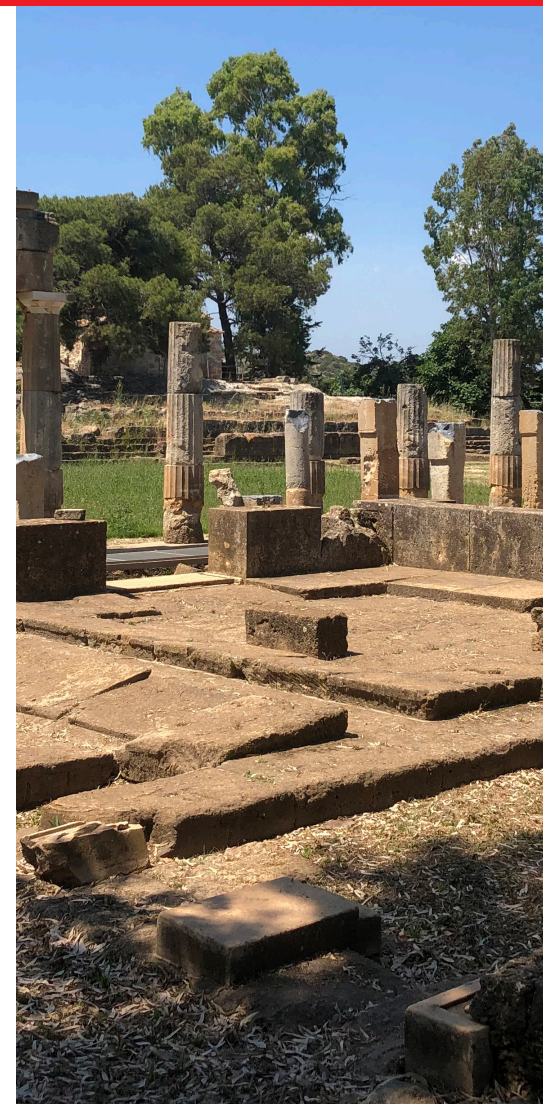
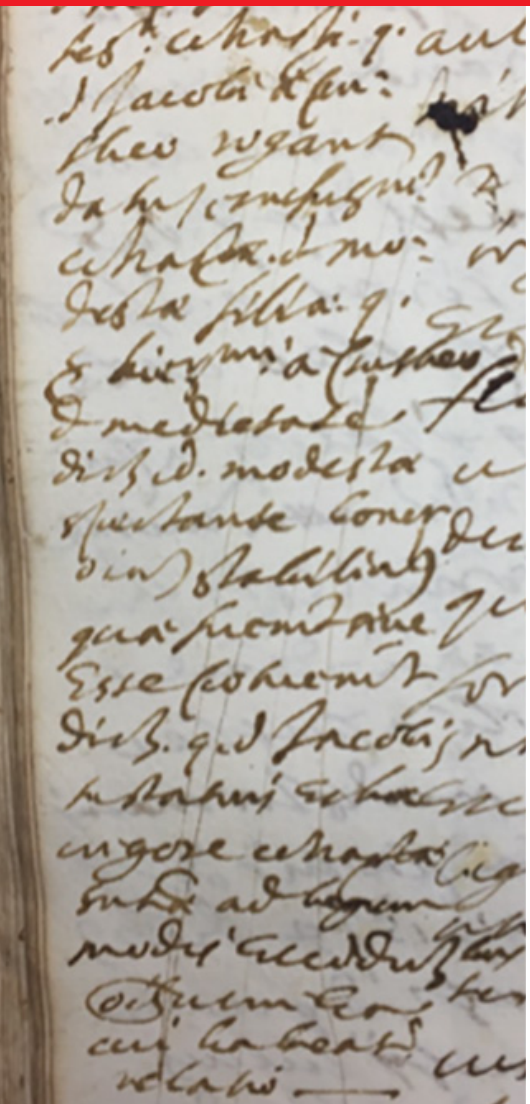




BROWN

2023 Sabbatical Research Newsletter



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Foreword

This is the 10th edition of the annual Brown Sabbatical Research Newsletter published by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty. Its main focus is on research conducted by Brown faculty during the past academic year that has been made possible by our sabbatical program (also included are some reports on nonsabbatical research).

Brown instituted the sabbatical leave in 1891, 11 years after Harvard had become the first university in the U.S. to introduce a system of paid research leaves. (Brown was the fifth institution in the nation to adopt such a program, following Harvard, Cornell, Wellesley and Columbia.) As these dates suggest, the concept of the sabbatical emerged out of the establishment of the modern research university in America during the second half of the 19th century. A 1907 report by a committee of the trustees of Columbia University underlines the fundamental principle on which this innovation was based: “the practice now prevalent in Colleges and Universities of this country of granting periodic leaves of absence to their professors was established not in the interests of the professors themselves but for the good of university education” (cited in Eells, 253). Thus the restorative action of the sabbatical was understood to affect primarily not individual faculty members but the university as an intellectual community and an educational institution. The promulgators of the modern university believed that time for intensive focus on research contributed significantly and directly to the quality of the knowledge and methods transmitted by the university to its students and to the public in general.

For more than 120 years Brown has reaffirmed that belief by granting sabbaticals to its faculty. The following publication of sabbatical research aims to provide some indications of the results of these research leaves over the last year. The entries are lightly edited versions of the reports submitted by the individual faculty members. I hope that they will be found interesting and instructive.

Leah VanWey
Dean of the Faculty

Further reading: Walter Crosby Eells, “The Origin and Early History of Sabbatical Leave,” AAUP Bulletin 48. 3 (September 1962): 253-256 (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/40222893>).



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Elissavet Amanatidou

CLASSICS • 2022-23

Elsa Amanatidou's academic year was a productive one as several research initiatives produced tangible results and new ones were born.

She spent her magical sabbatical year on a number of projects that may be briefly summed up as “Greek this, Greek that” and which fall into three main categories: writing, training and speaking on aspects of foreign language pedagogy, with a focus on assessment and critical literacies; expanding an ongoing literacy project that is housed in the TopHat platform, which will be piloted in Greek language classrooms on the Brown campus and beyond, as of Fall 2023; and being actively involved as chair, co-chair and panelist in the organization and implementation of national and international cross-institutional events and initiatives in the field of modern Greek studies, in the U.S. and Europe.

Here are some highlights:

Amanatidou collaborated with a team of linguists at the National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland on a project that concerned the development of an online interactive tutor of Greek. The product of this research endeavor, which started in 2021, was the recently published [Lectia app](#) for learning Greek (December 2022). Amanatidou's role as Greek Subject Matter Expert (SME) included reviewing audio, video and reading content; developing lessons and assessments; ensuring the accuracy and quality of all lesson components (transcript, translation and glossary items); and confirming the alignment of each lesson level with the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) scale.

Collaborative projects across institutions continued with a [Mellon Foundation Project](#) out of the University of Chicago, which resulted in the co-authorship of assessment materials together with Professor Nikolas Kakkoufa (Columbia University). Following an eight-day workshop that focused on the realignment of curricula, materials and assessment by adhering to a reverse-design model, Amanatidou and Kakkoufa spent a good part of August creating a battery of end-of-year proficiency tests and rubrics, based on American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) guidelines. The tests were vetted and approved by the assessment specialists at the University of Chicago Language Center in Fall 2022 and will be made available to modern Greek language programs in the U.S.

Assessment was on Amanatidou's mind for a good part of the year. As chief examiner of international qualifications in Greek at various levels of achievement, she produced several question papers and mark schemes for the summer 2023 [GCE](#) and [GCSE](#) examinations in Greek. She has also been responsible for the training of assessment associates in the U.K., Greece and Cyprus, in person and online, and has already produced first drafts for the 2024 examinations.

The spirit of collaboration reigned supreme with presentations in various fora at home and abroad. Amanatidou collaborated with Stéphanie Ravillon (Brown, French Studies) on two joint presentations: a panel at ACTFL 2022 on “The Role of Visual Narratives for the Promotion of Literacy and Interculturality” and a second panel on “The Role of Translation and Translanguaging in Literacy Development” at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) — the latter with Kakkoufa. In May 2023, Elsa had a great time talking to Brown professor and novelist Laird Hunt about his work, in an event that was part of the International Thessaloniki Book Fair.

Amanatidou worked on the final edits of her chapter on the use of literature, especially the Greek poet Cavafy, in the language classroom, and this has now gone to press for inclusion in the MLA edited volume on the pedagogical contexts of Cavafy's corpus (forthcoming later in 2023). In December 2022, her essay on teaching heritage learners appeared in the online journal [Eryon](#), which focuses on Greek American and diaspora arts and letters.

Amanatidou made headway in her ongoing project to re-introduce text to the language classroom as part of the pedagogical objective of promoting critical literacies alongside communicative competence. To that effect, she has added to the existing corpus of annotated texts and accompanying exercises that target various cognitive operations and levels of achievement and which reside on the educational platform TopHat. Unlike the textbook that cannot keep up with the pace of the world, these texts of various genres embrace themes that investigate, for example, the Greek #MeToo movement, the Afro-Greek communities, the migrant crisis and other topics of currency.

Finally, in addition to the solitary work of research and writing, Amanatidou was happy to be part of a community of like-minded colleagues and see her two years of work as co-chair of the program committee of an international symposium culminate in the [27th Modern Greek Studies Association \(MGSA\) symposium in Toronto](#). Since then, and as chair of the MGSA undergraduate studies committee, she has been devoting a lot of energy in the organization of the biennial workshop on Greek pedagogy, which is devoted to translation and is due to take place in October 2023.

In between “Greek this, Greek that,” Amanatidou embarked on some serious thinking while walking. Together with her fellow ninja pilgrims, she walked the Portuguese Camino from Porto to Santiago de Compostela; the Via Francigena from Lucca to Siena; and the Via di Francesco from Gubbio to Rome.



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Peter Andreas

POLITICAL SCIENCE • 2022-23

During his year of leave, Peter Andreas worked on a book manuscript, “The Illicit Global Economy: What Everyone Needs to Know” (under contract with Oxford University Press). He drafted much of the manuscript during his sabbatical and expects to complete it by early 2024 (with an anticipated publication date of 2025).

The sabbatical year also gave Andreas the opportunity to read widely on the history of global commerce as part of the research for his next book project on the historical origins and transformation of smuggling and its role in imperial expansion and subversion. He was affiliated with the University of Granada (Faculty of Political Science and Sociology) in Spain during the academic year.

The following is a brief description of the current book project:

Andreas’s book examines the illicit side of the global economy and efforts to police it. It covers a wide mix of cross-border illicit economic activities, from people smuggling to drug trafficking to black market arms dealing. The book helps to answer questions about how these illicit markets are structured and operate, how they intersect with state institutions and practices, how they intersect with the legal economy, and how they shape and are shaped by domestic and international politics.

The goal of the book is to help readers make sense of a timely and important dimension of the global economy that is too often either neglected or distorted. In this regard, an underlying theme that runs throughout the book is the need for a more historically informed critical perspective that challenges the many myths and misconceptions about the illicit global economy that are all-too-prevalent in contemporary media accounts, Hollywood depictions, popular books and policy debates. At the same time, it is remarkable how often the illicit global economy is glossed over in discussions and debates about the global economy in general. For instance, it is striking that the book “International Trade: What Everyone Needs to Know” (in the same Oxford University Press book series) entirely ignores the illicit side of trade. Apparently, there is nothing about illicit trade that needs to be known when it comes to international trade. The same neglect is evident in international political economy textbooks and readers and business school curricula. Andreas’s book is therefore a modest effort to help fill this glaring gap.

Many of the general books related to the illicit global economy that have come out in recent years tend to be rather sensationalistic accounts aimed at a non-academic audience, or scholarly monographs aimed at fairly narrow and specialized disciplinary debates. This book aims to carve out a middle ground: an engaging and accessible yet serious and non-polemical introductory account of the illicit dimensions of the global economy that appeals to readers both inside and outside of academia. There has also been a proliferation of books on specific illicit trades, such as drug dealing, wildlife trafficking and migrant smuggling, often with a country or regional focus. Some of these accounts also examine the links between illicit trade and armed conflict. Andreas’s book builds on these important single-issue and geographically defined works to paint a much broader picture of the wider world of clandestine commerce.

This book is in many ways the culmination of over three decades of research, writing and teaching about illicit economy-related issues. Andreas began with a regional and policy-oriented interest in drug trafficking and migrant smuggling in the Americas, broadened to a more global focus on the internationalization of crime control, then turned to the dynamics of illicit economies and armed conflict in the Balkans, followed by more recent work on the historical evolution of U.S. illicit trade and the nexus between drugs and warfare from ancient times to the present. In this latest book, Andreas draws from, builds on and synthesizes this cumulative body of work.



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Nomy Arpaly

PHILOSOPHY • SPRING 2023

Nomy Arpaly's semester of leave was mostly used to develop work in moral psychology. Moral psychology is the philosophical study of the way we psychologically relate to our moral duties and our emotional embrace of or resistance to morality. In this case, work took the form of a few talks — at King's College, London (on agency), at Oxford (on moral emotions), at the University of Warwick in the U.K. (a combination of both), at the university of Sheffield in the U.K. and at the University of Tampere in Finland (on moral worth). Audience interaction was highly productive in all of these places.

When it came to agency, questions were tackled such as whether the person who says she feels like some alien force “possessed” her when she accepted a bad offer from a used car salesman is onto something, at least metaphorically. The view defended in these presentations was that the human sense of agency and lack thereof is too complex and generally unreliable for the purpose of being imbued with philosophical meaning that some wish to give it. When it came to emotions, the Oxford talk concerned especially the emotion of guilt. A view was defended of moral emotions in general as expressing moral concern and related desires in conjunction with relevant beliefs and the way we can become jaded or hardened to facts and was demonstrated by facts about guilt. Among the questions discussed: To what extent is there such a thing as the right emotion to feel in particular circumstances? How come it sometimes seems appropriate to feel guilt for something that is not your fault? The talk at the University of Warwick concerned different emotions: compassion or sympathy on one hand and the sense of duty on the other, relating to ancient questions about whether doing the right thing is more praiseworthy when it is accompanied by difficulty and pain or, conversely, when it brings the agent happiness. The talks for Sheffield and Tampere were on the topic of moral worth. Moral worth is what an action has if it is the right thing to do and also done for moral reasons (giving to charity for the sole purpose of getting a tax deduction, for example, is often said to be a right action that does not have moral worth). When it came to moral worth, there exists a disagreement in the philosophical literature as to whether it comes with doing the right thing because you believe it to be right or rather with doing the right thing for the reasons that make it right (for example, on the first view the worthy reason to give to charity is simply “it's the right thing to do” but on the second view it would be “because it helps people,” or “because it reduces world suffering,” or whatever it is that makes it the right thing to do. Currently, some argue for compromise or hybrid views to the effect that both motives grant right actions moral worth. In her talks in Sheffield and Tampere, Arpaly argued it cannot be the case — there is a stark choice to be made between the two views. This argument got a lot of interest and Arpaly will soon present it at the Madison Metaethics Workshop.

In all these talks, Arpaly advanced a research project that started with her first book, a major part of which involves arguing that morally worthy actions are done for the reasons for which they are right (things like their helpfulness, their honesty, etc.). The project was directly defended in Sheffield and Tampere but was also advanced in her other talks, her treatment of moral emotions being essentially an explication of how a morally good person will react to morally important facts and her treatment of agency being to a large extent a reply to critics. This set of talks has given her the basis to start a new book project, which will relate moral worth to virtue and to normative ethics (the part of ethics concerned with the question of which actions are right and which are wrong).

She also completed one paper in epistemology, now forthcoming in *Philosophical Issues*, and wrote another paper, related to the project described above, now forthcoming in an *Oxford Handbook of Normative Ethics*.

Omer Bartov

HISTORY • 2022-23

Omer Bartov spent the first semester of his leave doing intensive research in Israel as part of his work toward a new book, tentatively titled “Israel, Palestine: A Personal Political History.” This was rather unconventional historical research, since it entailed conducting in-depth interviews of approximately two to three hours each with close to 70 first-generation Jewish and Palestinian Israeli citizens mostly born between the late 1940s and early 1960s. The main question guiding these interviews, which stretched from the subjects' parental home and childhood to the present, concerned the formation, evolution and intensity of their link to the place. These estimated 150 hours of recordings have meanwhile been transcribed, providing hundreds of pages of raw interview material.



Omer Bartov and Thabet Abu-Raas, co-executive director of the Abraham Initiatives, an NGO that promotes equality and Jewish-Arab partnership in Israel's society, stand together on a beach in southern Israel. Abu-Raas's family was split when the population of his ancestral village of Kalanswa was expelled along this beach to Gaza, seen in the background, in 1948 (photo taken in November 2022).



