

The Boston Americanist

2024

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American & New England Studies Program

Boston University

Letter from the Director

It's been a busy, productive, and exciting year for the American & New England Studies Program. As I finish my first three-year term as Director, I am excited to share news about our current students and alumni, as well as a number of developments important to the history of AMNESP and its future. But first, I wish to extend many thanks, in advance, to Prof. Brooke Blower of the History Department for stepping in this July as Interim Director for one year while I am on leave. I will return as Director for another three-year term beginning in July, 2025. Meanwhile Ian Stevenson will step in for one semester as Acting Director of the Preservation Studies Program this fall. Many thanks to Jan Haenraets for Directing PSP for so long.

This year, AMNESP and PSP underwent an Academic Program Review (APR), a Provost-mandated process that happens about once every 10-12 years. The APR included an on-site visit by an External Committee of distinguished

professors in American Studies, and by all accounts it was a huge success. The External Committee affirmed that we are one of the top American Studies programs in the nation. The APR gave us an opportunity to showcase the academic and professional achievements of our students, faculty, and alumni over the past decade.

One big topic under discussion at the APR was something the Affiliated Faculty have debated for many decades: the name of the program. Affiliates and alumni have often doubted that including "New England" in the name accurately represents the nature of American Studies at BU. Here in the Director's office in 226 Bay State Road, I have documents dating back to the 1990s suggesting that affiliates have made the argument to drop the term "New England" beginning as early as the 1980s. This was raised during the last APR, in 2010; but at that time, it was determined "New England" should stay.

After much debate on this issue this year, including an extensive

survey of PhD Alumni, the affiliated faculty voted overwhelmingly on April, 10, 2024, to adopt a resolution to change the name of AMNESP to "American Studies." This vote has initiated a process at BU that will require approval from a variety of committees at the college and university level, before the PhD we confer is official changed from "PhD in American & New England Studies" to "PhD in American Studies." I think this is the right way forward for our program, and I am especially comfortable making the change because of the 74 PhD Alumni who responded to our survey, 63 (85%) wrote in favor of the resolution. Moving forward, we will preserve our reputation as one of the world's best American Studies programs while maintaining and advertising our strengths in the study of the New England region, and especially our relationship to New England cultural institutions.

The other big event this year is that AMNESP received an



anonymous gift of \$1 million to establish a new Program Endowment. We will use part of the income from this endowment to create a Public Humanities Fund that will provide support for PhD students engaged in public-facing research projects and activities – long a strength of our program. We will also use the new Program Endowment for traditional academic activities like events and guest lecturers, as well as conference and research support for PhD students.

As Director, I continue to work on two ongoing initiatives. The first is our annual lecture and seminar series, “American Studies for the Future,” which brings prominent outside speakers to campus for conversations with our own faculty and also public lectures. The second is building Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) at Boston University. In Fall, 2023, Wade Campbell, Mary Battenfeld, and myself, co-founded the Indigenous Studies Working Group (ISWG) – the first academic group ever at BU devoted to NAIS. We had an exciting number of events this year, and ISWG will continue in AY 24/25. I also continue to coordinate a cluster hire in NAIS across eight departments and programs in CAS. It is exciting to see this field grow at incremental steps every year.

Last summer, we welcomed Dr. Claire Bunschoten as the new Abbot Lowell Cummings Postdoctoral Fellow in American Material Culture. Her fall, 2023 course, AM 367: “Thinking with American

Pie,” was the most popular and delicious course yet taught by a Cummings Fellow; she will repeat it in Fall 2024. We love having Claire in our office suite on the first floor, where she continues to work on her book project about “vanilla as a flavor, fragrance, and euphemism for race in the United States.”

Aimee McCarron and I were successful this year in coordinating a long-anticipated renovation of the Teaching Fellows’ offices. The whole basement now has colorful, welcoming carpeting; all of the offices have new workstations and bookshelves; and the kitchenette has been updated. I wish to thank Lisa Doherty, CAS’s Director of Operations, for her support with this project – and to everyone who has made the argument about the need for a renovation in the past.

AMNESP held its convocation this year in the glorious top floor of the new Data Sciences Building, with a full panoramic view of the Charles River. We joyfully celebrated our BA and PhD American Studies graduates as well as our graduates in Preservation Studies. We are welcoming a new, stellar, energetic cohort of six Ph.D. students this fall – working across many disciplines (including TV studies, food studies, queer studies, literature, and film).

Our students, faculty, and alumni, continue to thrive and to distinguish our program with their hard work and achievements, as this newsletter abundantly shows. This year I wish especially to honor the student leadership of the AMNESP PhD Program, which

held our grad community together with passion and strength during a strike that the BU Graduate Workers’ Union authorized in March 2024. The vast majority of our affiliate faculty have supported this ongoing labor action, and I hope that it results in a fair contract for all grad workers at Boston University.

