

FALL 2014

PACIFIC COAST CONFERENCE ON BRITISH STUDIES

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michelle Tusan (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Mark your calendars! The PCCBS is coming to Las Vegas, March 6-8, 2015. Our program committee is busy planning what promises to be a memorable conference. Highlights include keynotes by Tom Laqueur and Kathleen Wilson and an author roundtable featuring Peter Mandler and a discussion of his book, *Return from the Natives*. Propose a paper or panel, grab a flight and make a reservation at the M Resort on Las Vegas Boulevard. Generous support from the Sidney Stern Memorial Trust has been provided to help fund travel to the conference for graduate students delivering papers.



All the information you need to participate in the conference can be found below. Deadline is December 1st. Please also consider submitting your work to one of our prize committees. This year we will be awarding a graduate student prize and an article prize.

The PCCBS continues to be one of the strongest and most vibrant of the regional British studies conferences. I'd like to thank our members who continue to dedicate their time to serving on committees, attending our annual conference and making the PCCBS a good place for graduate students, professors and independent scholars to meet and share their scholarship.

Our recent conference in Riverside at the beautiful Mission Inn was a terrific success. Lori Anne Ferrell and her program committee put together a diverse and engaging program. I can't thank Lori Anne enough for taking on the task as Program Chair who with the help of her committee, Randy McGowen, Tom Cogswell and Jeff Auerbach, delivered another great program that included participants from all over our region as well as throughout North America and abroad.

We were fortunate to have James Simpson from Harvard University join us as our Friday evening speaker at the Mission Inn where he delivered a talk on his current research entitled, "Taking Liberties: Why and When "liberties" became "Liberty" in Early Modern England." Simpson was introduced by Lori Anne Ferrell and used Milton's *Paradise Lost* to make the case for considering the importance of literary discourse over political theory in tracing the evolution of modern conceptions of liberty. I had the pleasure of introducing our lunchtime plenary speaker, Philippa Levine from University of Texas at Austin, who challenged historians to reconsider the normative politics of Victorian culture and society. Her talk, "Victorian Normal: Science Defines the Social in Nineteenth-Century Britain" traced the uses of discourses of normalcy in shaping categories of race and sex which had important implications both at home and in the empire.

A very big thank you goes to our past president Randy McGowen who dedicated his time and energy over the past two years in service of the PCCBS. Andrea McKenzie kept all of us up with the happenings of conference as Secretary and Kathleen Noonan made sure our books were balanced as treasurer. We are very fortunate to have Simon Devereaux as our new Vice President, Alister Chapman as Secretary, and David Campion as treasurer. Molly McClain continues her wonderful work as our Website Editor. A wonderful team. Simon Devereaux, Kelly Mays and Jeff Schauer join me on the program committee this year. I very much have enjoyed working with the officers and committee members past and present. Together we will continue to make the PCCBS a lively and useful gathering place for British studies in our region. Please do join us in Vegas in March.

**CALL FOR PAPERS: PCCBS ANNUAL MEETING, March 6-8, 2015
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

The Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies (PCCBS) invites paper and panel proposals for its 42nd annual meeting, to be held at the M Resort Spa Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, California, March 6-8, 2015.

The PCCBS invites papers representing all fields of British Studies—broadly defined to include those who study the United Kingdom, its component parts and nationalities, as well as Britain's imperial cultures. We welcome proposals from scholars and doctoral candidates in a wide range of disciplines across the humanities, social sciences, and the arts, including History, Literature, Political Science, Philosophy, Religion, Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Theater Studies, and Art History.

Proposals for individual papers, partial panels, or complete panels are all welcome, although complete panel proposals are preferred. We encourage the submission of proposals dealing with interdisciplinary topics, as well as panels on new pedagogies and technologies associated with British Studies.

The deadline for submission of proposals/panels is DECEMBER 1, 2014. Proposals should include a 200-words abstract for each paper plus a 1-page c.v. for each participant. Those submitting full or partial panel proposals should include a brief description of the panel plus a 1-page c.v. for the panel chair as well as for its commentator. Please place the panel proposal, its constituent paper proposals, and all vitae IN A SINGLE FILE, making certain that your contact information, especially e-mail addresses, are correct and current. Proposals should be submitted via e-mail attachment by December 1, 2014, to: pccbsproposals@gmail.com

*Graduate students who have papers accepted by the program committee will be eligible to request reimbursement for some travel expenses from the Stern Trust when registering for the conference.