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Professor Amal Jamal, who teaches political science at Tel Aviv University, stands on his own piece of land, which he has not been allowed to develop for over a decade. His ancestral Druze village of Yarka in the upper Galilee is in the background (photo taken in November 2022).

Additionally, Bartov was helped by his brilliant undergraduate research assistant, Amienne Spencer-Blume, who conducted 14 in-depth interviews in Germany with men and women who participated in the “atonement” (Sühnezeichen) program that sent young German volunteers of that same postwar generation to work for 18 months in Israel in the 1970s. Here the main question guiding the interviews was the immediate and long-term effect of these months in Israel on the subjects’ link to Jewish and Palestinian citizens and their views about the state of Israel, taking into account their own troubled relationship to Germany’s Nazi past and the Holocaust.

Bartov spent the Spring 2023 semester working through this mass of materials and sketching out the contours of his book, which he hopes to complete by the end of the coming academic year. The book will be an attempt to write a first-person history of this (his) generation’s foundational role in creating post-1948 Jewish Israeli and Arab Palestinian society, identity, culture and politics. At the core of this project is the recognition that there are vast differences between the case of Jewish Israelis and Palestinian citizens of Israel. The former group was educated and perceived as the great normalizer of Jewish existence, namely the first generation of Jews born in a sovereign Jewish-majority state in the wake of the genocide of the majority of European Jewry. The latter became the first “abnormal” generation of Palestinians, in its members were born shortly after the majority of the Arab

population of what became the state of Israel either fled or were expelled by the Israeli military in the course of what Jews refer to as the War of Independence and Palestinians call the Nakba, or catastrophe, of 1948. Nonetheless, these two groups have created what is now contemporary Israeli society, a fifth of whose population are Palestinians. As for the German interviewees, Bartov hopes to apply their very different perspective to add greater nuance to a picture that could otherwise appear too symmetrical in its polarity as well as to underline the larger context of the establishment of the state.

The three months spent interviewing people in Israel, between October 2022 and January 2023, were a powerful and moving experience. Because interviews focused on the personal aspect of people’s lives, and often touched on the catastrophes and loss experienced by the interviewees’ parents, they made for a unique openness and facilitated much empathy,



The Palestinian village of Isawiya is seen from the balcony of the Mandel Center of Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (photo taken in June 2023, during a conference on uprooting populations at the Mandel Center).

beyond any political argumentation and ideological positioning. The point of these interviews was to listen to people’s subjective understanding of their links to the place through their relationship with those closest to them and their personal experiences. The book, when it is written, will attempt to use as much as the interviewees’ own words as possible, recognizing that practically all of them, men and women, Arabs and Jews, Christians, Muslims and Druze, secular and religious, urban and rural, Ashkenazi and Mizrahi (Sephardi) and Bedouin, have a powerful, mostly self-evident, yet also complex, contested and often painful link to the land where they live. The attempted “legal reform” by the current Israeli government, which has led to a mass pro-democracy protest movement, and the increasing violence by Israeli settlers and the Israeli Defense Forces in recent months, have added greater urgency to this project, whose underlying assumption is that only mutual recognition of the Palestinian and Jewish link to the place and their consequent right to live in it in peace and security with equal rights will bring an end to the conflict.



Individuals participate in an anti-reform demonstration in Tel Aviv in June 2023.



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Rebecca Burwell

COGNITIVE, LINGUISTIC, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES • FALL 2022

On July 1, 2022, Rebecca Burwell stepped down from chairing the Department of Cognitive, Linguistic and Psychological Sciences (CLPS). One of her last actions was to select a hiring planning committee comprising junior faculty and more senior faculty who had not previously participated in the hiring process. The committee was charged with developing a hiring plan that addressed a departmental goal of increasing the diversity of the applicant pool for open faculty positions. The committee devised an excellent plan that was ultimately completely successful in yielding three hires.

Although on sabbatical, Burwell remained active in her service to the department. She agreed to serve on one of the search committees as diversity representative, and to co-chair the CLPS Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan committee for the 2022-23 academic year. Realizing that success in these searches would be critical for the future of the department, she put a substantial amount of effort into the search committee activities and into ensuring that both searches followed best practices for hiring for diversity and inclusion.

Burwell retired on June 30, 2023, and has been winding down her research program, closing out her RoI in November 2022 and her National Science Foundation Award in April 2023. She continues to support her two graduate students. One defended his thesis work in the summer and the other completed work in the lab over the summer and will be defending next year.

Publications:

Heimer-McGinn, V.R. Trettel, S.G., Kent, B., Singh, A.N., Burwell, R.D. Neurons in the postrhinal cortex encode nonspatial context during visual biconditional discrimination. bioRxiv 2022.06.23.497405; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.06.23.497405>

Yang, F.C., L.B. Dokovna and R.D. Burwell (2022). "Functional Differentiation of Dorsal and Ventral Posterior Parietal Cortex of the Rat: Implications for Controlled and Stimulus-Driven Attention." Cereb Cortex 32(9): 1787-1803. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/cercor/bhab308>

DeAngeli, N.E., D.I. Fournier, A.T. Gullledge, R.D. Burwell, T.P. Todd and D.J. Bucci (2022). "Postrhinal cortex contributions to the expression of auditory fear conditioning." Neurobiol Learn Mem 191: 107609. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nlm.2022.107609>

V.J. Estella, S.G. Trettel, R.D. Burwell. Novel oscillatory events in rodents during complex discrimination. Program No. 077.05. 2022 Neuroscience Meeting Planner. San Diego, CA: Society for Neuroscience, November 2022. Manuscript in preparation.

Jennifer Candipan

SOCIOLOGY • 2022-23

During her leave, Jennifer Candipan was funded by Brown and an external grant from the Spencer Foundation. Her primary goal during the leave period was to develop her emerging research program on the connection between place and health, more broadly, and to substantially advance her [Spencer-funded project](#) on the consequences of neighborhood and school change for individual health, more specifically. In this project (with Nicole Hair at University of South Carolina and Katrina Walsemann at University of Maryland), she explores how changing neighborhood and school contexts influence the mental health and academic achievement of school-age children. She presented preliminary findings from the first paper (currently under review) at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America (PAA) in April. Several manuscripts are in process with submission planned for the upcoming academic year.

A secondary goal for this leave was to make progress on other projects, as well as forge several new collaborations. In a new project (with Chantal Hailey at University of Texas at Austin), she combines multiple data sources to examine how racial change in both contexts relates to racial disparities in school discipline over the past decade. Motivated by racial group position theory, which asserts that advantaged groups try to maintain social positions through various actions and policy responses, this project uses schools as a site for exploring such policy changes, focusing specifically on racial disparities in suspension rates in demographically changing neighborhoods. She presented early findings this past winter at Princeton University's Education Research seminar, as well as PAA in April. She is currently revising and resubmitting grant proposals that would support this project in the coming years.

In a separate line of work, Candipan published, presented and advanced research from ongoing and new projects aimed at understanding how social processes are patterned across space and over time. The first paper (with Robert J. Sampson at Harvard University) advances our understanding of how history imprints itself on different generations. This study, [published this spring](#), combines census/American Community Survey data with restricted residential history data from the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods to examine individuals'



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neighborhood poverty trajectories from childhood to young adulthood among multiple birth cohorts from Chicago. The study results reveal remarkable consistency of white advantage and the heterogeneity of nonwhite disadvantage, but these patterns are conditioned by the historical change that differentiates the experience of successive birth cohorts. A second study (with Noli Brazil at University of California, Davis) examines neighborhood diversity and segregation generationally through the lens of where millennial young adults live. The study findings suggest that young adult millennials are not dramatically altering the urban residential landscape in ways that strongly move the needle toward markedly greater diversity and lower segregation. Results from this study (currently under review) were presented at PAA in April and recently covered in the [Wall Street Journal](#). Findings advance our understanding on residential stratification, urban inequality and neighborhood change. Third, building on insights from her previous work, a new project (with Brian Levy at George Mason University) argues that researchers aiming to understand the influence of neighborhood contexts on individual well-being should examine individuals' residential environments as well as the neighborhoods that they visit. The first paper uses high-dimensional satellite data to construct mobility-based measures of neighborhood context, which is then linked to individual-level data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics to analyze the consequences of neighborhood disadvantage for children's physical health. She presented preliminary results from the first paper (currently under review) at PAA in April. Fourth, she completed two editorially reviewed academic chapters in this area that critically assess the emerging field of urban mobility research using machine learning methods and big data. Finally, she began a new collaboration (with Agustina Laurito at University of Illinois Chicago and Brazil) that extends the emerging literature on links between gentrification and the educational experience, focusing on the relationship between gentrification and changing access to early childhood education. This project sheds light on how neighborhood change may affect access to a key component of the early childhood safety net.

Candipan further spent her leave advancing two sole-authored studies (both under review) that broaden our understanding of neighborhood inequality. The first study identifies whether the effects of neighborhoods on children's outcomes have changed substantially over time, given social and demographic changes in neighborhoods. The second study examines how the proliferation of school choice is associated with inter-cohort differences in residential mobility patterns of families with children, adding a temporal perspective to the study of neighborhood and school choice.

Caroline Castiglione

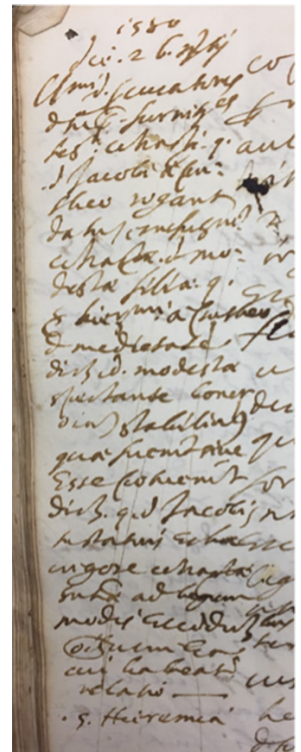
ITALIAN STUDIES • FALL 2022

Caroline Castiglione was on a one-semester sabbatical in Fall 2022, following four consecutive semesters of full-time teaching since she was among the faculty who taught during the innovative COVID 2021 summer semester. During her sabbatical she focused on research related to a book-length study of the Renaissance proto-feminist writer Moderata Fonte (1555-1592). After two years of research delays due to COVID-19, she was at last able to travel to Venice, Italy, funded by a grant from the Delmas Foundation.

During this research trip, Castiglione uncovered the hitherto unknown judicial activity by Fonte in the archives of Venetian law courts. In the Archivio di Stato, she discovered that Fonte initially navigated the judicial system on her own, suing her own brother for her share of the family inheritance without which she was left without a sufficient dowry. Completely unknown to scholars was a longer and more substantive lawsuit in which she joined with her brother (her former adversary) against their maternal cousins to recover the missing inheritance that had belonged to their mother. The challenges of this research include mastering the archives of three different tribunals and the erratic nature of the hand-writing and of the record-keeping of those archives. Additional sources included other administrative records as well as last wills and testaments.

Fonte's pursuit of her lost inheritance and the lost inheritance of her mother suggests the inspiration for the author's shift from chivalric poet to political and feminist critic in her posthumously published dialogue "The Worth of Women" (1600). Women's legal experiences have not yet been linked to the flourishing of feminist publications in Renaissance Italy. The significance of this intersection is explored by Castiglione in an article, "Writing Wrongs: Law Courts, Unreliable Relatives, and the Making of a Venetian Author, Moderata Fonte (1555-1592)," which she was invited to submit to a peer-review edited volume in 2023.

During her sabbatical Castiglione wrote and had accepted for publication a review of Paola Ugolini's "The Court and its Critics: Anti-Court Sentiments in Early Modern Italy" to appear in *University of Toronto Quarterly*, vol. 92, no. 3, 2023.



Hand-written notes related to judicial activity by Moderata Fonte found in Venetian archives.



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Mark Cladis

RELIGIOUS STUDIES • 2022-23

Mark Cladis's work often pertains to the intersection of modern Western religious, political and environmental thought, and it is as likely to engage poetry and literature as it is philosophy and critical theory. Among other things, this work entails attention to environmental justice and Indigenous ecology. At Brown, his three main academic homes are Religious Studies, Environmental Humanities at Brown (EHAB) and Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS).

Cladis is extremely grateful for the privilege of a sabbatical, especially while others struggle with job insecurity. The academic sabbatical is a privilege that needs to be appropriately honored and utilized.

During his sabbatical, he mainly worked on four projects:

- the book project “Radical Romanticism, Democracy, and the Environmental Imagination”;
- the introduction to the book “Ecosustainable Narratives”;
- the article “The World In Ruins: Wordsworth, Du Bois, and Silko”; and
- the article “Dancing on a Flaming World: Du Bois’ Religiously Inflected Poetry and Creative Fiction.”

Additionally, he delivered seven invited lectures/conference papers, and he was invited to attend the eight-day, intensive workshop at the Institute for the Environmental Humanities at Colby College, which was instrumental for his research and for his broader understanding of the field of environmental humanities.

Here is more information on the four publication projects listed above:

- The book project “Radical Romanticism” shows how a multifarious, radical Romanticism — which began in and maintains “revolution” but is not limited to an era of European history — can assist in the ongoing project of cultivating democratic and environmental theory and practice in the context of crisis and catastrophe. During his sabbatical, Cladis completed the final two chapters of the body of the book, namely, Chapter 7: Women, Land, and Justice: Radical Romantic Ecofeminism, and Chapter 8: Leslie Silko: The Promise of Radical Romanticism. He secured a contract with Columbia University Press.
- The introduction to the edited book “Ecosustainable Narratives” sought to capture the central ethos and themes of chapters authored by renowned international scholars who worked from a wide range of perspectives, including postcolonial, ecocritical, democratic theory and plurilingual education.
- In the article “The World in Ruins: Wordsworth, Du Bois, and Silko,” Cladis argues that in the writings of W.E.B. Du Bois and Leslie Silko, ruins are sites of haunting pain and injustice as well as of liberatory hope and renovation. Against contrasting Romantic employments of the ruin, Cladis discusses how Du Bois and Silko subvert the picturesque ruin and radically extend and transform the prophetic ruin. He then claims that some ruins are so catastrophic it is not much of an exaggeration to speak of a ruined planet due to such forces as white supremacy, settler colonialism and climate change. He concludes by reflecting on the work of renovation, that is, re-building in the shadows of the ruin having learned from its lessons, history and ghosts.
- In the article “Dancing on a Flaming World: Du Bois’ Religiously Inflected Poetry and Creative Fiction,” Cladis presents Du Bois as a poet and speculative fiction author who employs religious forms and motifs as a vehicle to depict the pain, humiliation and cruelty of racist oppression in North America as well as the possibilities of social change.



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Emily I. Dolan

MUSIC • 2022-23

The focus of Emily Dolan's sabbatical was her book project "Instruments and Order," which explores material and immaterial lives of musical instruments in late 18th and 19th century Europe. Mostly, she was engaged in writing, but she also carried out additional research, including a trip to Washington, D.C., to work with the archive of the violinist Ruggiero Ricci at the Library of Congress. Dolan plans to finish the manuscript in 2023-24. Dolan worked on several other writing projects over the year: in the fall, she completed a large article on the history of orchestral listening in 18th century opera ("Gluck's Orchestra, or the Future of Timbre"), which is now forthcoming. In April, Dolan, along with her collaborators Emily MacGregor (King's College, London) and Arman Schwartz (Notre Dame) submitted their edited collection "Sonic Circulations: Music and Disciplinary Knowledge, 1900-1960" for review with University of Pennsylvania Press.

In November 2022, "The Oxford Handbook of Timbre," which Dolan co-edited with Alexander Rehding (Harvard University) won the Ruth A. Solie Aard from the American Musicological Society (given annually in recognition of an edited volume "of exceptional merit"). In February, Dolan was an invited speaker at a conference (Chamber Scenes: Musical Space, Medium, and Genre) at the Ira F. Brilliant Beethoven Center at San José State University. In May, Dolan gave one of the keynote lectures ("On the Edges of Technology") at Instruments, Interfaces, and Infrastructures: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Musical Media at Harvard University. Most recently, she was an invited speaker at a symposium at the University of Toronto organized around the North American stage premiere of Joseph Haydn's 1791 opera "L'Anima del filosofo."

On July 1, Dolan returned as chair of the Department of Music, and she hopes very much that her second term in this role will be focused largely on questions of community building, intellectual exchange and supporting her amazing faculty and students in their scholarly and creative endeavors, and less on figuring out how to make music on Zoom or while wearing masks.

Kevin Escudero

AMERICAN STUDIES • SPRING 2023

Kevin Escudero's sabbatical was devoted to the development of his second book manuscript, "Imperial Unsettling: Indigenous and Immigrant Activism towards Collective Liberation." The project examines Indigenous CHamoru and Filipinx immigrants' participation in Guåhan's ongoing decolonization movement. It also builds on Escudero's previous research, which focused on Asian and Latinx immigrant political activism, by incorporating an analysis of U.S. imperialism, militarism and settler colonialism to explore the possibilities of Indigenous and immigrant coalition building.