I wish to end with many thanks especially to Aimee, who holds both AMNESP and PSP together as our administrator; as well as to the departing Director of Graduate Studies, Ross Barrett; departing Director of Preservation Studies, Jan Haenraets; our continuing Director of Undergraduate Studies, Kim Sichel; the AMNESP Program Committee; and our amazing crew of Graduate Assistants who have helped all year, including Betsy Walters, Jenna Bennet, Genna Kane, and Liv Jacobs.

I wish everyone a great upcoming academic year. Although I will be on leave in 24/25, I am always happy to hear from AMNESPers on email and to talk about our Program and its promising future.

Joseph Rezek



Program Administration

2023 - 2024

Joseph Rezek

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

Ross Barrett

Director of Graduate Studies;
Associate Professor of American Art

Jan Haenraets

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

Kim Sichel

Director of Undergraduate Studies;
Professor of Art History

Aimee McCarron

Program Administrator

Program Committee

Mary Battenfeld

Clinical Professor of American Studies

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

Sarah Phillips

Associate Professor of History

Nina Silber

John Westling Professor of History

Lecturers and Postdoctoral Fellow

Aaron Ahlstrom

Lecturer, Preservation Studies Program

Claire Bunschoten

Abbott Lowell Cummings Postdoctoral
Fellow

C. Ian Stevenson

Lecturer, Preservation Studies Program

Sara Wermiel

Lecturer, Preservation Studies Program

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. The interdisciplinary breadth of our students' work is evident in their capstone projects, which include:

- Cadee Stefani, "Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork: The American Revolution as Told by Literary and Visual Propaganda" for Professor Joseph Rezek's class "The History of Print in Early America."
- Luke Sweeney, "US Economic Policy and the Effects on Greenland" for Professor Adriana Cracuin's class on "Arctic Humanities."

Our graduating seniors 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 was happy to serve on the search committee for a new Director of Preservation Studies. I also appreciated the chance to observe and participate in the successful initiatives in Native American and Indigenous Studies, culminating in the hiring of Alyssa Hunziker as Assistant Professor of Native

American Literature in the English Department, and of Assistant Professor of History of Art Nicole Smythe-Johnson in Black Diaspora Studies. AM 501 and 502 now count in the BU HUB as Writing Intensive and Research and Information Literacy courses.

I remain grateful to be part of the AMNESP community, and especially for the guidance, leadership, and assistance Joe Rezek and Aimee McCarron have provided.



Director of Undergraduate Studies

Kim Sichel

Director of Graduate Studies

The American Studies graduate program is flourishing thanks to the hard work and resilience of our students. The PhD cohort enjoyed many successes this year. Three American Studies students defended their dissertations and graduated this spring. Our current students gave talks at conferences and symposia across the country; collectively, the graduate cohort published three articles, two reviews, and a research note and won seven research fellowships at outside institutions (including libraries, museums, and historical societies). Two students won BUCH Graduate Student Awards and another won a BUCH Summer internship. A full rundown of these and other exciting accomplishments can be found later in the newsletter.

This year we took further steps to improve our students' teaching experiences and professional development opportunities. In addition to the core group of departments and programs that host American Studies students as TFs, we placed students in courses in Theater and Music. Students in this year's iteration of the professional development seminar (AM899) met with an expanded roster of American Studies alumni and local professionals and learned about careers in a range of sectors (including academia, museums, city government, libraries, and independent schools).

I'm happy to report that this year's admissions cycle was very successful. We hosted

seven admitted students at our March recruitment event and will have an incoming cohort of six talented PhD students this fall. I appreciate all of the hard work that our current students and faculty did to bring this terrific group to BU—thank you! The doctoral program's future looks bright indeed.

After making good faith efforts to negotiate with university administration last fall and winter, BU's graduate student workers union (BUGWU) began a strike for better pay and improved benefits this spring. As I write the strike remains in effect. Under Prof. Rezek's leadership American Studies has urged the administration to improve graduate stipends and taken steps to assist American Studies students who are on the picket line. As the strike has developed our students and faculty have supported each other and kept the graduate program moving forward. I'm very grateful to the program officers, affiliated faculty, and GSA members who have helped keep lines of communication open during the strike and hope very much that the students' activism will yield improved pay and better working conditions.

This summer my term as DGS will conclude and Prof. Deborah Jaramillo will step into the role. It's been a thrill working with you all these past two years--thank you! Thanks to everyone who helped me do this job, and thanks especially to Joe and Aimee for their support and guidance. I've had a blast! Have a great summer everyone.