PCCBS Article Prize, 2015

The biennial prize for the best article published between 2012-14 by a member of the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies will be awarded at the Spring 2015 meeting in Las Vegas along with a cash award.

Article Prize Submission Deadline: November 15, 2014

Copies of the article in PDF form should be sent to all three committee members:

James Vernon, Chair jvernon@berkeley.edu

Lisa Cody lisa.cody@claremontmckenna.edu

Susan Amussen samussen@ucmerced.edu



PCCBS Annual Graduate Prize, 2015

The PCCBS invites entries from PhD students for the annual graduate student prize. The prize will be awarded at the upcoming PCCBS conference this March in Las Vegas, Nevada. The student and the advisor, or instructor must be current members of PCCBS. The submitted entry will have been presented at the PCCBS meeting in March 2014 at UC Riverside, or, in the case of a graduate student studying at a university within the PCCBS region, at any other conference during 2014, as long as the paper concerns a topic within the scope of British Studies. The submission should be the paper as delivered with the addition of necessary notes and citations, the total to not exceed 18 pages double spaced. The winner(s) will receive a monetary prize and be recognized at the annual PCCBS meetings.

Graduate Prize Submission Deadline: November 15, 2014

Please send electronic or hard copies with cover letter from advisor or instructor to each member of the prize committee:

Prof. Peter H. Hoffenberg, Chair

peterh@hawaii.edu

History Department, Sakamaki Hall,
University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI
96822

Ethan Shagan shagan@berkeley.edu

Rob McLain rmclain@fullerton.edu

PCCBS OFFICERS, 2014-15

PRESIDENT: MICHELLE TUSAN, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS (UNLV)

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CHAIR, GRADUATE PRIZE COMMITTEE, 2015: PETER HOFFENBERG, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

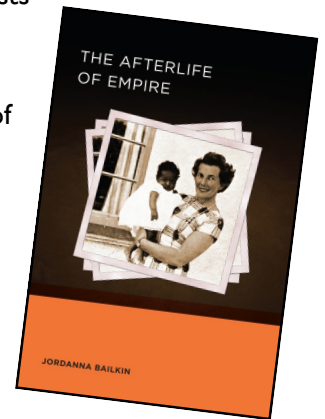
PROGRAM COMMITTEE, PCCBS LAS VEGAS, 2015: MICHELLE TUSAN, UNLV; SIMON DEVEREAUX, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA; KELLY MAYS, UNLV, LAS VEGAS; AND JEFF SCHAUER, UNLV.

Winner of the 2014 Book Prize

Jordanna Bailkin won the PCCBS Book Prize for *The Afterlife of Empire* (Berkeley: UC Press, 2012)

Michelle Tusan received honorary mention for her book entitled *Smyrna's Ashes: Humanitarianism, Genocide, and the Birth of the Middle East* (Berkeley: UC Press, 2012)

The Afterlife of Empire. In this absorbing study of post-war decolonization, Jordana Bailkin recasts the origins and meaning of the welfare state. Critically interrogating the National Archives associated with welfare, Bailkin persuasively shows the ways in which decolonization was as much a social process as a diplomatic one. She perceptively illuminates the enduring afterlife of empire among policymakers, experts, and the public at a crucial period between 1958 and 1962. In a bi-polar world, Britain sought to preserve its global influence through the development of new members of newly independent nation-states, especially in non-aligned West Africa. This project, as Bailkin richly documents, generated new knowledge about the capacities of migrants, as social scientists actively participated in shaping their transition to this new world order. Grounded in the politically freighted notion of lifecycle, these discourses and policies--ranging from the meaning of educational success or failure, mental and physical health, to marriage practices and parenting skills--stereotyped and pathologized the migrant experience. At the same time they forced reexamination of what it meant to be British, for native-born people as well as newcomers. Thus they not only underscored the global concerns that inflected the making of the welfare state but also animated the contentious national debate about Britain as a multicultural society.



