

History Major

Trinity College – History Department



“30 Reasons It’s Smart to Hire a History Student”

From the Blog by Shauna, Young Artist

<http://shaunanagins.com/2013/11/06/30-reasons-its-smart-to-hire-a-history-student>

As I sit at the tail end of my History and Communications double major, resume full of business-friendly internships and experiences, I can’t help but notice how underrated the History half of my education seems to be. It has helped me thrive in so many work worlds—from the public service to high tech marketing, to education to tourism.

It’s time we stopped overlooking the History degree.

Basically, studying History helps you develop key skills like critical thinking, communications, research, and writing. History students can pick up on patterns and systems quickly, think in big picture/abstract ways... and still rock that always important attention to detail.



- 1.) History students are experts at **tracking trends**. They know how people strategies and time-stamped statistics work (or don’t work)
- 2.) ...and, yes, they know how to **communicate** that information back
- 3.) When presented with a whole bunch of information, History students are trained to be able to quickly judge what is **relevant**, and why it is relevant.

The other 27 reasons can be found on our

History Department website:

<https://www.trincoll.edu/history/>

What Have Trinity College History Majors Done During the Last 50 Years?

Charles H. McGill III '63: He earned an MBA from the Tuck School at Dartmouth College and is a nationally recognized expert in mergers and acquisitions, corporate strategic planning, restructuring, and negotiating.

Paul Raether '68: President of the Board of Trustees of Trinity College since 2004, with a distinguished career in U.S finance and business.

Paul Sperry '90: Paul is a Co-Founder and President of Sperry, Mitchell & Company, a mergers and acquisitions firm.

Anne-Marie Barlick '98: Chief Executive Office, Codina Partners, the Coral Gables, a Florida real estate investment and development firm.

Albert Evans III '05: A military attorney with the United States Marine Corps after earning a law degree from Mercer and the University School of Law.

Allison Horrocks '09: While a PhD student in History at the University of Connecticut, Allison is currently working as a Public Historian in the Blackstone River Valley in Warwick, Rhode Island.

Nicholas Hamilton '10: is currently Marketing Director with Realty Tours and Travel, which mostly organizes tours in Mumbai, India.

Mollie Scheere '14: is Senior Projects Manager and Gallery, and previously Project Administrator with Boston Art Inc. which is a full service art consulting firm that specializes in planning, designing and delivering custom art programs for corporate, healthcare, hospitality and residential clients.

You can read more about Trinity College History Majors on our website: <https://www.trincoll.edu/history/>

What are the requirements for the History Major?

12 separate courses distributed as follows at C- or better

- ***Five (5) courses any level:***

Europe, United States, Before 1700, 2 non-Western (Asia, Africa, Middle East, Latin America)

- ***History 300, Workshop***

which must be taken at Trinity

- ***Five (5) 300-level seminars***
- ***Only one 300-level seminar taken aboard or at another institution may be counted toward the seminar requirement***
- ***Or 2-credit thesis option, HIST 498-499***
Honors in History apply to thesis option only

Find more information on the History Major requirements at
<https://www.trincoll.edu/history/major-requirements/>

A Sampling of Upcoming Spring 2022 History Courses

World Histories of Wine— Professor Regan-Lefebvre

Tokyo Story: Fishing to Cosmo - Professor Jeffrey Bayliss

Early America – Professor Thomas Wickman

Paris: Capital of 19th Century – Professor Kathleen Kete

Modern Jewish History – Professor Samuel Kassow

Italy and the Mediterranean – Professor Sean Cocco

Human Rights in Latin American and Caribbean – Professor Dario Euraque

South Africa/Anti-Apartheid Movement – Professor Seth Markle

Black Power/Red Power – Professor Mary McNeil

Race and Incarceration – Professor Cheryl Greenberg

Global 1001 Nights – Professor Zayde Antrim

Chinese Environmental History – Professor Clark Alejandrino

History Workshop – Professor Jonathan Elukin

For course descriptions, visit our website

<https://www.trincoll.edu/history/course-descriptions/>

Funds That Are Granted By The Department of History

Leroy Fund

The Leroy Fund, established in memory of Colin A. Leroy of the Class of 2010, provides grants to History majors and minors engaged in research projects for advanced seminars or senior theses in any field of history. Such grants may include, but are not restricted to, such purposes as special library acquisitions, travel to libraries and archives during the summer of the academic years, and study of foreign languages needed for research. The chairperson of the History Department will award grants in consultation with colleagues supervising student research projects and will send an annual report of the fund's activity to the family.