Ross Barrett



Preservation Studies

The Preservation Studies Program launched this past academic year its *Preservation@BU* newsletter and also launched the new Preservation Studies website (www.bu.edu/preservation), which now also includes student and alumni profiles, and several new emeriti professor profiles. The Preservation Studies Program completed an Academic Program Review, and continues with the hiring process for a new full professor/Program Director. Jan Haenraets will be succeeded in July 2024 by Ian Stevenson as the Acting Director, until the start of the new Director, which is anticipated for January 2025. The Program held a Preservation Studies Internship Forum with local internship hosts. Our Preservation Studies Field Trips included numerous course site visits; a field trip to Nantucket island, MA; a heritage walk at Fort Point Channel, Boston, led by Sara Wermiel; and attendance of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, New England Chapter annual meeting in Providence, RI.



images clockwise from upper left: Nantucket trip, Providence, RI, Nantucket again, and past field trip to Strawberry Banke Portsmouth.

Affiliate Faculty

2023 - 2024

Daniel Abramson

Professor, American & European Architecture

Paula Austin

Associate Professor of History & 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
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

Jilene Chua

Assistant Professor of History

Louis Chude-Sokei

Professor of English;
George and Joyce Wein
Chair in African American
Studies

Victor Coelho

Professor of Music
College of Fine Arts

Adriana Craciun

Professor of English and
Emma MacLachlan Metcalf
Chair in the Humanities

André de Quadros

Professor of Music and
Music Education
College of Fine Arts

Megan Elias

Associate Professor,
Gastronomy
Metropolitan College

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

Linda Heywood

Professor of African
American & Black
Diaspora 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

Susan Mizruchi

Professor of English;
William Arrowsmith
Professor in the
Humanities

William D. Moore

Associate Professor of
American Material Culture

Thomas Otten

Lecturer, English

Ianna Hawkins Owen

Assistant Professor 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

Ana-María Reyes

Associate Professor of
Latin American Art

Takeo Rivera

Assistant Professor of
English

Andrew Robichaud

Associate 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

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 of
Contemporary Art

Graham Wilson

Professor of Political
Science

Graduate Student Association

GSA Officers

2023-2024

President Anne Boyd

Vice President Betsy Walters

Secretary Jenna Bennett

Treasurer MaryKate Smolenski

Social Chair Korie Tinch

Faculty Liaison Meghan Townes

Undergrad Liaison Anne Callahan

Americanist Forum Coordinators
MaryKate Smolenski & Liv Jacobs

Preservation Liaison Gianna Ortiz

GSO Representative Ryan Deneen

Americanist Forum

In March 2024, the GSA hosted the Americanist Forum, a one-day panel of BU graduate student presentations. AMNESP PhD candidate Marina Wells presented work from their dissertation "Making Men from Whales: Gender and American Whaling Art, 1814-1861" and AMNESP PhD student MaryKate Smolenski presented the paper "'Wishes for Pictures': Silhouettes, Portraits, and a Loyalist Family's Desire for Likenesses." These subjects reflect the interdisciplinarity and diversity of American Studies.



It's been a pleasure to serve as the 2023-2024 GSA President. We've accomplished many exciting things this year, including a Learn the Ropes course on publishing articles and numerous social activities such as a Halloween movie night. I'm looking forward to seeing all of the amazing things next year's E-Board will do!

-Anne Boyd

Incoming PhD Students

Cassandra Branch

Cassandra received their BA from the University of California, Berkeley, where they double majored in American Studies with a concentration in Gender and Narrative and in English Literature. While at BU, they plan on studying the relationship between reproductive labor and the classic Hollywood studio system.

Emily Craig

Emily holds an M.A. in American Studies from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and a B.A. in American Studies from Roger Williams University. Their research interests include Food Studies, popular culture representations of food, intersections of race, gender, and class in American popular culture.

Lindsay Gould

Lindsay earned an MFA in Film and Television Studies from Boston University. For her undergraduate work, she completed a B.A. in Media, Journalism, Television, and Communication with a concentration in TV/Film Production at Howard University. She is interested in American television as a pedagogical tool for dominant black culture.

Camden Hunt

Camden received a BA in Human Ecology, with a focus on history, English, poetry, audio production, and visual art, from the College of the Atlantic. His research interests include divisions of North/South, specifically how religious differences have shaped the norms of modern queer culture.

Ella Kotsen

Ella received a B.A. in Literatures in English from Bryn Mawr College. Her research interests include 19th and 20th Century American Literature, specifically the genre of literary regionalism.

