.

That's a seriously great line up of contemporary case studies, were there any challenges in writing on such recent releases?

My main concern is that while I was writing some of these shows were not finished, so I often would put off watching new seasons in case they undid my whole argument! Thankfully they didn't! There was also something to having very little direct scholarship to draw on, but I could see the through lines from my previous work on 1970s shows.

Lucky that your instincts were correct, and so if that was the big challenge for writing, what was your experience of publishing and the challenges of that?

Well, I feel very lucky that my publisher approached me, so there was less pitching and looking around involved. But really the scary part of the process is the waiting. Especially waiting for the peer-review comments to come back. Up until those happen, the book is there, but it hasn't become realized in the same way. But that was really the most challenging part, to sit around and wait for people to read and respond.

And not only do you have this new book to showcase your work, but you also have a new job now as Assistant Professor in Jewish Studies. What's it been like sharing your research with students?

This semester I'm actually teaching a class on Jewish stereotypes in American popular culture and we're going from the late nineteenth century to the contemporary moment. This means we get to end with

[Pickette] emphasizes how the contemporary moment has diversified Jewish femininity and given us not just one singular model but a whole host of different ways of being a Jewish woman that complicate what has existed until now.

Jewish television and I'm planning to assign chapter three, the first time I will ever have assigned something I've written in a class, which feels both maybe egomaniacal but mainly very exciting! So far it's been really great, the students are so bright and engaged, and this course particularly as an elective has a particularly nice, self-selecting group of students who really want to be there and want to talk about these ideas. It's also been similar in some ways to my time at Boston University, especially given how interdisciplinary the class and the program that I now work in are. My role as Assistant Director in the Jewish Studies program also gives me opportunities to spend more time interacting with students one on one and hearing about their interests and experiences.

That's so good to hear, so maybe this is a dreaded question that you have just published this book, but what's next for you?

Really what's next is going back to the dissertation and working on adapting that to book project. It's something I've spent a lot of time on and I think now it's time to get back to it.

That's fantastic, I wanted to end just by asking you for some recommendations as someone who has now worked and published a book on contemporary TV. So, if you had to recommend your top three shows out of the many that you touch on and analyze in your book, what would they be?