Guåhan (Guam) is the southernmost island in the Mariana Islands archipelago located in the western Pacific Ocean. The island has been a U.S. territory since 1898 when it was ceded by Spain to the U.S. at the conclusion of the Spanish-American War. CHamorus are the Indigenous peoples of the island (and the archipelago), while a large number of Filipinx immigrants arrived during the post-World War II period as part of U.S. labor recruitment efforts to support the construction of three military bases on the island (Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy). A central component of Guåhan's decolonization movement is a pending plebiscite vote regarding the island's future relationship with the U.S. The Government of Guam initially stated that eligibility to participate in the vote would be based on an individual's status as a "Native Inhabitant of Guam." Nevertheless, in the case *Davis v. Guam*, the Ninth Circuit Court held that such a distinction was in violation of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In May 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the Government of Guam's appeal, thereby reinforcing the Ninth Circuit Court's ruling. With a sizable population of immigrant residents in Guåhan, the question arises how might these immigrant community members support Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination while also working to advance their own rights. "Imperial Unsettling" explores contemporary CHamoru and Filipinx activism for decolonization, including moments of coalition building and differing opinions between members of these two groups.

With the support of an Institute for Citizens and Scholars' Mellon Emerging Faculty Leaders Award (in addition to the generous sabbatical funding provided by Brown), Escudero traveled to Guåhan to conduct follow-up ethnographic fieldwork and archival research. He was also invited to give presentations on "Imperial Unsettling" in March 2023 at the Auckland University of Technology's Vā Moana Reading Group in Auckland, Aotearoa (New Zealand) and in April 2023 at the International Geographical Union's Thematic Conference on "Islands in Relations" in Osaka, Japan. In May and June 2023, given the widespread destruction across Guåhan as a result of Typhoon Mawar, Escudero volunteered with local and national organizations that were providing assistance to members of the island's community during the recovery period.

Besides his research, Escudero participated on the Society for the Study of Social Problems' 2022 C. Wright Mills Award committee and the Association for Asian American Studies' 2023 conference program committee. He also continued working with doctoral students at Brown University; the University of California, Los Angeles; and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.



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Alex Evans

EARTH, ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANETARY SCIENCES • FALL 2022

During his sabbatical, Alex Evans dedicated significant effort to working on the LunaSCOPE (Lunar Structure, Composition, Processes and Evolution) proposal, which was selected as a NASA Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute (SSERVI) team. As the principal investigator of this groundbreaking initiative, Evans collaborated with over 20 experts from Brown University and worldwide. LunaSCOPE, hosted by Brown University's Department of Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences (DEEPS), aims to comprehensively understand the Moon and its potential for future human exploration.

LunaSCOPE's success was underscored by the acquisition of a substantial \$7.5 million grant over five years. This significant funding allows Evans and his team to conduct in-depth research and embark on an exciting journey of scientific discovery and exploration. The [press release](#) on the Brown website provides more detailed information about the grant and the LunaSCOPE project.

The primary objective of LunaSCOPE is to advance scientific understanding of the Moon, particularly in terms of its origin, evolution and in-situ resources. By conducting interdisciplinary research and collaboration, the project seeks to unlock the mysteries of the Moon and contribute to the development of future lunar missions and discoveries. The team's research is focused on several thematic areas, including the study of the lunar magma ocean, magnetism, volcanism and tectonics, volatiles, and the lunar regolith and impacts.

In addition to his work on LunaSCOPE, during his sabbatical, Evans oversaw several collaborative projects involving researchers from other institutions. For example, he collaborated with Purdue University researchers to investigate exoplanets' nature, evolution and habitability. He also formed new collaborations at Stanford University and with international partners to explore the link between lunar gravitational fields and long-lived magnetism preserved within the lunar crust. Throughout his sabbatical, Evans made substantial progress on these projects, preparing them for publication.

Another notable endeavor during his sabbatical was his involvement in a grant for a collaborative Europa precursor study led by Ingrid Daubar. This study aims to enhance our understanding of Jupiter's moon Europa in preparation for the Europa Clipper mission, which will provide valuable insights into Europa's potential habitability and the search for signs of life.

Beyond his research pursuits, Evans continued his service work with the National Society of Black Physicists (NSBP), focusing on cultivating a more diverse and inclusive environment within the field of earth and planetary sciences. Additionally, he gave two invited talks at the American Geophysical Union (AGU), sharing his lab's most recent research and publications related to the Moon.

Overall, Evans had a very productive sabbatical, dedicating significant time and effort to advancing lunar science and exploration through the LunaSCOPE project. His collaborations, research progress and contributions to promoting diversity and inclusion in his field exemplify his commitment to pushing the boundaries of knowledge and fostering a supportive scientific community.



Dmitri Feldman

PHYSICS • SPRING 2023

Dmitri Feldman's sabbatical was spent in part at the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics at University of California, Santa Barbara, as well as at Harvard. The primary focus of Feldman's research was on anyons.

It is well understood that the electric charge of elementary particles is quantized. Confined quarks exhibit the lowest charge of one-third of an electron charge. If we exclude confined particles, the lowest charge equals one electron charge. No particles of lower charge have been observed by high-energy physicists. Yet, at very low temperatures, emergent objects of a lower charge, anyons, are present. Electrical charges as low as one-seventh of an electron charge have been confirmed experimentally.



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While anyon charges are unusual, their most interesting feature is their statistics, which govern how systems of many identical particles behave. Elementary particles are classified as fermions and bosons. Fermions obey the Fermi-Dirac statistics and avoid each other. Bosons follow the Bose-Einstein statistics and tend to bunch. Anyons exhibit various intermediate forms of behavior, which are neither Bose-type nor Fermi-type. Some of such intermediate statistics are of great use for quantum computing since they open the possibility of error-free topological quantum computation.

A crucial question concerns ways to detect and probe anyonic statistics experimentally. The key idea is known as anyonic interferometry. It involves ingenious nanoelectronic designs in which anyons are forced to move around each other. Anyonic interferometry proved challenging to implement but the last three years have seen a major breakthrough in that direction. Feldman's collaboration at Harvard focused on understanding very recent experimental data on anyonic interferometry in a two-dimensional electron gas. In particular, Feldman and his collaborators have realized that operating an anyonic interferometer at lower temperatures would bring qualitatively different information that will shed light on anyons.

Feldman's collaboration, which started at the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics, is also focused on anyonic interferometry. Two types of interferometers have received the bulk of attention: the so-called Fabry-Perot and Mach-Zehnder devices. They have complementary strengths and weaknesses. A common challenge consists in the absence of simple exact solutions for the electric and thermal transport in those devices for realistic parameters. Discussions at the Kavli Institute revealed that an intermediate setting exists that combines the strengths of both approaches and allows a simple exact solution in the realistic regime. This exact solution was an important focus of Feldman's research during the sabbatical leave.

Besides building new collaborations, the sabbatical leave helped Feldman focus on the research under existing collaborations at Brown and beyond. In particular, he completed and published his research on thermal interferometry. This approach extends the idea of interferometry to electrically neutral anyons for which electric transport is not a useful probe. Instead, thermal transport, possible in any system, can be used. Of course, heat and electricity affect each other in anyonic systems. Another direction of Feldman's work during the leave focused on the interplay of electric and thermal effects in recent puzzling experiments on electric charges of anyons. One more direction of Feldman's work involved machine learning in solid-state physics.

Masako U. Fidler

SLAVIC STUDIES • FALL 2022

Masako Fidler's research during the sabbatical leave resulted from two collaborative projects: the long-term collaborative project with Václav Cvrček from Charles University under the auspices of the Brown-Charles University memorandum of understanding and the [Threat-Defuser project](#) funded by the Norwegian Research Council.

Fidler published with Cvrček an article titled "[No keyword is an island: in search of covert association](#)" (2022). It is the first application of market basket analysis (MBA), originally created for commercial purposes, to discourse analysis (Corpora, vol. 2, no. 17). It shows how MBA can reveal the consistent conceptual network associated with the word migrant in Czech in the antisystem (extremist) web portals. Another co-authored article, titled "Zone-flooding as a discursive strategy of Czech anti-system news portals," an analysis of disinformation web portals in Czech, was accepted by Journal of Slavic Linguistics. Another co-authored article has been submitted to a journal in Slavic studies and awaits referee reports.

The Threat-Defuser project is made up of multinational and multidisciplinary scholars. It consists of specialists in linguistics, literature and political science from the Czech Republic, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Slovakia, Russia and the U.S. Fidler co-authored an article titled "[Case for case in Putin's speeches](#)" (with Janda, Cvrček and Obukhova), which was published in Russian Linguistics (doi.org/10.1007/s11185-022-09269-2). As of June 11, 2023, it has 2,883 accesses. The article is the first application of the keymorph analysis ([Fidler and Cvrček in 2019](#)) to Russian. This method measures a significant (but hitherto underestimated) role played by grammatical features (inflectional and derivational morphemes) in the construction of ideological undercurrents in discourse.



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Besides writing articles, Fidler prepared submission of paper abstracts for three conferences: Slavic Cognitive Linguistics Associations (June 2023, with Cvrček), International Cognitive Linguistics Conference (August 2023, with Cvrček and with Janda, Cvrček and Obukhova) and Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (November 2023, with Cvrček). With the ideas put together for these conferences, Fidler is embarking on new topics: representation of the East and West in the Czech media and a more rigorous differentiation of web portals that are thus far considered to belong to one category (e.g., mainstream, antisystem).

This sabbatical leave helped further clarify Fidler's overall research goal in linguistics: to articulate our understanding of social issues reflected in language.

Thalia Field

LITERARY ARTS • 2022-23

In the past two years, Thalia Field, professor of literary arts, has been collaborating with New York sound designer and theater artist Ben Williams.

Three of her recent books are now available in [audio form](#):

- “Personhood” (New Directions, 2020) — In 10 chapters, Personhood moves radically through genres and conventions, taking the listener on a design-driven experience into the psychic spaces and logical conundrums that we have created around our non-human relatives (designed and produced by Ben Williams; starring Shannon Tyo and April Mathis).
- “Leave to Remain” (Dalkey Archive, 2020) — “Leave to Remain” is a faux spy-novel in six parts, possessed by the spirit of Janus: doubleness, duplicity, two-facedness — written by two authors (one French, one American) and performed by two narrators, Shannon Tyo and Stephanie Weeks, with special guests (designed and produced by Ben Williams; original music by Chris Martin).
- “Bird Lovers, Backyard” (New Directions, 2010) — A companion piece to “Personhood,” “Bird Lovers, Backyard” continues Field’s interrogation on the human/animal stories we seem stuck with (designed and produced by Ben Williams; starring Maggie Hoffman, T. Ryder Smith and Shannon Tyo; original music by Catherine McRae).

Linford D. Fisher

HISTORY • 2022-23

Linford D. Fisher’s sabbatical year was immensely gratifying although intensely busy, and he is grateful to the University and the John Carter Brown Library for providing a full year to focus on his work. The year was divided between his academic research and writing on the one hand and the increasingly demanding work of [Stolen Relations](#) on the other. Throughout the year, he was also supported by the John Carter Brown Library and served there as a fellow.

Ostensibly, this sabbatical was focused on the completion of his current book manuscript, tentatively titled “America Enslaved: Indigenous Enslavement in the English Atlantic and the United States.” It will be a first-ever large-scale survey of Native American enslavement in English-speaking colonies and the U.S. between 1492 and 1900. Drawn on deep original research across four centuries and in half a dozen countries around the Atlantic, this book places the ongoing and durable nature of Indigenous enslavement at the center of English and American colonization. It is under contract with Liveright (a W.W. Norton imprint) and will hopefully be released in 2024.

He was also grateful to wrap up and submit another long-term book project: a selected collection of Roger Williams’s published essays and correspondence, co-edited with two excellent scholars in the field, Sheila McIntyre and Julie Fisher (no relation). Titled “Reading Roger Williams: Rogue Puritans, Indigenous Nations, and the Founding of America — A Documentary History,” it is the first time since the 1930s that scholars have interwoven Williams’s correspondence and published work in an attempt to fully understand him. It is a substantial book, at 110,000 words, and contains dozens of introduced and annotated texts and letters, including a dozen images and three commissioned maps, and — notably — solicited perspectives from some Narragansett tribal members. The end result is a different Roger Williams than most people are used to reading about. He hopes it will push the field forward methodologically and historically. It is slated to come out with Wipf and Stock in 2024.



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In addition to progress on these books, he published a co-authored essay in *Slavery & Abolition* with Penn Ph.D. student Anjali DasSarma. Titled “The Persistence of Indigenous Unfreedom in Early American Newspaper Advertisements, 1704-1804,” it involved a labor-intensive survey of 75,000 newspaper advertisements over the course of 100 years that mention the word “Indian.” The overwhelming impression is one of the surprising durability of Indigenous unfreedom well into the 19th century, which should reshape our conception of slavery in this time period (to be more inclusive of Native American slaves and servants).

The other major project that took up a copious amount of time was serving as the principal investigator for the Stolen Relations project, a tribal collaborative database project that seeks to document instances of Indigenous enslavement and unfreedom in the Americas as a way of understanding the nature of settler colonialism and its harms over time. Fisher started working on this back in 2015, and has been gratified to see it grow over time, including more sustained partnerships with more than 13 regional tribal nations starting in 2019. In August 2022, the Stolen Relations team was elated to win a large (for them) three-year grant of \$350,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The award contains a lot of various planned activities, including a substantially increased collaboration with the Tomaquag Museum in Exeter, Rhode Island, and hiring a front-end development firm to design and implement a new website and search interface for the database. This project has also provided research assistantships to more than 30 students each year, mostly from Brown, but also from tribal nations and other universities and high schools around the country. Fisher is grateful for his close collaborator here at Brown, Ashley Champagne, director of the Center for Digital Scholarship and project manager, who oversees much of the technical side of the process. The Stolen Relations project has over 6,500 individuals in the database, and is adding more by the day, and hopes to have a soft launch in early 2024. Their work was recognized by the Swearer Center this spring and has been featured in news releases by News from Brown, Brown Alumni Magazine and Impact: Research at Brown (2023).

Omar Galárraga

HEALTH SERVICES, POLICY AND PRACTICE • FALL 2022

Omar Galárraga is a health economist working in the Department of Health Services, Policy and Practice at the Brown University School of Public Health. His research focuses on the design and use of economics-based interventions for behavior change, particularly as it relates to prevention and treatment of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. He spent his sabbatical semester during Fall 2022 visiting collaborators at Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya, and at Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ) in Quito, Ecuador. The main purpose of the sabbatical was to make field visits to ongoing research projects with collaborators at these academic institutions, and to continue developing strong academic and intellectual ties with researchers in low- and middle-income countries. Galárraga already has important collaborations with Moi University’s School of Medicine and Public Health and with the Global Health Institute at USFQ. Galárraga has an ongoing Roi National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded project in Kenya, and recently won a competitive pilot award project in Ecuador (through the Population Studies and Training Center at Brown).

While on sabbatical, Galárraga published six peer-reviewed articles related to his health economics research in Kenya and the U.S.:

- Wachira J., Genberg B., Mwangi A., Chemutai D., Braitstein P., Galárraga O., Siika A., Wilson I. “Impact of an Enhanced Patient Care Intervention on Viral Suppression Among Patients Living With HIV in Kenya.” *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr.* 2022 Aug 1;90(4):434-439.
- Wachira J., Mwangi A., Genberg B., Ngeresa A., Galárraga O., Kimayo S., Dick J., Braitstein P., Wilson I., Hogan J. “Continuity of Care is Associated with Higher Appointment Adherence Among HIV Patients in Low Clinician-to-Patient Ratio Facilities in Western Kenya.” *AIDS Behav.* 2022 Nov;26(11):3516-3523.
- Kafu C., Wachira J., Omodi V., Said J., Pastakia S.D., Tran D.N., Onyango J.A., Aburi D., Wilson-Barthes M., Galárraga O., Genberg B.L. “Integrating community-based HIV and non-communicable disease care with microfinance groups: a feasibility study in Western Kenya.” *Pilot Feasibility Stud.* 2022 Dec 28;8(1):266.
- Wilson-Barthes M., Braitstein P., DeLong A., Ayuku D., Atwoli L., Sang E., Galárraga O. “Cost Utility of Supporting Family-Based Care to Prevent HIV and Deaths among Orphaned and Separated Children in East Africa: A Markov Model-Based Simulation.” *MDM Policy Pract.* 2022 Dec 22;7(2):23814683221143782.
- Chen K., Wilson-Barthes M., Harris J.E., Galárraga O. “Incentivizing COVID-19 vaccination among racial/ethnic minority adults in the United States: \$209 per dose could convince the hesitant.” *Health Econ Rev.* 2023 Jan 11;13(1):4.