Winner of the 2014 Graduate Prize

Winner: Karin Amundsen (USC), “‘Upon Uncertain Hope of Gain’: Alchemy and Empire in Tudor England”

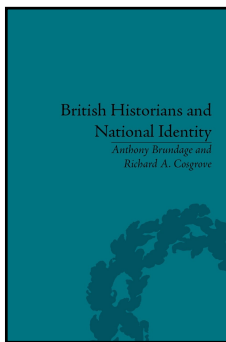
Amundsen’s original and insightful analysis of the interrelatedness of two forms of Tudor thought – the alchemical and the imperial – prompts a rethinking of the intellectual and material underpinnings of England’s expansion. Offering a sophisticated and nuanced, yet admirably clear discussion of the role of alchemy in providing the language in which empire could be spoken, Amundsen draws on an impressive range of primary and secondary sources, moving with ease between the histories of Continental metallurgy, English currency, and maritime exploration. She offers a rare integration of material and intellectual histories, revealing both the implications and enacting of competing ideas and interpretations. Beautifully composed, Amundsen’s paper takes us on many different journeys, never losing sight of the very real consequences of the journeys taken by Englishmen abroad.

Honorable Mention: Jamie Stoops (University of Arizona), “‘Pestilent Publications’: Pornography and Class Relations in Victorian England”

Stoops’ innovative examination of class and pornography in Victorian England brings a host of new players into the fray, vividly depicting consumers and producers of pornography of different classes and genders. In her compelling account, pornography becomes a site – and a much contested one – of class struggle, in which women took their place as active players in the trade. By focusing on middle-class consumers of pornography (and working-class producers and distributors), Stoops thwarts many of our expectations regarding the history of both sexuality and class to excellent effect.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

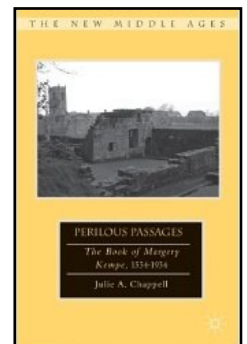
Jennifer Andersen (California State University at San Bernardino) was awarded an NEH Fellowship in 2013-2014 for her book-in-progress on "Satire and Libel in the Elizabethan fin de siècle: Thomas Nashe in contexts." Recent publications include "Nashe's Poem for Ferdinando Stanley, Lord Strange" in *ANQ: A Quarterly Journal of Short Articles, Notes and Reviews* (forthcoming, 2014), "Rewriting a Murder Pamphlet: the Perspective of Deviance in *The Changeling*" in *Appositions: Studies in Renaissance/ Early Modern Literature & Culture* 7 (forthcoming, 2014), and "Blame-in-Praise irony in *Lenten Stuffle*" in *The Age of Thomas Nashe: Texts, Bodies and Trespasses of Authorship in Early Modern England* eds. Stephen Guy-Bray, Joan Pong-Linton, and Steve Mentz (Ashgate Press, 2013).



Anthony Brundage (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona) newest book *British Historians and National Identity: From Hume to Churchill* (Pickering and Chatto, 2014), co-authored with Richard A. Cosgrove (University of Arizona) is to be published November 1, 2014. For the scope and contents of the volume, see www.pickeringchatto.com/hume2churchill.

Alister Chapman's article, "The International Context of Secularization in England: The End of Empire, Immigration, and the Decline of Christian National Identity, 1945-1970," comes out later this year in the *Journal of British Studies*.

Julie A. Chappell (Tarleton State University) published *Perilous Passages: The Book of Margery Kempe, 1534-1534* (*The New Middle Ages*) (Palgrave Macmillan, September 2013). She also is publishing two other books *Women during the English Reformations: Renegotiating Gender and Religious Identity*. (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014) and *Spectacle, Sex, and Property in Eighteenth-Century Literature and Culture* (AMS Press, 2014) which will be released in November.