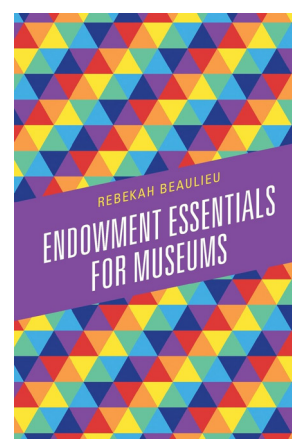
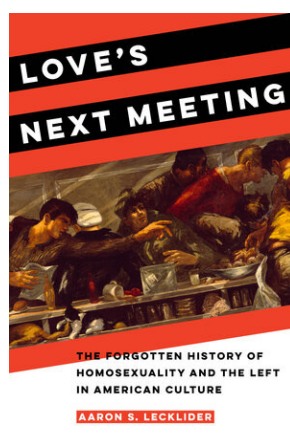
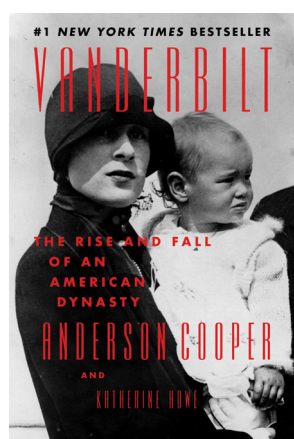
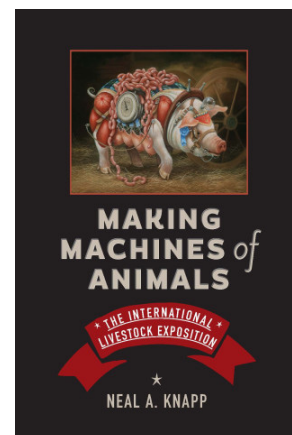
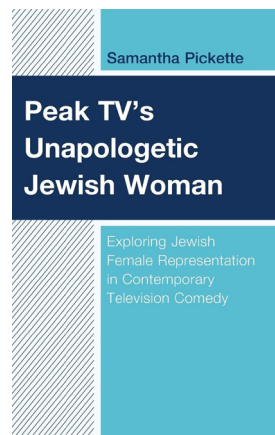
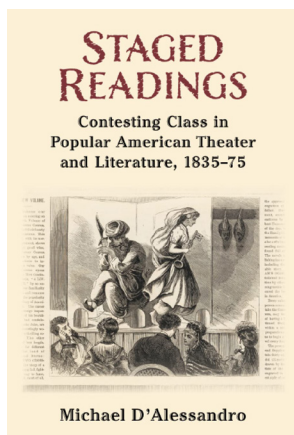
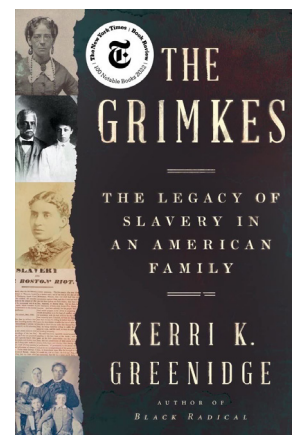
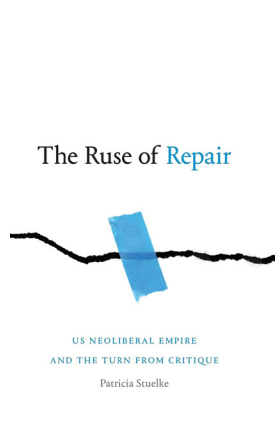
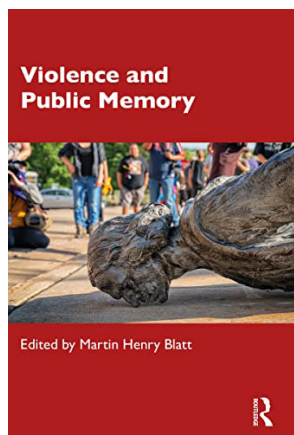
Well, there are definitely some things I didn't have room to include in my book because I wanted to keep the focus very tightly on comedy and Jewish women, so for example, I had less opportunity to discuss representations of Orthodox Jews as those depictions are more in dramas than in comedies. But out of my work I would recommend *Broad City*, because it's not only hysterical, but it's also just one of the most positive representations of Jewish femininity across gender lines, class lines, and it's so amazingly funny. I would also recommend *Russian Doll* because it's really the most unique series that I work on, it has that mystery, sci-fi element, and it also takes Jewish identity in a completely different direction than we usually see on American television. It's nothing to do with the general Jewish-American cultural trajectory we're used to seeing, it's instead deeply rooted in the Kabbalah, Jewish mysticism, and Eastern European culture which

is awesome. And for the third I would say *Difficult People*, it's little known and a lot of people have not heard of it, but it had three seasons on Hulu and it is brilliant. It's very funny, if you're someone who enjoys the kind of sensibility of a show like *30 Rock* (2006-2013) where every ten seconds of the show has five jokes in it then this is a show for you!



Prof. Pickett discusses her work with AMNESP students.

Recent Alumni Books



This Spring AMNESP hosted a one-day symposium, "Archives and Knowledge Keepers: Native American and Indigenous Studies and the Art of History." We were proud to welcome to campus eight early-career Indigenous scholars working across many disciplines, including NAIS, history, art history, literature, and material culture. The symposium was inspired by how Indigenous artists, writers, activists, and scholars working in a variety of fields, periods, and across media, have called for a reevaluation of traditional Western epistemologies that privilege textual evidence as the only reliable resource for creating historical narratives.



Blanket Pin by Jhon Duane Goes in Center (Oglala Lakota), Tatanka Hanhepi (Buffalo Spirit's Moon).