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Tran D.N., Ching J., Kafu C., Wachira J., Koros H., Venkataramani M., Said J., Pastakia S.D., Galárraga O., Genberg B.L. “Interruptions to HIV Care Delivery During Pandemics and Natural Disasters: A Qualitative Study of Challenges and Opportunities From Frontline Healthcare Providers in Western Kenya.” *J Int Assoc Provid AIDS Care*. 2023 Jan-Dec;22:23259582231152041.

In addition, Galárraga made guest lectures and presentations at Boston University, Department of Global Health and Development, in October 2022, on “Improving Antiretroviral-based HIV Prevention among Men at High Risk Using Conditional Economic Incentives: A Randomized Pilot in Mexico City,” and at the American Economic Association meeting, January 2023, in New Orleans, on “The effects of mobile primary health teams: Evidence from Ecuador.”

Finally, Galárraga devoted considerable time on his sabbatical to service to the profession as he was appointed associate editor at the [Health Economics](#) journal; was an evaluator for scientific research at the U.K.’s Economic and Social Research Council and the Swiss National Science Foundation, as well as for academic promotions at Penn State and University of California (Berkeley); and became a standing member (2022-26) for the NIH’s Science of Implementation in Health and Healthcare Study Section, and an appointed member (2022-25) for the Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council, which advises the NIH, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the White House on matters of HIV research.

Oded Galor

ECONOMICS • 2022

Oded Galor devoted his sabbatical leave to advance his research agenda on the deep roots of inequality. He advanced three projects:

- The Roots of Inequality;
- The Impact of the Out-of-Africa Migration on Cultural Diversity; and
- Structural Change, Elite Capitalism, and the Emergence of Labor Emancipation.

In addition, he delivered several important keynote lectures and named lectures across the globe, including:

- the Rafael del Pino Master Lecture (Madrid);
- a public lecture at Sciences Po (Paris);
- the keynote lecture at the VII SITES Conference (Naples, Italy); and
- an invited lecture at Dialogue of Continents (Paris).

Philip Gould

ENGLISH • FALL 2022

Philip Gould spent his fall semester sabbatical mostly finishing his book manuscript, “War Power: Literature and the State in the Civil War North.” It is a literary history of the U.S. Civil War that looks particularly at the North and the rise of the power of the federal state. Its main argument is that prominent northern writers (Nathaniel Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott, Frederick Douglass and Herman Melville, among many others) were engaged with the wartime state’s radically transformed powers, which Lincoln declared in 1861 as being part of his presidential “war power” to preserve the Union and the U.S. Constitution. Its main categories of analysis include censorship, propaganda, and treason and loyalty.

The book is roughly 400 pages in manuscript, including an introduction and five chapters. During summer and fall 2022, Gould wrote and rewrote three chapters of the manuscript. He then went back to revise the introduction and the first two chapters. He submitted a draft of the manuscript in December to Oxford University Press, which has a special series, “American Literary History.” It was accepted for publication in early 2023, and he signed the contract with Oxford last spring. He is currently revising the manuscript and planned to submit it and all other materials to the press in August 2023.



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In addition, he put together a roundtable for the Meeting of the Society of Early Americanists, which focuses on teaching and pedagogy of the American Revolution. The roundtable includes both historians and literary scholars and addresses the particular challenges and opportunities of teaching the Revolution during our own tumultuous political moment — with the 1619 Project, the 1776 Project (the Trump Administration’s rebuttal) and new methods and perspectives of thinking through American independence.

Could also put together a new course offered by the English department, Sinners and Saints: Literature and the Moral Imagination, which he taught in Spring 2023.

Susan Ashbrook Harvey

RELIGIOUS STUDIES • 2022-23

Susan Harvey spent her sabbatical leave completing a number of major publication projects, and also participating in a variety of professional events here and abroad. She completed three co-edited scholarly volumes: “Managing Emotion in Byzantium: Passions, Affects and Imaginings,” co-edited with Margaret Mullett, was published late fall 2022. The other two are currently in press and will appear in fall 2023: “Three Persian Martyr Acts,” a bilingual Syriac-English anthology of three late antique Christian martyr accounts from Persia, co-authored with Reyhan Durmaz, Michael Payne, Daniel Picus and Noah Tetenbaum; and “Rethinking Gender in Orthodox Christianity,” co-edited with Ashley Purpura and Thomas Arentzen, in which she also has an essay.

She also completed a monograph on which she has worked for many years, now titled “Women’s Voices in Ancient Syriac Christianity: Ministries of Song,” for University of California Press. The book examines the vibrant tradition of women’s liturgical singing that characterized ancient Syriac Christianity in late antiquity. The book focuses on three sources of women’s voices in Syriac liturgical events: women’s choirs, who performed a teaching ministry defined in Syriac canon law; lay women in the congregation, who performed a ministry of participation in their singing of responses, refrains and communal hymns within the larger gathering; and the remembered women of the sacred past, both women of the Bible and women saints, whose stories — filled with imagined first-person speeches and dialogues — were re-told in hymns and metrical homilies of Syriac liturgies, voiced sometimes by male ritual agents (bishops, priests or singers) and sometimes by female ones (women’s choirs, deaconesses, others). Despite the intrinsic patriarchal hierarchy of late antique Christianity, ancient Syriac liturgy was sung by, with, and through women’s voices, real and imagined. Such history has implications for how scholars understand religion, gender, hierarchy and authority within the historical record.

In addition to completing these multiple projects, Harvey presented her research in a variety of professional settings. She delivered six papers and/or presentations dealing with aspects of late antique Syriac poetry, women’s liturgical participation, the culture of sacred music in ancient Syriac Christianity, and the challenges of teaching ancient and Byzantine hagiography in undergraduate courses. Harvey was particularly honored to be awarded the Medal of the Order of Sankt Ignatios, for “significant contribution in scholarship and leadership” to the study of Eastern Christianity. The award was given in December 2022 at Sankt Ignatios College in Södertälje, Sweden, a pan-Orthodox theological academy run jointly with the Stockholm School of Theology (University College, Stockholm), serving Scandinavia’s eastern Christian communities, especially Syriac, Ethiopic, Coptic, Ukrainian, Serbian, and others of the Byzantine liturgical tradition.

It has been an immensely fruitful and rewarding year. She looks forward to returning to teaching, and to new research, particularly on the sixth century Syriac poet Jacob of Sarug.

Kenneth Haynes

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, CLASSICS • 2022-23

The main purpose of the sabbatical was to advance two large projects. The first is a critical edition of “The Pisan Cantos” by Ezra Pound (under contract with Oxford University Press). This volume, co-edited with Ronald Bush, puts the text of these poems on a solid foundation for the first time, by returning to the typescripts he produced while imprisoned by the Americans in Italy during the Second World War. The main line of textual descent through to publication involved simplifications (especially in dropping the Chinese characters), corruptions, and other distortions though there were also important revisions made in the process of publication. For this volume, the variants at each stage have been collated, and the stages themselves have been identified for the first time. The critical text will be accompanied by a full textual apparatus and a textual commentary discussing difficult cases.



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A spinoff from the work has been to identify a project Pound was equally committed to at the same time he was composing the *Pisan Cantos*, namely, an abridged translation of the Four Confucian Books (Daxue, Zhongyong, Analects and Mencius). Haynes has discovered unpublished material in archives indicating that Pound in fact completed this project and understood it to be a pendant to the *Pisan Cantos*. He presented this work at the Ezra Pound International Conference in Edinburgh.

The second is an attribution index of the pseudonyms in *Notes and Queries*, a journal founded in 1849. It is one of the three main instruments of literary knowledge (along with the *Dictionary of National Biography* and the *Oxford English Dictionary*) that still serve as reference works now. He has completed the initial stage of transcribing the marked set along with rationalizing a complex set of inferences about authorship. The project was started 30 years ago by Ian Jackson, and he took it over a few years ago. He has digitized the results of this first stage, giving the identities and, where possible, basic biographical details about 5,000 pseudonyms.

He has also moved work forward with other projects, including an essay on the German and Latin poetry of the Baroque and its modern reception; and new work that he inaugurated when he gave a keynote lecture at the International Conference on English and American Literature in Shanghai in December 2022 on the genre of rant in response to the financial revolutions of modernity.

Patrick Heller

SOCIOLOGY • 2022-23

Patrick Heller spent most of the year in Brazil on a Fulbright award. Heller was sponsored by Rosana Helena Miranda, a professor of architecture and urbanism at the University of São Paulo in Brazil. He collaborated with her and her team on a project examining the urban renewal of three centrally located working class neighborhoods in São Paulo. The research involved extensive mapping of the economic history of the neighborhoods, including the location of industries and services and the demographic composition of the neighborhoods.

In São Paulo, Heller also worked with two graduate students to develop a comparison of neighborhood-level politics in two favelas (slums) located in the periphery and the center. The fieldwork included participant observation of community meetings and interviews with key respondents. They are also working on developing detailed maps of public resources in both these neighborhoods. This project will be the basis of a chapter in a forthcoming book on urban politics and social movements.

Heller also spent time in Brazil developing a research collaboration with the Núcleo Altos Estudos Amazônicos at the Federal University of Pará in Belem. The Núcleo is interested in working with Brown faculty to explore shared research interests in sustainable development and participatory governance. Heller and Brown collaborators are planning a workshop for 2024 in Belem.

Heller also spent some of his sabbatical year on an ongoing project in India on urban citizenship and public services in collaboration with Ashutosh Varshney (Political Science at Brown), Siddarth Swaminathan (Azim Premji University) and the NGO Janaagraha. This past year the team finished the last of 17 city-based surveys and spent time in India in January presenting findings at two workshops. This is the largest survey on urban India, and the team is currently in the process of analyzing the data and preparing a number of reports and papers for publication. A first publication is out in the [American Journal of Sociology](#).

Heller also published an article building on his comparative research that examines the crises of democracy in South Africa, Brazil and India. It was published in the [Studies of Indian Politics](#).

Sachiko Hiramatsu

EAST ASIAN STUDIES • SPRING 2023

Sachiko Hiramatsu spent her scholarly leave in Spring 2023 partly in Japan and in Rhode Island. Working on a collaboration project among Japanese educators in the Boston and New York areas, she worked on a proposal to Michigan State University's Less Commonly Taught and Indigenous Languages Partnership grant. Additionally, she attended multiple online workshops to enhance her understanding of the impact of AI on language teaching and other current topics.



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As the study abroad advisor for the Japanese program, Hiramatsu traveled to Japan to visit three study abroad programs that Brown officially approves; Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies (KCJS), Keio University in Tokyo and Nanzan University in Nagoya. This scholarly leave allowed Hiramatsu to visit these programs in action during the regular semester. She engaged with instructors and administrators to better understand each program's strengths, fostering mutual understanding and effective communication. Following a hiatus of two and a half years due to the pandemic, nine Brown students participated in study abroad programs in KCJS and Keio in Spring 2023. She met all of them in person in Japan and witnessed their remarkable progress in language studies as well as their social and personal growth. Especially in KCJS, she observed the students in their classes, and discussed their progress in detail with each instructor. Additionally, she met with the director, Cody Poulton. These visits provided more up-to-date, first-hand information which Hiramatsu will utilize to improve her role as the study abroad advisor. She also explored the possibility of starting COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) activities between Brown students and Japanese peers by visiting other universities in Japan.

To gain insight into the breadth and depth of the study abroad immersion experience, Hiramatsu requested four students from KCJS Spring 2023 to create individual network of practice diagrams. These diagrams offer valuable and concrete information on the students' personal foreign language learning networks and help explain the language gains from the interactions they have with people, both inside and outside the classroom. Additional data will be collected in the next year, and she hopes to further explore this research topic in the upcoming academic year.

Hiramatsu's research interests also extend to immigrants and foreign trainees working in Japan, particularly their experience of learning the Japanese language while adjusting to life there. Japan is currently undergoing a slow but imminent policy change concerning its immigration system and the accommodation and possible integration of foreign trainees. Given the context of a shrinking population and the resulting labor force shortage, Hiramatsu initiated her research by visiting a prefectural international office and interviewing an official to gather statistics and other relevant information about foreign nationals living in the prefecture. Additionally, she attended a community Japanese language class to observe the interaction between Japanese locals and foreign trainees, identifying specific areas where the trainees may require further assistance. At this stage, the primary objective of these visits was to collect information. The valuable insights obtained from these visits will serve as the foundation for revising the curriculum of the advanced Japanese course she taught in Fall 2022 and developing and preparing her new fourth-year Japanese course in Spring 2024.

Stephen Houston

ANTHROPOLOGY • 2022-23

For his sabbatical, generously supported in the spring term by a Cogut Fellowship, Houston wrote most of a book draft for Princeton University Press, "Vital Signs: The Visual Cultures of Maya Writing." This material was also presented, on six sequent Sundays from April 16 to May 21, as [the 72nd Andrew Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts](#) at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. The Mellon Lectures represent a lifetime honor, delivered in the past by scholars such as Mary Beard, Isaiah Berlin, Arthur Danto, Ernst Gombrich and Stephen Spender. Addressing the particular features of hieroglyphic writing — scripts that integrate text and picture — the lectures focused on a set of paradoxes or aporia: inanimate things that live, technicians who work miracles, size and scale that adhere to yet violate human frames, still images that move, silent works that vocalize, and jokes that are, depending on viewer and reader, uproarious and utterly unfunny. The lectureship also involved a residency and meetings with members at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts.

As a Cogut Fellow in Spring 2023, Houston participated in weekly seminars at the Cogut Institute. In May, he was also awarded the Orden del Pop, Guatemala's premier private honor for service to the patrimony of that country, with an award ceremony taking place in July 2023. (For personal reasons he declined a fellowship in Fall 2022 to The Getty Research Institute.)

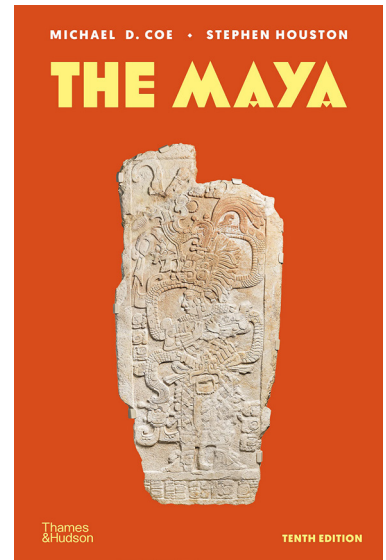
During the year, Houston served as a senior fellow, a presiding committee, for pre-Columbian studies at Dumbarton Oaks, a research institute belonging to Harvard, and as advisor to ongoing excavations at the dynastic center of Tikal, Guatemala, where he investigated, with colleagues, the imperial footprint of Teotihuacan in a polyethnic enclave at that city. This enclave, patterned on monumental architecture at Teotihuacan, was detected in earlier research, with collaborators, using lidar technology. He continued to serve on editorial boards at the journals *Antiquity*, *Ancient Mesoamerica* (which he founded in 1990), *Manuscript and Text Cultures*, and *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics*, and on an advising committee for the *Institute des langues rares*, *École Pratique des Hautes Études*, *Paris Sciences et Lettres*, and for tenure and promotions at the University of Chicago and Columbia University. With his colleague, he hooded a freshly minted Ph.D. in anthropology (Joshua Schnell). His book, "The Maya," 10th edition, came out in Fall 2022, and is still the bestselling introduction to this ancient civilization.



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With colleagues, he published:

- the peer-reviewed article, “Chronology and the Evidence for War in the Ancient Maya Kingdom of Piedras Negras,” *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 66, 101408;
- a lengthy blog entry on gnomons and solar/royal fusions, “[Sun Shadows and Maya Stelae](#)”;
- “Maya Decipherment: Ideas on Ancient Maya Writing and Iconography”; and five book chapters:
 1. “Day, Night,” in “[Lives of the Gods: Divinity in Maya Art](#),” edited by Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos, James Doyle and Joanne Pillsbury, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, from a [major exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) that he had advised in his inception
 2. “What Writing Looks Like” in “[Image, Thought, and the Making of Social Worlds](#),” edited by David Wengrow, *Freiburger Studien zur Archäologie und visuellen Kultur*, Propylaeum, Heidelberg;
 3. “The Social Life of Maya Pots,” in [The Science and Art of Maya Painted Ceramic Vessels: Contextualizing a Collection](#), edited by Diana Magaloni and Megan E. O’Neil, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles (co-published in Spanish as *La Ciencia y el Arte de las Vasijas Policromas Mayas*);
 4. “Paraíso perfumado: Crear y recrear los mundos olfativos de los mayas del periodo Clásico” (with Sarah Newman), in “[Patrimonios olfativos y gustativos: ¿hacia una preservación de la volatilidad?](#),” edited by Luis Gonzalo Jaramillo E. and Manuel Salge Ferro, *Boletín OPCA* 22, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá;
 5. and “Motion Capture,” in “[The Title of Totonícapan](#),” translated by Allen Christenson, with commentary, University Press of Colorado, Louisville.