John Ott

John earned an MA in American Studies from the University of Massachusetts, Boston and a BA in Philosophy with a minor in Cinema Studies from Colby College. He looks forward to exploring the intersection of cultural geography, class formation, labor history, and film in the postwar era.

Current PhD Student News

Awards, Fellowships, and Placements

Anne Boyd was awarded a research fellowship by the Arizona Historical Society.

Genna Kane received the Alice Ross Carey Fellowship from the Environmental Design Archives at the University of California, Berkeley; she was accepted into the National Endowment for the Humanities workshop, "New York as a Port City"; and she was selected for a BU Center for the Humanities Summer internship at the Concord Museum.

Grace McGowan (PhD, 2024) was hired as a Visiting Assistant Professor of English at Colby College. This year she was also awarded the BUWC New England Women's Scholarship.

Perri Meldon was awarded the Virginia Humanities' Public Humanities Fellowship.

Ena Ozaki received a Clarimond Mansfield Award from the BU Center for the Humanities.

Emily Palombella received a Graduate Research Fellowship from the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale University.

Kayli Rideout (PhD, 2024) was hired as the Hugh F. McKean Curator at the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art. This past year she was also a William L. Thompson Collections Fellow and she received a BUWC New England Women's Scholarship.

Mary Snyder served as an archives intern at the Whitney Plantation in Louisiana.

Meghan Townes received a Barbara Stevens Heusel and Dennis Moore Travel Grant and an Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship from the Virginia Museum of History and Culture.

Betsy Walters received a Clarimond Mansfield Award from the BU Center for the Humanities.

Marina Wells (PhD, 2024) was hired as Assistant Curator of History and Culture at the New Bedford Whaling Museum.



Conferences & Articles

Jenna Bennet published a book review of *Follies in America: A History of Garden and Park Architecture* in *The Hudson River Valley Review*.

Anne Boyd presented papers at the annual conferences of the American Studies Association and the Popular Culture Association.

Max Clee presented a paper at the American Society for Environmental History Conference.

Makenzie Coker presented a paper at the Popular Culture Association annual conference and published an article in *Ampersand* entitled "'An Ideal Picture': The Fairbanks House, Landscape Transferware, and the Creation of Historical Canons."

Liv Jacobs presented papers at the Americanist Forum and BU Anthropology's Emerging Scholars Symposium.

Perri Meldon published an article called "Trapping Black Bears in the Great Dismal Swamp" in the journal *Virginia Humanities*. She also presented at the Massachusetts Historical Society's Environmental History Seminar and the joint conference of the National Council on Public History and the Utah Historical Society

Reut Odinak presented papers at the annual conferences of the American Studies Association and the Society of Cinema and Media Studies.

Ena Ozaki published an exhibition review of the Museum of Fine Arts show "Life Magazine and the Power of Photography" in *Ampersand*.

Carolyn Parker-Fairbain published an article entitled "New Africa House: Visions Realized, Dreams Deferred" in *Ampersand*.

Kayli Rideout published two articles: "Tiffany's Jefferson Davis Memorial Window and the Legitimacy of the Lost Cause: A Research Report" in *Journal of Glass Studies*, and "A Tiffany White House Interlude: President Chester A. Arthur Commissions Louis Comfort Tiffany's Associated Artists to Decorate the White House" in *White House Quarterly*.