Chatfield Fund

Each year a thesis candidate will be selected as the History Department's 'Chatfield Fellow.' The criteria for the award will be the excellence and promise of the thesis proposal. All submitted prospectuses, regardless of subject or field, will be considered. In addition to the title 'Chatfield Fellow', the thesis writer designated as the recipient of this honor will receive support to visit archives or libraries and otherwise pursue the research project. Support will be furnished to the discretion of the Chair of the Department. This award is named for the late Professor Jack Chatfield '64, whose teaching career in the History Department spanned close to forty years.

Professor Chatfield was a thesis adviser par excellence, and the fund supports this award also honors his contributions as a teacher and director of student research in history.

Recent Senior Thesis Presentations

2019

Gus Daly:	Julian of Norwich: Mysticism, Authority, and Survival of Thought in Late Medieval England
Katherine Novko:	Classical Greece in Victorian Britain: A Case Study of the Ashmolean Museum
Catherine Trott:	William's Queen: Queen Melisende and Rule in 12 th Century Jerusalem

2020

Gillian Reinhard:	Orientalist Opera: Western Perceptions of the Other in the Early Twentieth Century
Connor Struyk:	Washington: The Politics and Perceptions, Which Shaped the Pacific War
Will Tjeltveit:	Riots and Rebellions: Memory of Newark's Long Hot Summer of 1967
Aidan Turek:	The Architect of a Myth: Albert Speer and the Construction of the Good Nazi

2021

Corey Cheung:	The Indigenous Poster Child of the Lost Cause: Examination of the Historiography of Brigadier Stand Watie and the Legacy of Cherokee Confederate Involvement during the Civil War
Brendan Clark:	There is No Corruption in the World So Bad: Archbishop William Laud, William Prynne, and Secret Histories of Caroline England, 1633-1646
Timothy Hart:	Erwin Rommel: The Myth of the Desert Fox
Elizabeth Sockwell:	Gladys Tantaquidgeon: Through Newspapers and Her Published Works
Kit Epstein:	The Twentieth Century Downfall of Professional Midwifery in Britain and its Gendered Connotation

Trinity College History Department Faculty

Clark Alejandrino

joined Trinity in 2019 after finishing his PhD at Georgetown University. He is a China historian specializing in climate and animal history whose work spans several centuries of Chinese history. He is currently completing a project on typhoons in South China from the fifth century onward and looking forward to starting a new project on migratory birds in Chinese history.

Zayde Antrim

joined the Trinity faculty in 2006 after receiving a PhD from Harvard in 2005. She teaches courses on Islamic and Middle Eastern history, gender and sexuality, cities, and mapping. She is the author of *Routes and Realms: The Power of Place in the Early Islamic World* (Oxford University Press, 2012) and *Mapping the Middle East* (Reaktion Books, 2018), as well as numerous articles and book chapters. She has worked, studied, or conducted research in Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, and Turkey.

Jeff Bayliss

covers Japanese and Korean history in the department. He came to Trinity in 2004, after earning a PhD in History from Harvard and an MA in Education from Miyagi University of Education, a Japanese national teachers' college in Sendai, Japan, and a BA from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. Jeff has spent about 15 years living, working, and doing research in Japan, while also pursuing his time-consuming hobbies of appreciating fine saké and training in the martial art of Aikido. His research interests include issues of minority identity in imperial and postwar Japan, the intersection of sports and empire in 20th century Japan and Korea, and Japanese responses to natural disasters.

Jonathan Elukin

teaches on various subjects related to medieval history, including the Crusades, English Common Law, and Jewish-Christian relations. The splendid resources of the Watkinson Library at Trinity prompted him to study the history of the book, and he offers courses on book history and the history of the Bible. Some courses are inspired by his interests in war, miracles, Jews in English literature, and science fiction and religion. His first book, *Living Together, Living Apart: Rethinking Jewish-Christian Relations in the Middle Ages* was published by Princeton University Press in 2007. He is currently working on a book about *The Merchant of Venice*, and a book about the history of the idea of Antisemitism. Jonathan enjoys studying the Middle Ages but would have preferred to live in Victorian London.