We asked presenters to show how their work engages Indigenous modes of knowledge production while making use of both textual archives and also material artifacts, oral traditions, and non-alphabetic material texts. Throughout the day, attendees reflected upon the methods, resources, and aesthetic practices we use to tell stories about the past.

The day began with a welcome from jessie little doe baird, (Mashpee Wampanoag), a MacArthur winner and the co-founder and co-leader of the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project. It concluded with a response from Philip J. Deloria (Dakota), of Harvard University.

Presenters included:

- **Johannah Bird** (Peguis First Nation), McMaster University
- **Clementine Bordeaux** (Sicangu Oglala Lakota), UC-Los Angeles
- **Marissa Carmi** (Oneida Nation of Wisconsin), UNC-Chapel Hill
- **Chanel Clarke** (Ngāpuhi, Te Rarawa, Waikato, Ngāti Porou), Te Whare Wānanga o wanuiārangi, NZ
- **David Dry** (Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma), UNC-Chapel Hill
- **Jessica Locklear** (Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina), Emory University
- **T. Melanie Puka Bean** (Atafu, Fakaofu – Tokelau, Sāleimoa, Faleasiu – Sāmoa), Louisiana State University
- **Jorge Ramirez-Lopez** (Sii'cha'anja/Triqui), Dartmouth College

Vincent L. Stephens, Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion at BU's College of Arts and Sciences, delivered remarks towards the end of the event. Wade Campbell, Assistant Professor of Archaeology at BU and Paul Conrad, Associate Professor of History at University of Texas, Arlington, chaired panels. The historian Alyssa Mt. Pleasant (Haudenosaunee), assisted us with planning and outreach and was in attendance at the event as a panel chair.

For a full program, visit
bu.edu/AMNESP/ARCHIVES-KNOWLEDGE-KEEPERS



Jessie Little Doe Baird



Vincent Stephens



Clementine Boardeaux



Jorge Ramirez-Lopez, Johanna Bird, and David Dry

The program was sponsored by the Emerging Scholars Program, funded by the Office of the Provost and the College of Arts & Science's office of Diversity & Inclusion. Additional funding was provided by AMNESP and the Associate Deans for the Faculty, Humanities and Social Sciences.



Chanel Clarke



Jessica Locklear, Marissa Carmi and Clementine Bordeaux



Attendees joined the symposium both in-person and online.



Jorge Ramirez-Lopez, T. Melanie Puka Bean, and Phil Deloria



Andrew Robichaud



Walter Johnson



Ianna Hawkins Owen



Anita Patterson

Our main lecture and seminar series, "American Studies for the Future," continued with great success this year. The format is unique: we host one event each semester that brings an affiliated faculty member at BU in conversation with an outside senior scholar. The outside scholar comes to campus to respond to the work of our colleague in a seminar setting and then gives a public lecture. The program ends every year with Keynote Address by a senior scholar at BU, followed by our end-of-the-year reception. The series focuses on urgent issues in American Studies and also builds relationships between our faculty, graduate students, and the larger American Studies community.

On November 8, 2022, we held an afternoon seminar with Prof. Andrew Robichaud (History), who discussed a pre-circulated chapter, "Frozen Time: Ice and the Political Economy of Dead Meat." Walter Johnson (Harvard University) responded and also gave a lecture that evening entitled "John Brown's Economy." Both of these events were held on Zoom and in person.

On February 9, 2023, Prof. Ianna Hawkins Owen (English) circulated a chapter entitled "Sweating Diaspora," and Prof. Christina Sharpe (York University) responded. Then in the evening Prof. Sharpe delivered a lecture, "Ordinary Notes," drawn from her new book of that name. These events were held remotely on Zoom.

Our Keynote this year was with Prof. Anita Patterson (English): "Transpacific Conversations: Emerson, Eliot, and Richard Wright's Pragmatist Poetics." This talk was held in person on April 20, 2023, and we had a wonderfully festive reception afterwards back in 226 Bay State Road

"American Studies for the Future" is sponsored by the Boston University Center for the Humanities, the Dean of Arts & Sciences, the Associate Dean of Faculty/Humanities, the Associate Dean for Diversity & Inclusion, African American Studies, the Departments of English and History, and the American & New England Studies Program.