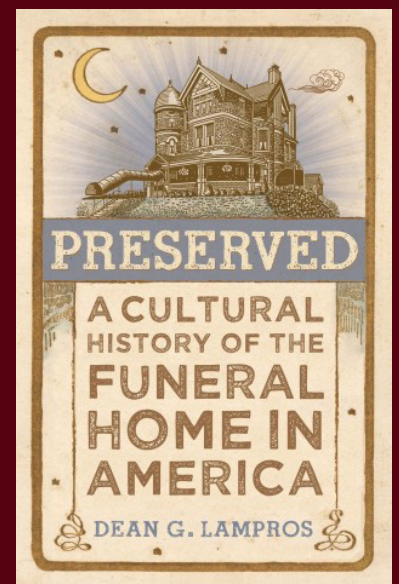
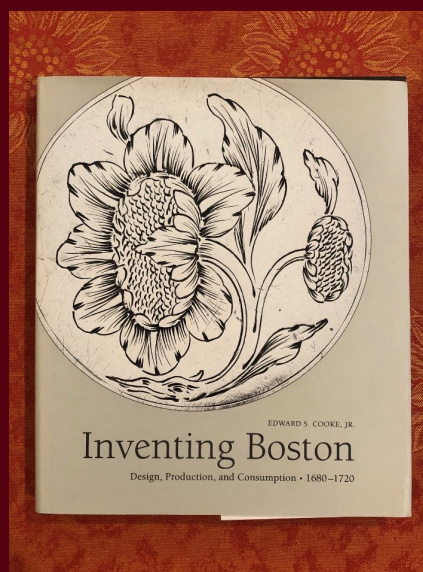
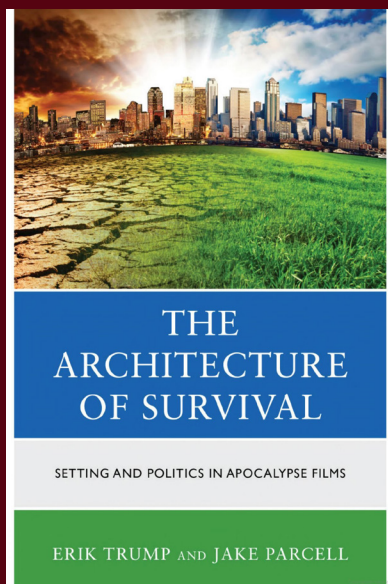
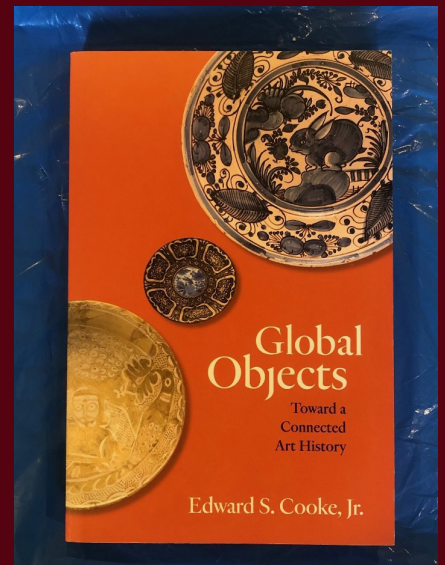
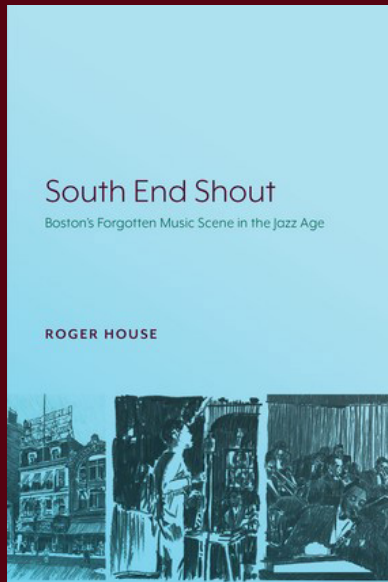
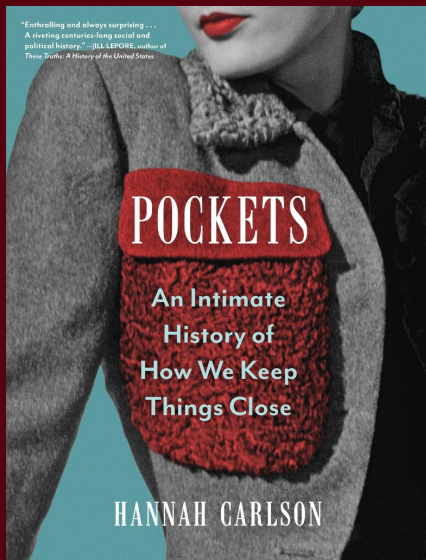
MaryKate Smolenski presented at the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum's symposium "Pleasing Truths, Framing Identity," and also at the Americanist Forum.

Korie Tinch published "Skate Dudes and Str8 Dudes: Normative Sexuality and the Jackass Media Franchise" in *Ampersand*.

Meghan Townes presented papers at the Southeastern American Studies Association Conference and the Americanist Forum.

Betsy Walters published "'Throwing Shows Against the Wall and Hoping for the Best': NBC, Quality, and the Emmy Race for Outstanding Drama Series in the 2010s" in *New Review of Film & Television Studies* as well as a book review of *The Academy and the Award: The Coming of Age of Oscar and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Media Industries*. She also presented at the annual conferences of the American Studies Association and the Society of Cinema and Media Studies.

Marina Wells presented at the Americanist Forum and the Deerfield/Wellesley Symposium, "Queer New England."



Alumni News

Earlier this summer, Olivia Jacobs, a second-year PhD student in AMNESP, reached out to the alumni to learn more about their work and recent accomplishments.

Marty Blatt (1983) recently published a review of a documentary film produced by the Atlanta History Center, "Monument: The Untold Story of Stone Mountain" in *Film & History: An Interdisciplinary Journal*.