Cover of “The Maya,” 10th edition (Fall 2022)

During his sabbatical, he also wrote a chapter for an upcoming exhibit at The Getty Villa in Malibu, and a chapter with a former student on “Sacred Kingship” for *The Oxford Handbook of the Maya*. He supervised work by a graduate student on lidar around the important Maya city of Naranjo, Guatemala, and gave a paper at the Louvre, in Paris, in honor of the 200th anniversary of the decipherment of Egyptian hieroglyphs, and presented another talk at École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris Sciences et Lettres. At the national archaeology meetings in Portland, Oregon, he gave, with colleagues, papers on Terminal Classic pectorals of singularly wide distribution and shared set of historical personages and the historical background of his excavations with colleagues at the massive Maya citadel of La Cuernavilla, Guatemala, among the largest set of fortifications ever discovered in early America. At that meeting he also co-organized a session on those excavations for eventual compilation into a book with students and colleagues.

Christian Huber

EARTH, ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANETARY SCIENCES • SPRING 2023

Christian Huber spent his sabbatical in three different locations to study volcanoes. Starting in January, he settled at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, for about two months. There he was able to discuss with colleagues about volcano monitoring and hazards mitigation efforts in and around Auckland. His stay in New Zealand also coincided with the international volcanology conference (IAVCEI) in February in Rotorua, where he presented recent work done at Brown.



Sakurajima (Kyushu, Japan) erupts during a field campaign on May 8, 2023.



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In March, Huber moved to the island of Kyushu in south Japan to join Kyushu University for two months. There he worked on a project that aims to infer changes in magma supply rate and Mt. Sakurajima, the most active volcano in Japan. He conducted fieldwork on Sakurajima (including during an eruption), collected some samples from past eruptions and developed a new numerical model for the response of Sakurajima to time-dependent magma supply rate. The manuscript for this project is almost ready for submission.

Finally, in late May to early June, Huber moved to Zurich (ETH), Switzerland, to join a long-term collaborator (O. Bachmann) and work on different projects that were held up during the COVID pandemic, including the role of CO₂ on magma storage evolution and the evolution of magmatism through time on Earth.

This semester abroad has allowed Huber to start new collaborations and new projects that will carry on at Brown.

Nancy J. Jacobs

HISTORY • JUNE 2023

Nancy Jacobs began work on her book project “The Global Grey Parrot” in 2015. But until 2022, she had never been able to get a good look at African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus* and *P. timneh*) in the wild. Yes, she had been to Ghana and Cameroon, but she had only seen them flying high overhead, calling as they went; they never perched near enough to see. (In Cameroon, they roost deep in the forest; they have become rare in Ghana because of trapping for the pet trade.)

Fortunately, the book is largely based on historical documentary sources. “The Global Grey Parrot” puts a charismatic African animal at the center of world history. As a more-than-human history, it is not only environmental and economic; it also explores cognition and affect. The result is an account of fraught more-than-human politics that also connects to human exclusions around race and nation. The story begins in African forests before 1500, where African greys shared knowledge and culture in their flocks. Encaged and exported, they retained the social expectations that had evolved in the forest. During centuries of captivity, greys and people developed experience of each other, but only humans transmitted their knowledge to the next generation. Isolated, greys cannot produce culture. Socially frustrated, they often experience trauma.



African grey parrots feed in an oil palm near Bigodi, Uganda.

Now, in the Anthropocene, greys are trafficked from their native habitat as one more commodity demanded from Africa by global markets. They are also bred in agro-industrial facilities, many produced far from their native forests in North America, Europe and South Africa, where labor costs allow profitability. As wild populations decline and captive ones grow, greys’ collective experience will be of increasing confinement in human spaces. The Anthropocene brings many challenges, one of which is how to live ethically with species outside their native habitats. Sanctuaries and rewilding projects offer respite from human demands. Human-parrot co-parenting of chicks may show how to create a common culture and bequeath it to offspring of both species. This book is written in the hope that recognizing parrots’ historical world-making can foster mutual world-making.

Drawing on diverse sources and methods, the book moves through centuries and around the globe. There are a surprising number of parrots in the archive, broadly defined, although for a study of interspecies politics, the sources — including many brief notes on their behavior — were more evocative than conclusive. Interviews with pet keepers and the birds’ human neighbors in the forests, as well as the findings of behavioral ecology and ethology, conveyed a lot about their motivations, but still, without having seen them living their lives, it was hard for Jacobs to write about them as subjects.

So, with a sabbatical approaching, she consulted experts about the best place to watch grey parrots in the wild. In June 2022, with the support of a Richard B. Salomon Faculty Research Award, Jacobs traveled to Bigodi, Uganda, near the Kibale National Park. There she met Nick Byaba, a bird guide who had spent his downtime during COVID learning as much as he could about grey parrots. Byaba knew that in June they foraged at one particular oil palm tree (*Elaeis guineensis*) and hired the motorcycle taxis for transport to the spot shortly after dawn. Once she had connected to Byaba, it was easy. For a week, Jacobs learned what she never could have found in a book, in part through observation and in part through conversations with him.



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Over the course of the sabbatical, on that and further trips, she talked to other people, too: conservationists, scientists, activists, pet owners and bird breeders in Ghana, South Africa and the United Kingdom. She was also fortunate to have conducive environments for writing. During the fall semester, Jacobs was in Berlin, Germany, as an affiliated researcher at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science. At Max Planck, which holds many of the earliest scientific publications on greys, she researched and wrote a chapter on early western knowledge of this species. During the spring semester, she was a fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard. There, she researched the history of this species as a commodity in colonial and post-colonial Africa.

Thanks to this sabbatical, Jacobs is in a good position to finish the book, which is due to the University of Washington Press at the beginning of 2024. Thanks to the research made possible by the sabbatical and Salomon grant, the grey parrot is a lively actor in its own history.

Julia Jarcho

THEATRE ARTS AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES • FALL 2021, FALL 2022

Julia Jarcho's sabbatical leave had initially been planned for 2021-22. For a few reasons — including the disruption of theater production schedules due to COVID — the second semester of leave was shifted to Fall 2022. This report accordingly covers the Fall 2021 and Fall 2022 semesters.

During both semesters of leave, Jarcho worked mainly on two quite different projects, which correspond to the two different kinds of research she does. She completed her second book, a scholarly monograph called “Throw Yourself Away: Writing and Masochism,” which will be published in the Thinking Literature series by the University of Chicago Press. She also developed and premiered a new play, “Marie It's Time,” with her New York-based theater company Minor Theater. Other undertakings during the leave included a book review for *Genre* (December 2021), giving invited Zoom presentations at Brooklyn College and the University of Chicago (Fall 2022), and co-organizing the working group on “Sublimation, Again” at an annual convening of the American Society for Theatre Research (October 2021).

“Throw Yourself Away” reads a series of American and European works of fiction, drama and theory from the late 19th through the early 21st centuries, showing that throughout, erotic masochism (the desirous pursuit of suffering) is fundamentally a desire to write. In texts by Henry James, Adrienne Kennedy and Eve Sedgwick, among others, desire painfully and pleasurably enacts itself as writing; masochism emerges as the erotic logic of the literary.

The charged vision of literary production offered in these texts consistently takes shape around fantasies of writing for and as dramatic theater. The notion that masochism is inherently “theatrical” has meant a range of things in the hands of different theorists: that masochists are given to self-display; that their sex acts are a form of “role play” that is unusually highly scripted and/or dependent on a collaboratively sustained fiction. “Throw Yourself Away” pursues the question of masochism's relation to theater rather differently, examining the erotic ramifications of the fraught, conflictual and aspirational relation between embodiment and language that defines modern dramatic theater as a practice of staging text. In these readings, drama invites the painful pleasures of a body subjecting itself, again and again, to language, and a drive to formalization that regularly falls foul of “reality” in enactment. Versions of this dynamic occur in different masochistic texts — not just plays — and, the book argues, also structure the pleasures of the ubiquitous contemporary genre known as autotheory, including the confessional essay that closes the book.



Kedian Keohan, Julia Jarcho and Jennifer Seastone in Minor Theater's “Marie It's Time” at HERE Arts Center (Photo by Maria Baranova).

Jarcho's other major project during leave was “Marie It's Time,” a new play written by Jarcho that premiered at HERE Arts Center in September-October 2022. “Marie It's Time” was developed over the course of a multiyear artists' residency at HERE, which began in 2019 and included numerous work-in-progress showings and workshop periods leading up to the fall 2022 premiere. Billed as “a f*cked-up mixtape about love, motherhood and violence” and “a fresh stab at Woyzeck that collides song and text,” the play riffs on Georg Büchner's canonical posthumous



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masterpiece-in-fragments about a psychotic soldier/barber/weakling who murders his baby’s mom (Marie) for cheating on him with a handsome drum major. In Jarcho’s version, two Maries — one of whom is played by Jarcho herself — try to fantasize their way out of a numbing maternal domesticity by playing out the story, drafting a young would-be rockstar into their violent game.

“Marie It’s Time” was selected as a Critic’s Pick by the New York Times (you can read the review [here](#)). Its premiere was the culmination of Minor Theater’s longest and most intensive development project to date, a process that spanned the pandemic and also advanced the company’s practice of shifting roles in the division of theatrical labor: Jarcho, who usually directs her plays, performed; Ásta Bennie Hostetter, who normally works as a designer, directed. The piece was also Jarcho’s first theatrical collaboration with a composer (Jeff Aaron Bryant).

Ieva Jusionyte

ANTHROPOLOGY • 2022-23

Ieva Jusionyte began her sabbatical year in summer 2022 by visiting her research site on the U.S.-Mexico border, in southern Arizona and northern Sonora. She spent the rest of the year as a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, where she finished writing her third book, “Exit Wounds: How America’s Guns Fuel Violence Across the Border.” The book takes a narrative approach to present findings from a multi-sited ethnographic and legal-archival research project, which Jusionyte conducted from 2018 to 2022, examining the effects of American firearms on



Signs on southbound lanes of the I-19 highway in Arizona approaching the border with Mexico

Mexican society. In the U.S., gun violence has reached alarming levels, but the effects of firearms sold in this country don’t stop at its borders. American guns have torn the social fabric of Mexican society in ways that have entangled the lives of citizens on both sides of the border — Mexicans and Americans — in a vicious circle of violence: southbound flow of firearms not only enables northbound traffic of drugs that exacerbate the addiction epidemic in the U.S. but also contributes to crime and insecurity, forcing Mexicans to flee their homes and seek asylum on the U.S. side of the border.

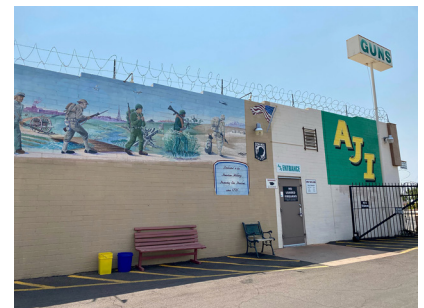
Jusionyte’s research, grounded in legal and medical anthropology, follows the journey

of the gun through circuits of exchange, both licit and illicit, from retail shops and gun shows in Arizona and Texas, to the hands of violence workers, both licensed and criminalized, in Mexico, to gun buyback programs and public art installations. By focusing on firearms — shifts in their cultural and economic value as they cross the border from the U.S. to Mexico, discrepancies in their legality and legitimacy, and their mobility across civilian-military and state-crime divides — her research illuminates the ways in which legal regimes circumscribe the production of violence. Braiding stories of people who live and work with guns on both sides of the border and either side of the law, the book — which will come out in spring 2024 — traces these contours of impact that American weapons leave on Mexican society — its body politic as well as individual lives. During her fellowship year at the Radcliffe, Jusionyte gave a public talk about her forthcoming book, the [recording](#) of which can be found online.



A handful of spent bullet casings collected at a crime scene in Mexico

In addition to completing the manuscript of her new book, Jusionyte had her second book, “Threshold: Emergency Responders on the U.S.-Mexico Border” (University of California Press, 2018) translated into Lithuanian, her native language. She wrote an original introduction for the Lithuanian edition of the book and, in February 2023, traveled to present the book at the Vilnius Book Fair. While in Lithuania, she participated in several public events hosted by local universities and libraries and gave multiple interviews to the press about her work on the U.S.-Mexico border and parallels with militarized approach to borders and migration in Europe. During her leave, Jusionyte has also developed the syllabus for a new course on the U.S.-Mexico border that she will teach in Spring 2024.



The facade of a gun store in Arizona



The Lithuanian edition “Threshold” next to the original English edition



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Karl Kelsey

EPIDEMIOLOGY • FALL 2022

Karl Kelsey spent Fall 2022 writing research manuscripts and planning a new large program grant for submission in summer/fall 2023. The focus of work was on expanding the platform termed “methylation cytometry.” The methylation cytometry approach to human immune profiling is DNA-based and leverages epigenetic marks that define cell identity. The methylation cytometry immune profiling approach has a decade of development and has been thoroughly vetted through peer review, and their methods manuscripts have been cited thousands of times. Because immune epigenetic profiling is fundamentally simple and measures a stable DNA modification, the technology can accurately quantify even low prevalence cell types in peripheral blood. We provide a novel, scalable, cost-effective approach to measuring a patient’s immune response. Measures can be performed frequently using stable, easy-to-acquire blood samples (including in-home acquired), providing results that are comparable through time, and from patient to patient.

During the sabbatical Kelsey’s area of focus was on the use of his research team’s test in evaluating patient response to immunomodulatory therapies; there were over 2,500 of these ongoing trials in 2020. Even though fewer than one in five cancer patients respond to immunotherapy, immune markers of treatment response are lacking. Their test provides detailed immune profiles that elucidate the immune response to immunotherapy, providing critical insights to clinicians and pharma as they navigate new drug development. The team is currently National Institutes of Health funded to investigate the clinical utility of the platform, and collaborative work with clinicians at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston continued throughout the sabbatical.

Finally, preparations for a large program grant through the National Cancer Institute were an additional focus of the sabbatical. This large endeavor requires considerable coordination across participating academic institutions as well as considerable effort in the preparation phase. This is well underway, with an anticipated submission in September 2023.

Matthew Kraft

EDUCATION • 2022-23

Matthew Kraft divided his time during his sabbatical into two separate phases, one focused on finishing existing projects and another exploring new ideas and collaborations while living abroad in Madrid, Spain. Kraft’s research on the economics of education focuses on teacher labor markets and the role of tutoring to support students’ individualized learning in the wake of the pandemic.

From July to December 2022, Kraft was able to complete or revise eight papers to (re)submit for publication at scholarly journals. These manuscripts include:

- “Teacher shortages: A unifying framework for understanding and predicting vacancies”;
- “Elevating education in politics: How teacher strikes shape congressional election campaigns”;
- “The rise and fall of the teaching profession: Prestige, interest, preparation, and satisfaction over the last half century”;
- “Learning time in U.S. public schools: Wide variation, causal effects, and lost hours”;
- “Taking teacher evaluation to scale: The effects of state reforms on student achievement and attainment”;
- “How informal mentoring by teachers, counselors, and coaches supports students’ long-rung academic success”;
- “Local supply, temporal dynamics, and unrealized potential in teacher hiring”; and
- “The effect size benchmark that matters most: Education interventions often fail.”

In addition to his scholarly writing, Kraft wrote and collaborated on several public-facing op-eds and blog pieces, including:

- “New Study: \$40 stipend draws substitute teachers into hard-to-staff schools” (The 74);
- “The potential role of instructional time in pandemic recovery” (Brookings Institute Brown Center Chalkboard);



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- “A brief how-to-guide to public engagement in Academia” (AERA Highlights Newsletter); and
- “Are we at a crisis point with the public teacher workforce? Education scholars share their perspectives” (Brookings Institute Brown Center Chalkboard).

Finally, Kraft worked with collaborator Danielle Edwards to secure two grants to support new research on “Grow Your Own” teacher preparation programs. These grants from the W.T. Grant Foundation and the Smith-Richardson Foundation will provide a total of \$683,000 to fund a range of projects aimed at mapping the landscape and evaluating the effectiveness of these novel teacher pipeline initiatives.

In January 2023, Kraft moved to Madrid and pivoted his focus to expanding the scope of his research on teacher labor markets into the international context. Previously, he had focused exclusively on studying teachers in the U.S. His goal while living abroad has been to broaden his understanding of teacher labor markets in Spain and those across Europe.