Sean Cocco

joined the faculty in 2005 after earning his Ph.D. from the University of Washington. He teaches courses on the Italian Renaissance, early modern Europe, the Mediterranean, the history of science, and environmental history. He is the author of *Watching Vesuvius: A History of Science and Culture in Early Modern Italy* (University of Chicago, 2012). His most recent publications are a co-edited volume, *L'Europa moderna e l'antico Vesuvio* (Laveglia e Carlone, 2017) and an essay titled "Baroque Tectonics: Erupting and Disrupting the Vesuvian City" (co-written with Alfonso Tortora, *Open Arts Journal*, 2018). He is writing a new book titled *Naples Below the Sea*.

Darío A. Euraque

has taught at Trinity since 1990, when he received his Ph. D in Latin American and Caribbean history from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He has published five books on modern Honduran history, including a memoir about his experiences when he served as the Director of the Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History until the civilian-military coup of 2009. Most recently, co-authored with Yesenia Martinez, he published, *The African Diaspora in the Educational Programs of Central America* (New Jersey: Africa World Press, 2016). He is writing two biographies, one of a Honduran poet and another of a Honduran banana planter. He is currently Co-Director of Trinity's Center for Caribbean Studies. Darío loves the poetics of Latin American and Caribbean history.

Luis Figueroa-Martínez

has been teaching at Trinity since 1996. He obtained his B.A. from the Universidad de Puerto Rico in Río Piedras, and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In 2006 the University of North Carolina Press and the Editorial de la Universidad de Puerto Rico jointly published his first book, *Sugar, Slavery and Freedom in Nineteenth-Century Puerto Rico*. He has collaborated in the production of two public-television documentaries, *Puerto Rican Passages* (1995), which documents the Puerto Rican migration to Connecticut, and *Ritmo de Pueblo/Rhythm of the People* (2001), which focuses on Puerto Rican music culture. His current research projects include two books, one on urbanism and modernity in San Juan since the 1930s, and one on race, diaspora and cultural nationalism in Puerto Rican basketball since the 1960s. Figueroa-Martínez counts among his role models Caribbean scholar and activist C.L.R. James and French documentary filmmaker Chris Marker. His musical tastes range from Celia Cruz to David Guetta.

Trinity College History Department Faculty

Scott Gac

joined the Trinity History Department and American Studies Program in 2009. He teaches on American violence, culture, and social reform; dreams of being a gangsta rapper; and swims, cycles, and runs way too much. *Singing for Freedom*, his first book, details the rise and fall of the Hutchinson Family Singers, the antislavery singing sensation of the 1840s. He is currently at work on a book that details the transformation of the American understanding of violence, which explains his collection of guillotines, and on smaller projects that explore nineteenth-century American identity and race relations. He is the director of the American Studies Program.

Cheryl Greenberg

teaches courses in African American history and twentieth century social and cultural history, including the civil rights movement, crime, Star Trek, protest literature, and race. Her own research focuses on African American history in the twentieth century. She has written three books, one on Harlem, one on African Americans during the Great Depression, and one on Black-Jewish relations. She edited a book on the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and is editing the memoir and oral history of a civil rights activist in Mississippi. She is working on two other projects: one on historical debates over free speech protections for hate speech, and another on shifts in African American attitudes toward gay marriage.

Samuel Kassow

graduated from Trinity in 1966 and then studied on a Fulbright at the London School of Economics. Various academic peregrinations included Saint Antony's College Oxford, Leningrad State University and Princeton, where he eventually earned his Ph.D. Kassow arrived back at Trinity as a young instructor in 1972. He has taught many areas of history including some, like Medieval Europe, which he knew absolutely nothing about. He has pursued research in East European and Jewish history and has recently been a head consultant for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, which opened in Warsaw in 2013. His books include the best-selling *Students Professors and the State in Tzarist Russia 1884-1917*, the co-edited *Between Tsar and People: the Search for Civil Society in Tzarist Russia*, *The Distinctive Life of East European Jewry* and *Who will Write our History*. *Who will Write our History* has been translated into eight languages, was awarded the Orbis prize of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies and was runner-up for the National Jewish Book Award.