Hannah Carlson (2009) published *Pockets: An Intimate History of How We Keep Things Close* with Algonquin Books. *Pockets* was reviewed by The New York Times.

Sean Case (2023) published an essay on the perception of Henry Kissinger as a historian titled "Henry Kissinger and the Angel of Applied History" with H-Diplo/the Robert Jervis International Security Studies Forum. Case also recently attended Bridging the Gap's International Policy Summer Institute (IPSI) in Washington, DC as a member of IPSI's 2024 cohort.

Edward "Ned" Cooke (1983) published the article, "Eco-Aesthetics as an Organizing Principle in Global Material Culture: The Example of Green Woodworking," in *Winterthur Portfolio* in 2023. In 2022, he published the book *Global Objects: Toward an Interconnected Art History* with Princeton University Press. In 2019, he published *Inventing Boston: Design, Production and Consumption in the Atlantic World, 1680-1720* with Yale University Press which was the Winner of CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title.

James Garvin (1983), since retiring in 2011 from a 24-year career as New Hampshire State Architectural Historian, has devoted much time to trusteeship of the N. H. Historical Society, Canterbury Shaker Village, and other organizations. He continues to provide technical assistance and to compile historic building assessments and preservation plans for nonprofit organizations.

Roger House (1999) was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus of American Studies at Emerson College in February 2024. It was granted in recognition of 25 years of full-time teaching, service, and

research at the college. House is believed to be the first Black male professor honored with the title since the school's founding in 1880. Roger House also published *South End Shout: Boston's Forgotten Music Scene in the Jazz Age*, a monograph on Boston's pioneer jazz history. It was published by Michigan Publishing/Lever Press in June 2023. The illustrated account was reviewed by jazz historian David Demsey in *Music and Musical Performance: An International Journal* and is under consideration for the 2024 Stone Book Award.

Christine Hult-Lewis (2011) recently assumed the permanent position as Curator of the Pictorial Collection at The Bancroft Library, the special collections library at UC Berkeley, after several years in an interim role. The Bancroft Library specializes in the history of the American West, and has the second largest pictorial collection at a research institution in the nation. Consisting primarily of photographic negatives and prints, the Bancroft collection also includes paintings, prints, drawings, posters, and advertising memorabilia.

Paul "Hutch" Hutchinson (2015) recently won the James E. Freeman Leadership Development Award from the Questrom School of Business at Boston University.

The award provided him with the opportunity to spend a week in Singapore working with Outward Bound-Singapore. The primary focus of the study was to explore more inclusive teaching methods and facilitation practices for adventure-based and experiential education that we can practice here at B.U.

Mariah Kupfner (2021) recently published "Folded into the Archive: Racialized Textile Labours and the Work of Suffrage Memory" in *Histoire Sociale/Social History*. This was part of a special issue: "Sites of Feminist Memory: Remembering Women's Suffrage in Europe, the United States, and Australasia." She also curated an exhibition at the Morse Institute Library in collaboration with the Natick Historical Society: "Stitching A Legacy." This exhibition featured schoolgirl needlework from the Natick Historical Society's collection.

Maria works as Assistant Professor of American Studies & Public Heritage at Penn State Harrisburg, where she is now also serving as the program coordinator for the graduate certificate program in Heritage & Museum Practice. This summer she is a research fellow at the Library Company of Philadelphia and Haverford College.

Dean Lampros (2013) recently published *Preserved: A Cultural History of the Funeral Home in America* with Johns Hopkins

University Press.

Ted Landmark (1999) is currently the Distinguished Professor of the Practice and Director of the Dukakis Center for Urban & Regional Policy within the Policy School at Northeastern University. He was Chair of the Northeastern Faculty Senate Agenda Committee in 2023-24. He is the longest serving member of the Board of the Boston Planning and Development Agency, and works with groups such as the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and the BPL Leventhal Map and Education Center. His work involves community engagement in public policymaking, economic development and urban planning, reparations, racial, social and environmental justice, and the arts.

Emma Newcombe (2018) started a new role this March at Northeastern University as the Associate Director of PhD Programs for the College of Science. She organized workshops, events and programs to enhance career and professional development for students across seven PhD programs. Previously, she worked in the university's Career Design Office, providing

career counseling and career development workshops for PhDs across the university.

Erik Trump (1996), together with Jake Parcell published *The Architecture of Survival: Settings and Politics in Apocalypse Films* with Lexington Books.

Astrid Tvetenstrand (2023) started as the Polly Thayer Starr Curatorial Fellow in American Art at the Boston Athenaeum. Astrid also won the Mary Kelley prize at this year's New England American Studies Association Conference for her paper, "From Canton to Newport: Kingscote, Chinese Art, and the Transnational Circulation of American Taste".