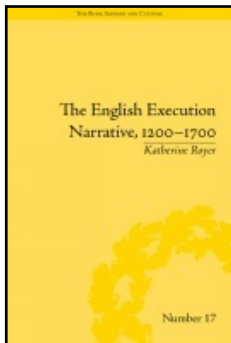
Dennis Dworkin (University of Nevada) wrote a review of Eric Hobsbawm's life and his last book *Fractured Times* for the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, which can be found at <http://lareviewofbooks.org/essay/peoples-scholar-eric-hobsbawm-fractured-time/>. He also gave the opening paper on the origins of cultural studies, entitled the "Lost History of Cultural Studies," at the conference commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of British cultural studies at the University of Birmingham, entitled "Birmingham Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies Fifty Years On," University of Birmingham, Birmingham, England (June 2014). He will also go to the Federal University of Uberlândia, Minas Gerais, Brazil in October of this year to give a talk "E. P. Thompson: Social History, Political Activism" at the conference entitled "E. P. Thompson: *The Making of the English Working Class* Fifty Years Later." A longer version of his talk is being published in Portuguese in the journal *Revista História & Perspectivas*, vol. 27, no. 50 (2014).

Peter Hoffenberg (University of Hawaii) has continued his work on the *Bulletin of the Pacific Circle*, which focuses on the history of science in the Pacific region, including Australia and New Zealand. Anyone interested may contact Peter at peterh@hawaii.edu

Rebecca Hughes (Seattle Pacific University) published her article, "Visions of Friendship and Equality: Representations of African Women in British Missionary Propaganda in Interwar Britain," in the *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* 24.2 (2014): 353-385.

Diana Maltz (Southern Oregon University) was awarded a UK-US Fulbright award to Liverpool and was there from September 2013 to March 2014. During that time, her critical edition of Arthur Morrison's 1896 slum novel, *A Child of the Jago*, came out through Broadview Press.

Molly McClain (University of San Diego) completed her book, *American Money: The Philanthropic Life of Ellen Browning Scripps, 1837-1932*. A ninth-generation San Diegan, she co-edits *The Journal of San Diego History* for the San Diego History Center.



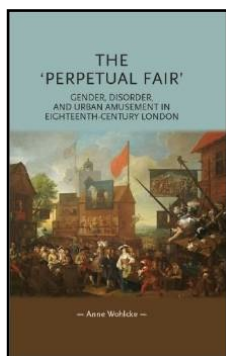
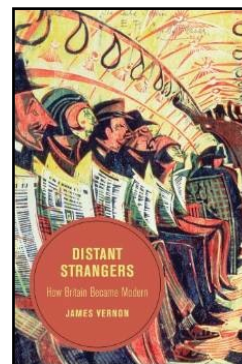
Katherine Royer (California State University at Stanislaus) published a new book *The English Execution Narrative: 1200- 1700* in January from Pickering and Chatto.

David Harris Sacks (Reed College) Richard F. Scholz Professor of History and Humanities in Reed College gave The Thomas Harriot Lecture in Oriel College, Oxford on May 29, 2014. The lecture, based on work he is completing on a book about Hakluyt and Harriot, was entitled "The Certain and Full Discovery of the World: Richard Hakluyt and Thomas Harriot." He is to present another version of this lecture to the Early Modern British and Irish History early in Lent term in the University of Cambridge. All are welcome to attend this lecture which is scheduled to take place in the Graham Storey Room in Trinity Hall, Cambridge starting at 5:15pm on Wednesday, February 4, 2015.

Peter Stansky (Stanford University) had a fellowship at the Center for the Advanced Studies of the Behavioural Sciences to write a biography of Edward Upward, a writer famous for being unknown. He is currently in England to finish his research on the topic.

Michelle Tusan (University of Nevada Las Vegas) published "'Crimes Against Humanity': Human Rights, the British Empire and the Origins of the Response to the Armenian Genocide" in the *American Historical Review* (February 2014). Her co-authored textbook, *Britain Since 1688* is due out with Routledge in November.

James Vernon (University of California at Berkeley) is glad to finally see the publication of a new book *Distant Strangers: How Britain Became Modern* as part of the Berkeley Series in British Studies that he co-edited with Mark Bevir. He is hoping that the book will be half as successful as one of the last books published in the series, Jordanna Bailkin's *The Afterlife of Empire*, which cleaned up all prizes in the field. He is now hard at work on the final volume of Cambridge University Press' new History of Britain series, which covers the period 1750 to the present. He reports he is almost done with the nineteenth century!



Anne Wohlcke (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona) published a new book, *The Perpetual Fair: Gender, Disorder, and Urban Amusement in Eighteenth-Century London*, which was published in June by Manchester University Press.