He has used his time abroad to visit other European universities and network with scholars of the economics of education and education policy. In Madrid, he had two formal appointments as a visiting professor at the Universidad de Carlos III in the Department of Economics and as a senior fellow at a leading policy think tank in Spain, Esade Center for Economic Policy. He presented at academic seminars and gave keynote speeches in Spain and across Europe including at:

- Universidad de Carlos III Department of Economics;
- Universidad Autónoma de Madrid Department of Economics;
- Universidad Rey Juan Carlos Department of Economics;
- Fundación Ramón Areces;
- Federación de Enseñanza de Comisiones Obreras (CCOO);
- Esade Centre for Economic Policy (EcPol) Encuentro Anual;
- Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (EIEF);
- Bocconi University Department of Economics;
- KU Leuven eighth annual LEER Conference on Education Economics;
- Stockholm School of Economics Center for Educational Leadership and Excellence Quality in Education Conference;
- University of Munich, CESifo; and
- University of Bristol School of Economics.

With each of these visits, his aim has been to establish relationships with possible collaborators who can expand his understanding of teacher labor market dynamics and help him gain access to administrative data. He also engaged in countless conversations and meetings with policymakers and educators in Spain to learn about the Spanish K-12 education system. He is particularly interested in comparing the outcomes of more centralized teacher assignment mechanisms used in countries such as Spain and Italy to our very decentralized and free-market approach to teacher contracts in the U.S. Centralized assignment systems present novel opportunities to address localized teacher shortages and inequitable access to effective teachers.

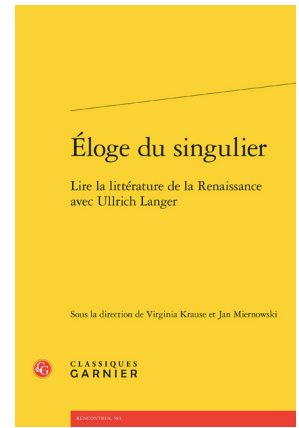


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Virginia Krause

FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES • 2022-23

Virginia Krause spent the academic year living in the city of Angers, located in the Loire Valley of Western France, while working on a manuscript titled “Toward a Poetics of the Early French Novel.” Devoted to works of long prose narrative composed after the fall of Medieval romance and before the rise of the modern novel, Krause’s project ventures into a kind of literary no-man’s land. The literary works she discovers therein are characterized by experimentation (with book format, with serialization, and with readerly immersion) as well as by a kind of alchemy whereby literary characters seemingly leave the pages of their books to interact with readers as social agents rather than as purely esthetic constructs. During this year, Krause also co-edited (with Jan Miernowski) a collection of critical essays on influential approaches to the study of literature of 16th century France, titled “Éloge du singulier” (forthcoming from Classiques Garnier this fall).



Cover of “Eloge du singulier”

Emily Kress

PHILOSOPHY • SPRING 2023

Aristotle’s world — much like ours — is full of things that happen for the sake of something. Birds develop bony beaks for the sake of breaking down nuts and for defending themselves against predators. Chefs use knives to dice onions and celery for the sake of making a delicious stew — and then use the scraps to make vegetable stock. These are cases of teleological causation: cases where things happen for the sake of some goal.

During her sabbatical, Emily Kress continued to work on her research project on Aristotle’s theorizing about teleological causation, and especially his distinctions between different sorts of teleology. She has been especially interested in how Aristotle develops these distinctions via parallels between human agency (especially craft production) and certain natural processes (especially embryological development) and how he works out the details of his causal theory in practice.

During her sabbatical, Kress made revisions to two papers in this project. One, titled “How the Soul Uses its Tools: Flexible Agency in Aristotle’s Account of Animal Generation,” focuses on certain teleological processes that feature a chain of agents, each acting on the next, where the agent at the top of the chain “uses” the agents lower down as its “tools.” Kress presented this paper at a seminar on Aristotle’s biology (organized by Cristina Cerami and David Lefebvre) at the Université Paris Cité SPHERE of the CNRS (with the Centre Léon Robin and the Initiative Sciences de l’Antiquité). It is now available [“ahead of print” in Phronesis](#). A second paper, “Concocting Teleology in Aristotle’s Meteorology 4 and Generation of Animals,” argues that Aristotle relies on a distinction between two sorts of ends an end-directed agent can aim at — and what it thereby contributes to the process by which it brings that end about. Sometimes, it aims at a comparatively more determinate end and is responsible to a particularly high degree for determining which specific features the product will have. Sometimes, however, it aims at a comparatively less determinate end, and so the matter on which it acts plays a greater role.

In addition, Kress drafted a new paper titled “The Housekeeper’s Priorities: The Structure of Aristotle’s GA 2.6” and presented it as a keynote talk at a workshop at Cornell University (for the Mellon Upstate Corridor Program). In it, she considers Aristotle’s account of the order of embryological development and what it reveals about his causal theory. Aristotle’s view, Kress argues, is that certain animal parts (the “tool-like” ones, including eyelids and hair) cannot be what they are unless they come to be at a particular point — when some “user” is able to use them — and via a certain sort of causal process — of “making something useful.”

Kress also traveled to Gargnano, Italy, to participate in the Inaugural Conference of the ERC ADG TIDA (Text and Idea of Aristotle’s Science of Living Beings): Aims and Methods of Aristotle’s De Anima, where she presented comments on Sophia Connell’s “Aristotle on nutritive soul in animal generation: animals as divided plants?” She also presented comments at the meeting of the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association. She also began work on her presentation for the annual Yale seminar on Aristotle’s Parva Naturalia (on the De Motu Animalium).

Finally, Kress served on the prospectus committee for two Ph.D. students, Taojie Wang and Meredith Gilman; organized a talk by Margaret Graver in the philosophy department’s Ethical Inquiry program; continued to serve on the department’s hiring committee; served as a reader for Theoria and Cambridge University Press; and helped organize the upcoming conference for the Open Plato Project.



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Joachim I. Krueger

COGNITIVE, LINGUISTIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES • SPRING 2023

Joachim Krueger spent most of his sabbatical semester in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, working collaboratively on several research projects in the areas of social cognition and inductive reasoning. One project, conducted with colleagues at the University of Zürich, aims at the identification of heuristic strategies driving strategic choice in 2×2 experimental games. Another project, conducted with colleagues at the Free University of Amsterdam, the University of Heidelberg and the University of Graz, seeks to explore the structure of attitudes toward former romantic partners as well the correlates of these attitudes. Other ongoing work is focused on beliefs in free will, the inductive bases of tribalism, consumer behavior, and the (re)construction of past and future self-concepts. To move these projects forward, Krueger visited labs in Zürich and Heidelberg. A new collaboration, which has emerged during this sabbatical term, is with colleagues at the Hebrew University. Preliminary discussions have focused on decision making in so-called hide-and-seek games, that is, games in which players' interests are incompatible with each other.

Krueger is an active book reviewer, with most of his reviews appearing in the *American Journal of Psychology*. In 2023, so far, seven reviews have appeared in print or are in press along with two rebuttals to authors' rejoinders. The topics of these reviews range broadly from social psychology to artificial intelligence to human consciousness.

Krueger has given some thought to teaching. With the explosion of generative artificial intelligence and the rapid growth of the use of technological tools in the classroom — both, uses that are encouraged or tolerated by instructors and uses that are clandestine and ethically questionable — instructors (and students) are increasingly uncertain as to what part of the emerging content is the result of students' own efforts. Having experimented with heterodox teaching methods for years, Krueger has used part of his sabbatical to contemplate and prepare new options for the teaching of seminars. He published an essay on the topic in the 2023 *Brown University Faculty Bulletin*. Krueger is considering a radical return to a pre-tech approach to teaching. Student grades will (again) depend on what they deliver in real time and real space. In an email to interim Provost Larson, Krueger suggested the answer to the looming omnipresence of ChatGPT might be to bring back the oral exam. Larson seemed to concur, but it is not clear whether he wrote in jest. Krueger did not.

Eric Larson

MATHEMATICS • SPRING 2023

Eric Larson spent his sabbatical semester at the Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute (previously MSRI), located in Berkeley, California. During this time, he focused on starting two new research projects, as well as interacting with the community of mathematicians in the Bay Area.

The focus of Larson's research concerns algebraic curves, which are one-dimensional objects that can be defined by polynomial equations. The simplest and most familiar examples of algebraic curves are lines and circles in the plane. A key theme of Larson's research on algebraic curves has been interpolation: the study of how these curves can pass through points. For example, a line can pass through any two points in the plane, and a circle can pass through any three points—unless those three points lie on a line. In recent joint work with Isabel Vogt — featured in *Quanta Magazine* as one of 2022's Biggest Breakthroughs in Math — they solved this problem completely when the points were not in any special configuration. However, as the example of the circle already illustrates, this is only the beginning of the story, since interesting phenomena can occur for special configurations of points.

The first of these problems concerns phenomena that can occur when the coordinates of the points are not ordinary numbers but rather an exotic sort of numbers where $1 + 1 = 0$ — and when, simultaneously, the points satisfy a quadratic equation.

The second of the problems Larson began thinking about (jointly with Vogt) during his sabbatical concerns, in some sense, when the points are allowed to coincide. In other words, we ask the curve not just to pass through these points but to pass through some of them multiple times (so that the curve crosses over itself at that point).

While most of his time was devoted to starting these new projects, he also finished up earlier joint projects on the geometry of certain special types of curves (those of low gonality), and made further progress on a conjecture of Beauville.

Larson also gave four research talks in the Bay Area, and interacted fruitfully with other mathematicians in the area, such as David Eisenbud at Berkeley.



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Myles Lennon

ANTHROPOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY • FALL 2022

In Fall 2022, Myles Lennon concluded 10 months of fieldwork at Shelterwood, a queer, Black and Indigenous land stewardship collective and nascent retreat center in a redwood forest on unceded Kashaya and Southern Pomo land in northern California. This in-depth ethnographic project is the centerpiece of Lennon's broader research on how young Black land stewards in the U.S. negotiate the ethical and political tensions of doing antiracist, decolonial work in outdoor spaces through property ownership in a settler colony built on racial capitalism. How do you own land when you don't believe in land ownership? How do you liberate your livelihood from a system of labor you know you can't ever escape? Lennon considers these questions by exploring the corporeal, institutional and community-building practices through which young Black land stewards "return," in their words, to land they never knew before.

At Shelterwood, this work primarily entailed the documentation of the collective's "year of rooting"—i.e., their inaugural year — at a 900-acre forest in Cazadero, California, that they purchased from a church for \$4 million in July 2021. The collective presently consists of four full-time members who live and work on the land and a much broader community of land stewards, aspiring farmers, artists and activists who primarily live in the San Francisco Bay Area. Lennon was granted close ethnographic access to the members of the collective, who allowed him to live in a cabin in the forest with the charge of identifying best practices and lessons learned to share with other queer, Black and Indigenous land stewards throughout the U.S.. As a full-time resident of Shelterwood, he was also responsible for: supporting their hands-on forest restoration work, largely through the removal of non-native tree and plant species and controlled burns; helping to manage their dilapidated physical infrastructure; lending a hand with on-site construction projects; giving tours of the forest to visitors; and closely supporting fundraising and organizational development initiatives.



Lennon's ethnographic focus and Shelterwood's organizational priorities largely centered on bringing regenerative fire back to northern California. Through controlled burns based on the knowledge of the Kashaya and Southern Pomo people, Shelterwood aims to redress the risk of wildfire and demonstrate how Black and Indigenous land stewardship practices are essential to climate resiliency. Specifically, Shelterwood was founded on the principle that the climate crisis emerged from the separation of human culture from the non-human world through Indigenous genocide and the transatlantic slave trade. They recognize that the Euro-American ideal of "pure" nature without the "disturbance" of human beings is rooted in the forceful removal of human communities from forested land in service of an extractive paradigm of production pioneered through anti-Black slavery. This, in turn, criminalized the fire-based stewardship that had kept forest ecosystems thriving and healthy for 10,000 years prior to colonization, paving the way for tremendously overgrown forests that are dangerously susceptible to wildfire. To address this, Shelterwood is launching an ambitious Black and Indigenous forest restoration plan that is returning fire to the land at an unprecedented scale with the support of a multi-million-dollar grant from the State of California. This plan entails not only care for non-human species but also the intentional integration of human communities into the forest, embracing a queer ethic of "chosen

family" — the LGBTQ practice of making your own kin, separate from your blood lines — to demonstrate how humans can choose to live "in right relationship" with the non-human world.

As part of his research with Shelterwood, Lennon created a paid summer fellowship program for five Brown undergraduate students. The program offered these students the opportunity to fuse Black/Indigenous land stewardship/forestry, land-based community-building and ethnographic research, primarily through nine-and-a-half weeks of immersive, applied learning. The fellowship program had three overarching objectives: (1) prepare the next generation of Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) stewards to cultivate land-based, climate justice practice and theory; (2) generate qualitative knowledge to support decolonial BIPOC stewardship as part of an overarching research project; and (3) support the organizational development of Shelterwood.



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Throughout the program, Lennon worked with Shelterwood to facilitate a botany training, a chainsaw training and a workshop on autoethnography and environmental anthropology, and immersed the students in Shelterwood's work and long-term projects, including climate-resilient land stewardship, land-based coalition building among queer/BIPOC communities, Indigenous land-based living practices, and organizational communication and strategy. Students were paid a generous living stipend and the program covered their room and board, allowing them to focus their time and energy on fostering a living community in the forest. They also ethnographically documented their experiences on the land, and Lennon worked closely with each of them to draw from their insights and data as part of his broader research project. Finally, the fellowship program is helping Shelterwood develop an applied approach to intergenerational land stewardship training.

Rose McDermott

POLITICAL SCIENCE • 2022-23

Rose McDermott spent her sabbatical in her home in Redwood City, California, working on several different writing projects.

In the fall, she completed her co-authored book manuscript "[Sex and World Peace](#)," published by Columbia University Press. This book examines the relationship between the security of women and the experience of conflict and war. Through an exploration of sex-based inequalities including sex ratio imbalance, polygyny and difference in family law, the book challenges established explanations for the causes of conflict, placing women's security at the center of prospects for peace and security.

McDermott has also continued her work on issues related to the use of nuclear weapons and the stability of nuclear deterrence. On that topic, she participated in high-level briefings with the chiefs of staff of both the U.S. Space Force as well as the U.S. Air Force. With her phenomenal junior colleague Reid Pauly, she published "[The Psychology of Nuclear Brinkmanship](#)," which appeared in *International Security* in the Winter 2023 issue. [Watson's Trending Globally](#) did a podcast on this article. There was also an [interview for War on the Rocks](#) on applications of psychological models to the War in Ukraine. McDermott also published a chapter on "Psychology, Leaders, and New Deterrence Dilemmas" in [The Fragile Balance of Terror](#), edited by Scott Sagan and Vipin Narang and published by Cornell University Press's *Studies in Security Affairs* series. These [pieces each](#) had Lawfare articles associated with them.

McDermott also published an article on "[The Scientific Study of Small Samples](#)" in *Leadership Quarterly*, as well as several additional chapters on various topics including ethics in research, political ideology, leadership, and teaching experimental methods to undergraduates in different edited volumes.

McDermott has also been continuing work on a book manuscript on cross-cultural differences in attitudes toward gender equality. She has been collecting data on this project for over a decade and completed this process with data from Germany and Switzerland this winter. This research employs survey experiments to examine how attitudes toward different aspects of gender equality, including topics like reproductive choice and domestic violence as well as pay for work, is related to respondent's nationality, sex and religion.

McDermott was also very proud to participate as a task force member on the Presidential Task Force on the Status of Women at Brown under the incredible leadership of Diane Lipscombe.

Kevin McLaughlin

ENGLISH, COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, AND GERMAN STUDIES • 2022-23

Having completed 11 years as dean of the faculty, McLaughlin turned his attention fully back to his research during this past academic year. In the summer and fall he completed the copy editing of his book "The Philology of Life: Walter Benjamin's Critical Program," which was published by [Fordham University Press](#) in January 2023. This book focuses on the literary critical project developed by Benjamin from 1914-1922 in connection with a nexus of developments in German letters around 1800, specifically, the writings of Friedrich Hölderlin, the German romantics, and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. The appearance of this book led to numerous invitations to deliver public lectures at universities in Spring 2023 (the University of Copenhagen and the European Graduate School). Additional lectures are scheduled for Fall 2023 at the University of California, Riverside; the University of Southern California; Stanford University; the University of California, Berkeley; New York University; and Yale University.



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As McLaughlin completed work on this book he also began to collaborate on a translation and critical edition of Benjamin's writings on Goethe with two colleagues, Susan Bernstein (Brown University) and Peter Fenves (Northwestern University). This volume is under contract with Stanford University Press. The main focus of his work on this project has been an annotated translation of Benjamin's major essay on Goethe's novel "Elective Affinities."

During the course of 2022-23 McLaughlin has also started drafting a new book-length project developing a new approach to the 19th century novel that takes its point of departure from Benjamin's essay on Goethe. Drafts of two chapters have been completed with subsequent chapters to be written over the next couple of years. McLaughlin plans to teach new courses based on this project in the departments of English and Comparative Literature in the coming years.