Peter Hanff and Christine Hult-Lewis with some of the drawings in the Rube Goldberg collection at UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library

Alumni Spotlight

Aaron Lecklider (2007)

Aaron Lecklider is Professor of American Studies at University of Massachusetts, Boston. His areas of expertise are gender and sexuality, 20th-century cultural history, literature, and art, and U.S. radical culture. We connected with him to find out more about this moment in his career.

What has your professional journey been like since your time at BU?

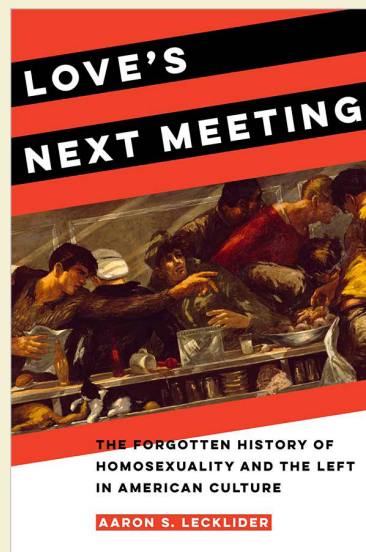
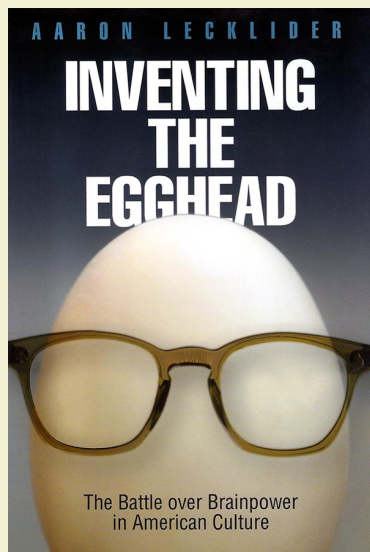
I have followed a “traditional” path and am now Professor of American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston, where I am presently also serving as the Graduate Program Director.

What kinds of work are you doing now? Do you have collaborators?

In addition to teaching and advising undergraduate and graduate students, I am working on a new book project about voyeurism in American culture from 1800-2000. It's a single-author book. So the collaboration is mostly through the work of the many scholars whose work has influenced my own – and the occasional graduate research assistant, when funding permits it.

Is there anything on the horizon that you're excited about?

Two of my former MA students at UMass Boston are entering the PhD at Boston University in fall 2024. They are both brilliant and creative scholars, so I'm excited to see their progress towards their doctorate as they pursue what I'm sure will be phenomenal research projects in the same program that incubated my own scholarly work. I'm also excited by the name change to American Studies!



Jessica Samuel (2021)

Jessica Samuel has recently accepted a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis. Previously, she founded the Radical Education and Advocacy League. We are excited to hear more from her about this moment of transition and the recent successes that accompany it.

What has your professional journey been like since your time at BU?

My professional journey since BU is significantly framed by my professional journey before BU. I came into the American Studies doctoral program from the high school classroom where I taught English. I had very clear goals around educational equity as well as using research and theory to advance advocacy efforts in that direction. Because of this, I was intentional about how I pursued professional development while I fulfilled program requirements. I stayed connected with my education networks, completed an internship with the state, and led a few local education advocacy efforts in the city. All of this work resulted in my appointment by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to serve on their Racial Imbalance Advisory Council while in my third year in the American Studies program at BU. This year actually marks the completion of my two-term appointment!

What kinds of work are you doing now? Do you have collaborators?

Since graduating, I've simply continued on this path while also committing to regularly publishing research. Specifically, I founded an educational consultancy—Radical Education & Advocacy League (REAL)—where we work with historically underserved students from K-Graduate and those who serve them to improve outcomes around self-concept, self-efficacy and self-advocacy. After completing my fieldwork (and PhD!) back home in the US Virgin Islands, I remained in the Caribbean where I've been working with several local, regional and national bodies, such as Right to Democracy (an organization committed to confronting American colonialism in US territories) on decolonial advocacy, environmental justice, and educational equity.

Is there anything on the horizon that you're excited about?

Most recently, I've decided to further my dissertation research through a postdoctoral fellowship. I am super excited that this fall I will be joining the Department of African & African American Studies at Washington University in St. Louis! I'll be working on my first book manuscript and teaching two courses—one on environmental justice and the other on the art of Black healing.



Convocation

On May 18, 2024, the American & New England Studies Program and the Preservation Studies Program held their Convocation ceremony on the 17th floor of the new Data Sciences Building.