Kathleen Kete

is writing a history of the Alps in the age of the French Revolution which will be taking her to Chamonix again this summer. She hopes someday – fitness permitting – to complete the “Tour du Mont Blanc” which is one of the most celebrated hikes in Europe. In addition to courses on the Alps and ‘mountains and oceans in European history’ she teaches French and general European history, with a focus on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. She is director of the French Studies Minor and helps administer Trinity's Program in Paris. Her most recent book *Making Way for Genius: The Aspiring Self in France from the Old Regime to the New Boudoir: Petkeeping Culture in Nineteenth-Century Paris* and edited *A Cultural History of Animals in the Age of Empire*.

Seth Markle

joined Trinity's Department of History and International Studies Program in 2009. He earned his B.A from Tufts University, majoring in African Studies & English/Creative Writing. In 2011, he received his Ph.D. in History from New York University. As an undergraduate student, he studied abroad in Ghana, which led to a senior thesis on African American Expatriates in Ghana from 1955-1998. Ever since then, Professor Markle has spent most of his career teaching, researching and writing about the intersections between African and African American history. In his limited spare time, he serves as a co-host and producer of WRTC 89.3 'Afrika @ Work' radio show, and general manager of NBA Fantasy Basketball team named "The Hooligans".

Jennifer Regan-Lefebvre

joined Trinity in 2013 and teaches courses in British, British Imperial and Irish history. She earned her B.S. at Georgetown University and her M.A. and Ph.D. at Queen's University Belfast. Her first book was a study of Irish-Indian nationalist collaboration, entitled *Cosmopolitan Nationalism in the Victorian Empire* (2009); she has also published an edited book, *For the Liberty of Ireland at Home and Abroad* (2010) and a number of shorter pieces. She is currently writing a history of the wine trade in the British Empire. This is a serious scholarly project that raises major questions about imperial identity and trade; it is not, she insists, a cheeky excuse to taste fine wines. A New Englander who lived abroad for eighteen years - in England, Ireland, Northern Ireland and France – and who has moved twenty-eight times, she now enjoys renovating a historic home in Old Wethersfield.

Tom Wickman

joined the Trinity History Department and American Studies Program in 2012, having completed an A.B., A.M., and Ph.D. at Harvard University. He offers courses on environmental history, Native American history, and colonial North American history. His first book *Snowshoe Country: An Environmental and Cultural History of Winter in the Early American Northeast* was published in 2018. He plays pick-up basketball and enjoys watching films.

A Message from the Chair of the History Department

Dear Trinity College Student:

I would like to entice you to bring your abilities, talents, and intellectual curiosity and to consider applying them to the study of History. Together, my sixteen colleagues in the History Department and I can offer you a comprehensive understanding of the past, making it possible for you to explore it both broadly and deeply, through a wide variety of survey courses, research seminars independent studies, and thesis projects. Wherever and whenever your historical interest may lie, our department has courses that will appeal to you. Moreover, our mission as scholars and teachers of history is to help you explore and develop those interests in new and increasingly thought-provoking directions.

Perhaps you have already explored our department on the web, but just in case, I have included several links to a few on-line resources that I hope you will find of interest.

<https://www.trincoll.edu/history/major-requirements/>

This page will give you a good sense of who we are and what we do at Trinity, as well as what the major looks like and the kinds of careers that many of our graduates proceed on to after earning their bachelor's degree in History – a very important concern for students.

<https://www.trincoll.edu/history/course-descriptions/>

This page contains descriptions of the courses that our faculty offer. Not all of the courses listed are offered every year, but they are all offered in regular rotation.

[Http://commons.trincoll.edu/historyblog/](http://commons.trincoll.edu/historyblog/)

Finally, History at Trinity has a blog – separate from our homepage – which features posts about faculty and student research and other activities related to “doing history” at Trinity, many of which were written by our students:

I am sure that the information to be found on the links above and in the handout will answer many of your questions, many, but certainly not all. To that end, please do not hesitate to contact me with any other questions or concerns you might have, either by email, phone, or stop by my office. I would like to help and look forward to hearing from you.

Professor Jeffrey Bayliss

Chair of History Department, Associate Professor of History

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