Over the past year McLaughlin has been preparing as well to assume two major new professional roles. The first is as director of a new center for advanced study. This involves developing a new direction for the John Nicholas Brown Center (JNBC) committed to promoting the broad public discussion and dissemination of academic research and scholarship across the full range of disciplines. The second is as managing editor of the journal NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction. Starting in fall 2023 the editorial home of the journal will be moved from Duke University to Brown where it will be housed at the new JNBC.

Beyond these research and professional activities McLaughlin has been starting to conceptualize new courses that he will be teaching in the coming years.

James Morgan

COGNITIVE, LINGUISTIC AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES • FALL 2022

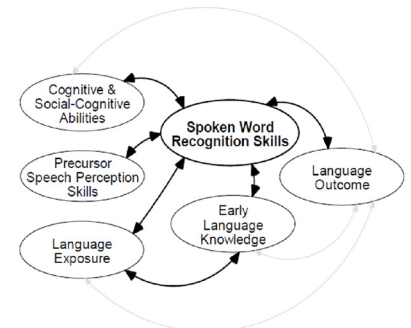
The ability to recognize spoken words in fluent speech rapidly and accurately is critical for both language comprehension and language acquisition. For example, learners cannot track associations between words and the physical and social environment that are critical for learning word meanings unless they can recognize consistency of word-forms from one instance to the next. For practiced listeners, spoken word recognition is effortless and instantaneous, but this masks a set of complex computational challenges that must be solved.

Recent work has shown that speed of spoken word recognition varies across individuals, associated in part with socioeconomic status; slow recognition can impede a cascade of subsequent processes in understanding or learning. Morgan's sabbatical research centered on analyzing data from a longitudinal study investigating the precedents and consequences of individual differences in spoken word recognition. Language experience matters, though quality is ultimately more important than quantity, and effects of environments are largely mediated through variation in fundamental speech perception skills. On the other hand, variation in spoken word recognition has little relation to early individual differences in cognitive abilities. These results have implications for design of intervention programs intended to ameliorate delayed or deficient language development.

Beginning at three months, four types of measures were collected:

- home recordings that assessed the quantity of language to which each child was exposed;
- assessments of language processing (two precursor tasks: prosodic [stress] discrimination and generalization, and discrimination of non-native speech-sound contrasts and two word recognition tasks, assessing speed of recognition and detection of mispronunciations);
- assessments of cognitive and social-cognitive functioning (preference for novelty, time to habituation, gaze-following and use of mutual exclusivity in assigning word reference); and
- standardized parental reports of language development.

Behavioral measures were collected three or four times each, at three-month intervals; a total of eight home recordings were completed, also at three month intervals; and parental vocabulary checklists were collected every four months. Some children completed standardized assessments of language development every six months beginning at 30 months, but COVID imposed early cessation of this longer-term testing.



General structural model of spoken word recognition and language outcome



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Analyses discussed here focused on three partially overlapping constellations of measures. The first included measures of language environment, cognitive ability and speech perception; the second included measures of language environment, speech perception and word-form representation; and the third included measures of word-form representations, speed of word recognition and receptive vocabulary.

Cognition and Language in the First Year

Over time, infants show increasing preference for novelty and decreasing time to habituation; these measures were strongly correlated within individuals. Also across the first year, infants show increasing preference for the predominant stress pattern of the native language (in English, strong-weak) and decreasing ability to discriminate non-native contrasts. These proved to be only weakly correlated: prosodic processing is lateralized to the right hemisphere, whereas statistical processing that gives rise to native language speech sound categories (whose advent gives rise to loss of non-native discrimination) is lateralized to the left hemisphere. No significant correlations between measures of cognitive processing and measures of speech processing were observed. The quantity of language input, averaged across three to 12 months, was significantly correlated with both increasing strong-weak preference and decreasing non-native speech sound discrimination, but was not correlated with either preference for visual novelty nor time to habituation. This pattern of results suggests that early abilities in cognition and language perception develop largely independently of one another.

Speech Sounds and Word-Form Representations

Estimates of numbers of words spoken and conversational turns were provided automatically by LENA software used. For the 12-month home recording, the two hours with the greatest amount of speech were listened to and words appearing on the vocabulary checklist (MacArthur-Bates Communicative Development Inventory) were checked off to estimate numbers of word types used. In addition, token/type ratios were computed to gauge parental repetitiveness. These last two measures provide a gauge of input language quality. As noted, input quantity was negatively correlated with non-native contrast discrimination. However, measures of input quality were not correlated with (loss of) discrimination: this developmental change appears to rest on accumulation of instance-by-instance statistical data. In contrast, whereas measures of input quality were correlated with ability to detect minimal mispronunciations (which is indicative of formation robust, detailed lexical representations), when number of word types was partialled, input quantity was not correlated with mispronunciation detection. Thus, measures of input quantity and input quality predict different aspects of language development.

Representations, Recognition and Vocabulary

Following the pattern of within-domain relations, the ability to detect fine-grained mispronunciations was predictive of speed of spoken word recognition, whereas the ability to deploy a mutual exclusivity strategy in assigning reference to novel words was not so predictive. As anticipated, detection of mispronunciations and use of mutual exclusivity were independent of one another. However, mispronunciation detection, mutual exclusivity, and speed of recognition are all correlated with receptive vocabulary at 25 months. Regression analyses showed that only speed of recognition and mutual exclusivity independently explained variance in vocabulary size.

Vocabulary development depends on both speed of word recognition and deployment of appropriate learning strategies. When processing and strategic effects on word learning are taken into account, long-term effects of input language quantity are no longer evident. This last observation suggests that intervention programs, like Providence Talks, which focus on increasing the quantity of parental talk may be suboptimal.

Ourida Mostefai

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES • 2022-23

The first part of Ourida Mostefai's sabbatical was dedicated to completing the forthcoming critical edition of Rousseau's "Letter to d'Alembert," which was undertaken under the auspices of Garnier Publishers in France. She wrote the critical introduction to this edition in collaboration with a colleague from Bryn Mawr College. The aim of this edition is to uncover the originality and the complexity of Rousseau's argument in a text that has often been seen as a mere reprisal of traditional religious arguments against the theater. It shows that the "Letter to D'Alembert" is not simply the continuation of an old debate on the morality of the theater and that Rousseau is not content to take up the arguments of the Christian moralists against theatrical performances. Instead, his critique of the theater is leveled from the perspective of a theater-goer and a practitioner of the genre. And, more fundamentally, the question of the theater is viewed through a political lens and focuses on its influence on society and its morals within the context of a republican government. Mostefai was invited to present this new edition at a symposium held at the Center for Modern European Studies at the University of Copenhagen in May 2023.



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In addition to this work Mostefai advanced her new project on freedom and consent in the Enlightenment. She was invited to deliver a lecture on part of this new project at the Early Modern French Seminar at the University of Oxford (U.K.) in February 2023. The lecture focused on the rewriting of the ancient myth of Eros and Psyche in the Enlightenment and the ways in which an old tale of seduction was rewritten as an attempt to theorize marriage as a free and enlightened contract.

Mostefai was also invited to participate as a faculty lecturer for the Brown Alumni Association on a trip in France: Provincial French Countryside. She gave two lectures that focused on the history of the French language, developing aspects of the topic she teaches in a course at Brown. She delivered several papers at conferences, organized and chaired a session at the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Rome, Italy, and continued to serve as an elected member of the executive board of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

Jeffrey Muller

HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE • FALL 2022

Jeff Muller spent his sabbatical completing the exhibition “Michaelina Wautier and ‘The Five Senses’: Innovation in 17th-Century Flemish Painting,” on view at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), November 12, 2022 through November 5, 2023, and continuing research for a book about the Jesuit Global Strategy of Accommodation.

The exhibition was the result of a History of Art and Architecture practicum course in which six graduate students collaborated with the MFA Center for Netherlandish Art (CNA) to prepare all aspects of the show, from selection of works to the writing of wall labels. The students learned by interacting with a wide range of museum professionals, covering the physical state and conservation of paintings, arrangement and lighting of pictures, and much more. During Fall 2022 Muller edited the student essays that comprise the first and paradigmatic issue online of CNA Studies and also consulted regularly with MFA staff to fine-tune the varied components of the exhibition. This is **the first** display in North America of the work of Wautier, a 17th century painter active in Brussels, who was almost completely forgotten through the historical amnesia caused by sexism. The Boston Globe, New York Times and New York Review of Books all covered the exhibition.

Muller also continued research on a book about the Jesuit Global Strategy of Accommodation. He worked in the private library and archives of a Swiss colleague, Eckart Kühne, to gather information about the reduction villages that gathered Indigenous people in Chiquitos, the Amazonian lowlands of what is now Bolivia. A Swiss Jesuit, Martin Schmid, designed and built the churches for these settlements in the mid-18th century, and a second Swiss Jesuit, Hans Roth, led restoration of the same churches at the end of the 20th century, to establish what is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Kühne collaborated directly with Hans Roth in the restoration and also wrote a great dissertation on the topic. Muller consulted the documents and sources that Kühne generously made available in his home in the city of Biel.

Eric Nathan

MUSIC • 2022-23

Eric Nathan began his post-tenure sabbatical composing a new work for solo piano, “My Grandfather Played the Piano,” commissioned by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center for pianist Gilbert Kalish. Nathan attended the premiere at Lincoln Center in March 2023. Inspired by memories of his grandfather playing stride piano and Nathan’s own relationship to the piano (performing J.S. Bach and jazz), the work follows a thread connecting Bach, ragtime and Nathan’s own music, and ultimately aims to traverse life’s lived experience: thinking of grandparent and grandchild, old age and childhood, then and now, birth and remembrance — of memory itself.

Nathan then went to the Yellow Barn Festival to record a CD of his and librettist Mark Campbell’s dramatic song cycle, “Some Favored Nook,” with Grammy-winning producer Judith Sherman, soprano Tony Arnold, baritone William Sharp and pianist Seth Knopp. “Some Favored” is inspired by the correspondence between Emily Dickinson and Thomas Wentworth Higginson, using Dickinson and Higginson’s poetry and writings as a lens to view the social, political and cultural issues of this early chapter in American history — abolition, civil rights, women’s rights and the effects of war, as well as many of the themes that fill Dickinson’s poetry, such as love and death. The CD will be released on New Focus Recordings on September 15, 2023.



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Nathan at his studio at Civitella Ranieri Foundation (© Marco Giugliarelli for the Civitella Ranieri Foundation, 2022)

Nathan spent the fall semester in Italy where he was a fellow at the Civitella Ranieri Foundation, located at a 16th century castle in Umbria. While in residence, Nathan gave a talk on his research, curated a concert of piano music with pianist Qing Jiang that included the world premiere of his “Between” for solo piano, and composed “Double Concerto No. 2,” a 24-minute work for two solo violas and string orchestra. This work is commissioned by the Yellow Barn Festival, New York Classical Players and Rhode Island Chamber Music Concerts. Soloists Hsin-Yun Huang and Misha Amory, Yellow Barn musicians and members of the Parker, Ariel and Jupiter string quartets will give the world premiere at Jordan Hall in Boston on September 19, 2023, with Nathan conducting.

“Double Concerto No. 2” is an exploration of the intertwining relationships between discrete and opposing forces: of one life with another, of the human and natural worlds, of stasis and movement, of the past and present, and of feelings such as love, loss, joy and remembrance. Nathan builds on his recent explorations of a “sound painting” conducting technique where the conductor “paints” in sweeping gestures across the ensemble, sending sound rippling across the orchestra, as if wind is rustling through trees. Quotations of past

music are reimagined and reframed throughout the concerto: 16th century composer John Dowland’s “Flow My Tears” (c. 1596 A.D.), and 11th century composer Pérotin’s “Viderunt Omnes” (“All the Ends of the Earth,” c. 1198). Pérotin’s luminous setting of a Gregorian chant is one of the first instances of polyphony in Western European music. The work is dedicated to the memory of violist Roger Tapping, violist of the Juilliard String Quartet and a beloved teacher.

In the spring semester, Nathan completed two compositions: “In Between II” for orchestra, commissioned by the New England Philharmonic and Oberlin College and Conservatory, and “Dream Scenes” for piano trio, commissioned by Tonhalle Düsseldorf and the Royal Danish Library. Nathan attended the premiere of “In Between II” at Oberlin where he also gave a composition colloquium lecture. Brown Professor of the Practice Saleem Ashkar gave the world premiere performance of “Dream Scenes” at Düsseldorf’s Schumannfest with violinist Boris Brovtsyn and cellist Claudio Bohórquez. Nathan joined Ashkar in Berlin for rehearsals and in Düsseldorf for the premiere. The work is written in homage to composer Robert Schumann, referencing Schumann’s practice of juxtaposing, and transitioning between, music of dramatic contrasts. Nathan enjoyed visiting the Heinrich-Heine-Institut where he was able to view original Schumann manuscripts and play on Schumann’s piano.

Nathan’s trip to Düsseldorf was part of a westward trip around the globe which began in May 2023 with the West Coast premiere of his *Omaggio a Gesualdo* for string orchestra in Los Angeles with the Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra, followed by an invited talk on his music in China at the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music. The trip concluded in late June at the Yellow Barn Festival, where Nathan was in residence for three days as guest composition faculty and attended a Composer Portrait concert of his music, including “Some Favored Nook” as well as a number of his chamber works, performed by the musicians of the Yellow Barn’s Young Artist Program.



Nathan in the city of Düsseldorf posing with a poster of Brown colleague Saleem Abbound Ashkar that was advertising the Skyline concert series that Ashkar curated at the Tonhalle Düsseldorf’s Schumannfest, which included Nathan’s premiere and a premiere by Brown colleague Wang Lu.



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Pura Nieto Hernández

CLASSICS • SPRING 2023

Pura Nieto Hernández took a leave of absence in order to be able to spend part of the semester (March 15 through May 3) in Campinas, Brazil, where she had been invited to teach a course on archaic Greek poetry. She has had a long relationship with Brazilian scholars, some of whom had spent time at Brown as visiting scholars. There were four sessions, two-and-a-half hours each. The course had a hybrid format, and the audience consisted of students and faculty from Campinas and other Brazilian universities.

She also had an opportunity to present her work in the Universities of São Paulo and Belo Horizonte, where she spoke on “Filón de Alejandría: Felicidad, Historia y Virtud.”

Nieto Hernández also completed an introduction to the section on drama for a historical compendium of women in Greek literature, a collective work that is being edited in Brazil, to which she was invited to contribute. This work will appear in Portuguese.

Finally, she wrote a referee report on a book for Cambridge University Press, and an article for *The Classical Outlook*.

During her leave, she continued advising her group of sophomore advisees, directing three undergraduate honors theses, presented in Brown’s Department of Classics in April 2023, and advised one doctoral dissertation. She also served as a member on this year’s honors committee of the Department of Classics at Brown, which evaluates the theses presented for honors and awards the departmental prizes for them.

Tara Nummedal

HISTORY • 2022-23

Tara Nummedal spent the academic year in Berlin, Germany, where she reconnected with colleagues in Europe and was a visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Department III.

Nummedal built on her previous work in the history of alchemy and collaborations with European research centers to complete three new essays this year. The first, “Technologies of Desire: Alchemical Incest and Disruptive Philters in Atalanta fugiens,” emerged from a [fall 2022 workshop](#) on the 17th century German alchemist Michael Maier in connection with the “[Episteme in Bewegung](#)” Collaborative Research Center at the Free University Berlin. Nummedal’s contribution, which examines the surprisingly important theme of incest in alchemical theory, will appear in a volume edited by Simon Brandl and Volkahrd Wels, “Michael Maier und die Formen (al)chemischen Wissens um 1600” (Harrassowitz). Nummedal’s second essay, “Intimate Entertainments: Andreas Ortelius’s Opera Philosophica and Private Alchemical Practice,” began as a contribution to a (virtual) 2022 workshop organized by the [Centre for Privacy Studies](#) at the University of Copenhagen. This essay explores the potential of privacy for the history of alchemy, and will appear in 2024 in “Privacy in Early Modern Saxony,” edited by Mette Birkedal Bruun and Natacha Klein Kafer. The third essay, “Alchemical Visions,” is a reflection on the multiple kinds of vision and blindness in alchemical technology. Developed through a series of workshops over the course of 2022 and 2023, Nummedal’s essay will appear in “The New Cambridge History of Technology,” co-edited by Dagmar Schäfer, Francesca Bray, Shadreck Chirikure, Tiago Saraiva and Matteo Valleriani, an experiment in rewriting the history of technology through a decolonial and iconoclastic lens.