Congratulations to all of our graduates!

Bachelor of Arts in American Studies

Cadee Stefani
Minor in Film & Television

Luke Sweeney

Master of Arts in Preservation Studies

Victoria Hatchell
Concentration in History

Doctor of Philosophy in American & New England Studies

Grace McGowan
"Venus Worked in Bronze": African American Women Writers and Classical Beauty Myths

Kayli Rideout
"Not Made by Hands, Built by Memory and Devotion": Tiffany's Confederate Memorial Windows

Marina Wells
Making Men From Whales: Gender and American Whaling Art, 1814-1861

American Studies for the Future

"American Studies for the Future," continued with great success this year – thank you to everyone for participating!

For this series, 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 a Keynote Address by a senior member of our faculty, 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 9, 2023, we held an afternoon seminar with Professor Charlotte Howell, Associate Professor of Film & TV, who discussed a pre-circulated chapter entitled "U.S. National Teams: Negotiating Niche and Mass Appeal with Global Soccer Media Events." Professor Victoria E. Johnson (UC-Irvine) responded and gave a lecture that evening entitled " 'If You Build It...': The Sports Experience Economy and 'Flyover' Dreams."

On February 28, 2024, we held an afternoon seminar with Takeo Rivera, Assistant Professor of English, who discussed a pre-circulated chapter, "Another Joke is

Possible: Kristina Wong and Mutual Aid Carnavalesque." Professor Diana Taylor (New York University) responded and gave a public lecture that evening called "Zuckerberg's Smile or Presence in the Age of Digital Technologies."

On May 1, 2024, we held our Keynote with Professor Nazli Kibria, Professor of Sociology. Her talk was entitled "Model Minority and Brown Threat: South Asians in the U.S. Racial Landscape." We had a wonderfully festive reception afterwards back in 226 Bay State Road.

Co-Sponsored by BU Center for the Humanities, Dean of Arts & Sciences, Associate Dean For Diversity & Inclusion, African American & Black Diaspora Studies, and the Departments of English and History.



THE AMERICAN & NEW ENGLAND STUDIES
PROGRAM PRESENTS:

AMERICAN STUDIES FOR THE FUTURE

November 9, 2023: Charlotte Howell and Victoria E. Johnson
February 28, 2024: Takeo Rivera and Diana Taylor
May 1, 2024: Nazli Kibria

Please check our website for details about locations and accessibility
[HTTPS://WWW.BU.EDU/AMNESP/FUTURE/](https://www.bu.edu/amnesp/future/)



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Indigenous Studies Working Group

In Fall 2023, faculty in AMNESP founded the Indigenous Studies Working Group (ISWG). Co-Organized by Profs. Mary Battenfeld and Wade Campbell, this group builds community among students, scholars, and members of BU's campus interested in the interdisciplinary field of Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS). The group's goal is to showcase and discuss scholarship in NAIS through seminars, events, reading groups, film screenings, informal gatherings over meals, and public lectures and events. ISWG is part of AMNESP's initiative to build Indigenous Studies at BU, which also includes advocating for hiring new faculty in this area across departments and programs in CAS.

ISWG kicked off its work with an inaugural planning luncheon on December 13, 2023. The second event was hosted in tandem with BU's Conversations in the Arts and Ideas, where David Grann, author of *Killers of the Flower Moon*, discussed his work on February 28, 2024. Throughout the week, the ISWG participated in the conversation with Grann and discussed other works about Osage history in the 1920s. Copies of Grann's book as well as John Joseph Matthew's novel *Sundown* and Charles Red Corn's *A Pipe for February* were made available for the group to read.

ISWG concluded its work for the academic year with a lunch seminar on April 23, 2024 with guest speaker Kimberly Toney (Hassanamisco Nipmuc), the Inaugural Coordinating Curator of Native American and Indigenous Collections at the John Carter Brown Library and at the John Hay Library at Brown University. Toney also serves as an advisor and consultant to cultural institutions and land trusts in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, and is deeply engaged with cultural revitalization, language reclamation and landback efforts in her Nipmuc community.

The Indigenous Studies Working Group is sponsored by the American & New England Studies Program, the Boston University Center for the Humanities, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Associate Dean of the Faculty, Humanities, the Associate Dean of the Faculty, Social Sciences, and the Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion.

A hearty thank you to everyone who contributed to the AMNESP Gift fund during the 2023-24 academic year. Your thoughtfulness and generosity allowed us to support PhD research and conference travel, make book purchases, open house for admitted PhDs, catered lunches for the PhDs.

A special thanks to our anonymous donor for their \$1,000,000 gift that will allow us to create a public humanities fellowship program.

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Yanzhe Feng
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