On May 20, 2023, the American & New England Studies Program and the Preservation Studies Program held their Convocation ceremony. Congratulations to all of our graduates!

Bachelor of Arts in American Studies

Abigail Duerksen

Dual Major in Religion
Minor in the Core Curriculum and Spanish

Sydney Johnson

Anna Rafferty

Summa Cum Laude
Minor in Classical Civilization BA/MA in English
AMNESP College Prize recipient

Michael Trevallion

Carolyn Werth

Cum Laude
Minor in Political Science

Master of Arts in Preservation Studies

Gabriela Amore

Concentration in Architectural History

Kristen Dahlmann

Concentration in Architectural History

David Lewis

Concentration in History

Zilin Yang

Concentration in Archaeology



The Processional



Anna Rafferty and family



*Preservation Studies Graduates:
Gabby Amore, Kristen Dahlmann,
David Lewis, and Esther Yang*



PhD Candidates share a laugh with Ross Barrett before the ceremony.



Joseph Rezek, AMNESP Program Dir.; Ross Barrett, Dir. of Graduate Studies; Jan Haenraets, Acting Dir. Preservation Studies; and Sara Wermeil, Assoc. Dir. Preservation Studies



Astrid Tvetenstrand and Maddie Webster

Doctor of Philosophy in American and New England Studies

Sean Case

To Balance the World: The Development of the United States' National Interest, 1919-1969

Daniel DeFraia

State Work: A History of the American Reporter and Journalistic Independence

Katherine Evans

"I am Going to be a Veteran of this War:" American Women's Explorations of Domestic Life on the Western Front

Alyssa Kreikemeier

Aerial Empire: Contested Sovereignties and the American West

Megan LeBarron

Heartland Cosmopolitanism: The Midwest and Literary Modernism in The Work of Willa Cather and Sinclair Lewis

Megan Lu

Amateur Travel Films of the American Pacific, 1923-1975

Astrid Tvetenstrand

Buying a View: American Landscape Painting and Gilded Age Vacation Culture, 1870-1910

Madeline Webster

Race and Reuse: Black Historic Preservation Efforts in Boston, 1876-1976

A hearty thank you to everyone who contributed to the AMNESP Gift fund during the 2022-23 academic year. Your thoughtfulness and generosity allowed us to support PhD research and conference travel, as well as our end of year reception. Your support also allowed us to bring in Jessie Little Doe Baird, MacArthur fellow and Co-founder and Lead Linguist of the The Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project, to provide the welcome address at the Archives and Knowledge Keepers Symposium in May.

Michael A. Bedeau
 William J. Brennan
 David E. Brody
 Philip J. Carlino
 Sean M. Case
 Paul S. D'Ambrosio
 Jamie Devol
 Elizabeth A. De Wolfe
 Paul J. Edwards
 Yanzhe Feng
 Jere Gibber
 David D. Hall
 Carol Hawrylcw
 Sallie A. Hirshberg
 Rachel C. Kirby
 Carol E. McMahon
 Kevin D. Murphy
 Rebecca R. Noel
 Thomas W. Nunan
 Samuel R. Palfreyman
 Anita H. Patterson

Iouri Piattchanine
 Gretchen M. Pineo
 Geoffrey Rezek
 Joseph Rezek
 Jessica L. Roscio
 Earle G. Shettleworth
 Charles I. Stevenson
 Emma P. Thomas
 Chris Tvetenstrand
 Catherine L. Wickwire
 Paul M. Wright





AMERICAN & NEW ENGLAND STUDIES PROGRAM

Boston University
226 Bay State Road
Boston, MA 02215
amnesp@bu.edu
(617) 353-2949

twitter: @BUAmnesp
facebook: facebook.com/groups/337971476799
bu.edu/amnesp