Nummedal also took advantage of proximity to European archives this year to develop a new book project on “affective technologies.” Drawing on court cases, scholarly treatises and material objects, “Affective Technologies” examines a cluster of practices and objects — including the aphrodisiac Spanish fly (cantharides), mandrake roots and alchemical “cups of love” — associated with (loss of) control of the bodies, desires and decision-making capacity of others in early modern Europe (ca. 1450-1750). As part of this project, Nummedal drafted a chapter on the German Alraune, a root, often modified to look like a human, that circulated widely in early modern central and northern Europe. The Alraune was linked variously to mandrakes, German mining spirits, the curiosity cabinets of emperors, and the effluvia of executed criminals, but Nummedal is particularly interested in a specific Alraune confiscated from a group of women in 17th century Saxony. This uncanny object still sits in the Saxon State Archives, along with the records of the investigation into its origin, powers and circulation, and offers an opportunity to consider material culture and affective power. Nummedal will share this chapter (virtually) with international colleagues in Fall 2023 at the Objects, Images and Spaces of Health working group at the Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in Philadelphia.



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Itohan Osayimwese

HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE • 2022-23

Itohan Osayimwese spent her sabbatical year conducting research and writing about the systematic displacement of African material heritage, especially between the 18th century and the present; colonial histories of archaeology; and the migration of African-descended people after the end of transatlantic enslavement.

She spent most of her year visiting museums with large collections of African material heritage and drafting the core chapters of her book manuscript, "Africa's Buildings: Architecture and the Restitution of Cultural Heritage" (Princeton University Press, forthcoming). This book argues that architecture is an overlooked but significant aspect of African material heritage in Western museums. From the colossal relief panels and architectural statuary of ancient Egypt to the column plaques of the Kingdom of Benin, from the ornate movable wood minbars (stair pulpits) of Morocco to the anthropomorphic lintels and thresholds of the Cameroonian Grassfields, and the mysterious soapstone bird columns of Great Zimbabwe, vast quantities of building parts have been looted during colonial "punitive expeditions"; forcibly purchased, excavated and removed during archaeological digs; or, more recently, stolen outright from museums in the dead of the night. Osayimwese contends that reconceptualizing African "art" in Western collections as part and parcel of the continent's historical built environments lends further power to arguments for restitution. Recontextualizing misappropriated African art as African architecture has the potential to transform the moribund discipline of Africanist architectural history, which has long struggled with an alleged scarcity of evidence and sources.

Osayimwese also wrapped up the publication process for her edited volume, "German Colonialism and its Legacies in Africa: Architecture, Art, Urbanism" (Bloomsbury academic 2023); published an article, "Rewriting Hermann Frobenius on Architecture in Sub-Saharan Africa" (e-flux, May 2023); edited proofs for her chapter, "Afro-Caribbean Migration and Detention at Ellis Island" in *Architecture Against Democracy* (University of Minnesota Press, 2024); and submitted a chapter, "West Indian Women as Postcolonial Brokers," for review for *Architectures of the Greater Caribbean* (University of Texas Press, 2024).

She also met regularly with four Ph.D. students and worked with them on their dissertations, general examination preparation and qualifying papers. Finally, she attended important departmental meetings in preparation for her transition to the chairship of her department in summer 2023.

Ed Osborn

VISUAL ART, MUSIC • FALL 2022

Ed Osborn undertook the development of several audio and video works during his sabbatical. The largest of these, "Splinterval," was completed at a residency at the Elektronmusikstudion in Stockholm and was premiered at Massachusetts Institute of Technology as part of the Dissolve Festival of spatial audio held there in December. It was also presented in the new Lindemann Performing Arts Center as part of one of the concerts to test out the multi-channel audio capabilities of the performance space. The multi-channel piece is made from a set of processed recordings of fireworks and complementary sounds of analog synthesizers. In it, the sounds are slowly blended to create an intermediate space between the direct recordings of the fireworks and the sounds of their electronic transformation.

Tarmacalla, a video work based around a street scene filmed in one continuous shot, was also completed during the sabbatical term. In the course of the 23-minute piece both the audio and video image shift from a direct depiction of the scene to a set of shifting and impressionistic representations. The street scene is gradually rendered abstract as the nearby sounds of a playground are blended into an impressionistic soundscape.

Over the course of the fall and while in Sweden and Berlin he worked on the development of "Thresholdings," a series of site-based audio and video works. It is made up of a series of sound and video works built from precise acoustically-based investigations into specific sites and locations. Each of the works in the series is an intervention into a particular site in which elements within the site are activated and explored. These interventions take



Video still from Thresholdings (2023)



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the form of a temporary installation or live action in a public space. As the interventions are short-term and low in acoustic volume, they make an in-between or threshold space, one that occupies the area just above the sounds of the spaces in which they take place. Several parts of the series were recorded on sites in Europe in the fall and post-production work continued into the spring term.

While in Europe, Osborn gave invited talks on his work at the Sound Studies and Sonic Arts Program, Universität der Künste in Berlin; in the Common Seminar Lecture Series at Konstfack, the University of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm; and at the Academy of Music in the University of Gothenburg.

Samuel Perry

EAST ASIAN STUDIES, COMPARATIVE LITERATURE • 2022-23

Samuel Perry divided his time on sabbatical between South Korea, Japan and Vietnam. In Seoul he finalized the English and Korean manuscripts for his Modern Language Association Text and Translation project, which will come to fruition this fall with the publication of "[A Century of Queer Korean Fiction](#)" and the Korean-language companion volume "[한국의 퀴어 문학:한세기](#)." With access to Korean libraries and North Korean sources, he also completed half of a new translation project called "Pyongyang Modern: North Korea before North Korea," a collection of translated Korean and Japanese literature that includes short stories about Pyongyang and other northern cities by writers such as Yi Hyosök, Paek Sök, Kim Yisök and Kang Kyöngae. In Nagasaki, Sasebo and Tokyo, Japan, Perry rediscovered his love of the archives, and had the luxury of several weeks in libraries where he was able to slowly comb through Japanese and Korean print culture published during and immediately after the U.S. Occupation of Japan — material that he will incorporate into his next monograph on the Korean War in Japan. An article related to this research was recently [translated and published](#) in Japanese. This experience in the Japanese archives also helped Perry conceive of a new project on the "Bad Gays of Japan," which implicates the formation of a modern gay identity in Japan within the circuits of an undeconstructed colonial desire, left fully intact in the wake of U.S. Occupation. He gave an invited talk on this project at Stanford University in January. While in Japan, Perry was invited to participate in an alumni tour sponsored by Brown Travelers, accompanying a spirited group of Brown alumni through the alleyways of Tokyo, the Japanese alps and some of the most beautiful temples and gardens in Japan.

During the spring semester, Perry spent three months attending intensive Vietnamese language school in Ho Chi Minh City, and tracing the steps of several Japanese writers who lived and/or traveled in Vietnam. One short-term goal of his Vietnamese language studies will be the creation of a new course in comparative literature, Worlding Vietnamese Literature, a course that will bring together works originally published in Vietnamese, French, Japanese, Korean and English in an examination of fiction about colonial Vietnam and the experience of diaspora. One long-term goal is the expansion of research on East Asia at Brown and a magnification of the long-overlooked interconnections between Japan, Korea and Vietnam in the modern period, largely a consequence of the expansion of the Japanese and U.S. empires into Southeast Asia.

Richard Rambuss

ENGLISH • 2022-23

Richard Rambuss had planned to spend his entire sabbatical working on his current book project, "Mardi Gras Milton: Classic New Orleans Carnival and Renaissance Literature." Before he could settle into it, however, he accepted invitations to write several other pieces. He worked first on an essay for a special spring 2023 issue of *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* devoted to the work of the late queer theorist Leo Bersani. Rambuss's essay, titled "A tergo," treats the question of sex and positionality in Bersani's seminal book "Homos" as well as in Jean Genet's war novel "Funeral Rites." Rambuss next did the needed preliminary research to write the abstract for an invited essay on the 17th century English poet George Herbert, gender, and eroticism for the *Oxford Handbook of George Herbert*, edited by Tessie Prakas and Kimberly Johnson, which is now under contract with the press.

Rambuss then completed "Devils Dance With Angels," an essay for the forthcoming *Routledge Companion to Queer Literary Studies*, edited by Melissa Sanchez. This essay, in part related to Rambuss's Carnival and literature book project, considers John Rechy's 1963 male hustler novel "City of Night," which culminates in New Orleans during Mardi Gras. Rechy's book landed on both bestseller and banned books lists and is considered a



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pre-Stonewall turning point in American fiction for its unshrinking depiction of sexual subculture. Rambuss's essay is the first critical account to focus on the Mardi Gras setting of the novel's 100-page final section, which presents New Orleans as Rechy's ultimate "city of night," fearsome and alluring, romantic and sleazy, ecstatic and debauched.

With these two essays and one abstract completed, Rambuss devoted most of the remainder of his leave to his "Mardi Gras Milton book," coming up with the book's scheme of five chapters, completing a draft of its lengthy first chapter on Milton (67 pp.), and beginning work on a second chapter on Shakespeare in New Orleans.

About "Mardi Gras Milton"

In 1857, a new secret society Carnival organization took to the streets in New Orleans on Mardi Gras night, February 24, in masks and costumes for a dramatic torchlit procession on the subject of The Demon Actors in "Paradise Lost." The new organization's objective, according to the story it would tell of itself, was to elevate the city's Latin Carnival traditions and celebrations, many aspects of which they found to be distasteful and far too unruly. They styled themselves the Mistick Krewe of Comus overtly after the most famous character in Milton's one major dramatic work, "A Masque Presented at Ludlow Castle, 1634," often now referred to simply as "Comus." The Mistick Krewe of Comus's Miltonian debut would refashion Mardi Gras in New Orleans, bestowing upon the city its own festive lord of misrule, one with a venerable 17th century literary pedigree.

Who were these self-appointed Mardi Gras reformers? And how is that they came to conceive of and stage a formal parade, followed by a glamorous society ball, in celebration of this carnivalized Catholic holiday on the seemingly quite un-carnavalesque theme of "Paradise Lost," Milton's great Protestant epic? Elaborate Comus parades dedicated to Spenser, Shakespeare, Chaucer, Tennyson, Byron, and other English authors and texts followed in later years.

Rambuss's book issues from his ongoing interest in the "afterlives" of Renaissance literature, particularly the popular appropriation and recirculation of English Renaissance authors and their works in perhaps unexpected cultural sites such as Mardi Gras and the Deep South. "Mardi Gras Milton" is also a reflection on a time when literature was a powerful form of cultural capital in the larger public sphere.

In terms of public presentations, Rambuss delivered an invited lecture at Tulane University as well as a paper on a panel he organized for the Renaissance Society of America conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Iván A. Ramos

THEATER ARTS AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES • SPRING 2023

During his leave, Iván A. Ramos was able to complete final copy edits on his book "Unbelonging: Dissonant Sounds in Mexican and Latinx Aesthetics," which will be published by New York University Press in July 2023. "Unbelonging" argues that racial identity and belonging have historically required legible forms of performance. Sound has been the primary medium that amplifies and is used to assign cultural citizenship and, for Latinx individuals, legibility is essential to music perceived as traditional and authentic to their national origins. In the context of 20th century neoliberal policies, which cemented the concept of "citizen" within logics of consumerism and capitalism, Ramos turns to focus on Latinx artists, writers and audiences, who produce experimental and often "inauthentic" performances and installations in sonic subcultures to reject new definitions of economic citizenship. Organized around studies of a number of artists, all of whom are explored through the methodological frameworks of sound studies, performance studies and queer theory, "Unbelonging" unearths how their very different genres of music share a unifying theme of dissonance.

In addition, Ramos was awarded a Mellon Emerging Faculty Leaders Award from the Institute for Citizens and Scholars (formerly the Woodrow Wilson Foundation). This award recognizes junior faculty who "are building inclusive campus communities through their teaching, scholarship and service." Ramos is part of a cohort of 10 faculty members from a diverse number of institutions across the country. The award is dedicated to providing junior faculty with the support and time to conduct research that will support their tenure case.

During this time Ramos was also able to complete edits for an upcoming article, "Breaking Down, Breaking Together: Xandra Ibarra's Nude Laughing and the Ethics of the Encounter," which has been solicited for publication in *liquid blackness: journal of aesthetics and black studies*. This essay considers the fragility of social relations through an understudied action that reveals the limits of sociality: laughter. Using Latina artist Ibarra's ongoing performance "Nude Laughing," the article suggests that to encounter the body of another subject laughing is to face the



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uneasy reality of encounter. Analyzing three iterations of “Nude Laughing” across geographic locales, this essay lingers in the kinds of reactions the piece produces in its audiences. Ultimately, Ramos argues that to encounter the other’s laughter, especially across difference, rather than an impasse might provide a radical possibility to engage with a feminist and queer ethics of encounter.

Finally, with the time provided during leave, Ramos was able to visit Greece in order to prepare for the course Global Theater and Performance: Paleolithic to the Threshold of Modernity (TAPS 1230), which he will be teaching in Fall 2023. As someone whose work usually focuses on the contemporary moment, this trip gave Ramos an invaluable opportunity to closely research and understand the very foundations of the theatrical traditions he will be teaching this fall.

Seth Rockman

HISTORY • 2022-23

Seth Rockman spent the academic year in residence at re:work, a Berlin-based research institute focusing on global labor history. Over the last decade, re:work has brought together scholars from across chronologies, geographies and academic disciplines to explore human labor in its social, cultural and political economic contexts. The institute had published Rockman’s lecture “[Der alte und der neue Materialismus in der Geschichte der Sklaverei](#)” in 2022. This year they provided Rockman with the space to complete a book manuscript that is now moving into the production process at University of Chicago Press.

“Plantation Goods: A Material History of American Slavery” grew out of some unresolved questions in Brown’s landmark 2006 Slavery and Justice Report, namely, how did Rhode Island’s economic relationship to slavery change once the transatlantic slave trade had been abolished? The project grew to encompass all of New England in the six decades before the Civil War; and then grew further to explore the mechanics of interregional commerce; and then further to consider the implications of these enduring economic ties for slaveholders and for the enslaved. This is how a project that began about a handful of New England firms manufacturing clothing, shoes and farm implements for enslaved workers in the South became a study of slavery as a national institution despite the presumptive divergence of so-called “free states” and “slave states.” Ultimately the book traces such quotidian goods as axes and boots from the hands of the people who made them into the hands (and feet) of the people using and wearing them and, in doing so, searches for the intertwined lives and livelihoods of fieldhands and factory-hands separated by thousands of miles but tied together through something so mundane as a pair of Rhode Island-made pants. Informed by recent scholarship in material culture studies, the study is attentive to how the design of ax handles and the performance qualities of woolen fabrics structured the work routines of people in northern factory villages and southern plantation districts; the tacit and embodied knowledge of making and the affordances of material artifacts figure prominently.



An 1850s token from N.C. Folger’s New Orleans store, which carried a range of New England-made “plantation goods” for enslaved people to wear and use.

While in Europe, Rockman had the opportunity to present this research at the University of Bern in Switzerland, but most of his travels were devoted to other projects. As part of a working group on “racial capitalism” (co-sponsored by the Ruth J. Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice), Rockman met with fellow scholars first at Amsterdam’s International Institute of Social History, and then again at the Centre for Reparation Research at University of the West Indies. Perhaps the most important travels involved flying to Washington, D.C., in December 2022 to provide testimony to the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services relating to the economic legacies of slavery and the prospect of financial reparations. This was just a few weeks before control of the House switched out of the hands of a Democratic majority, which created some urgency for getting this history into the Congressional Record. [Read Rockman’s written testimony.](#)

Rockman also devoted substantial attention this year to editorial work on three journal publication projects emerging from the summer 2022 conference “Let’s Get to Work: Bringing Labor History and the History of Science Together” at Philadelphia’s Science History Institute. Rockman and his two co-conveners are shepherding research from the conference into special issues of History of Science and Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas, while also placing a special section in Isis, the journal of the History of Science Society. Collectively, these publications make a case for historians of science to think more deeply about knowledge production as embedded in broader political economies of labor, while also calling on labor historians to more robustly explore locales of scientific work as sites of class relations and labor conflict. All three publications will appear in late 2023 or early 2024.



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Gretel Rodríguez

HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE • 2022-23

Gretel Rodríguez spent the academic year as a Getty/American Council of Learned Societies Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of Art. She dedicated the majority of this time to the completion of her first book, “The Roman Triumphal Arch: Its Making and Ancient Reception from Augustus to Constantine.” This book is a comparative study of Roman triumphal and honorific arches, considered as an essential form of communication between ancient patrons and viewers. Arches were one of the defining features of Roman cities and remained a preferred form of commemoration for over five centuries. The book focuses on the making and viewing of arches as interdependent processes, revealing how diverse patrons living throughout the Roman world channeled the unique flexibility of this architectural form to fulfill their commemorative needs, and to reach the multicultural audiences of the sprawling empire. By bringing attention to the ancient reception of arches, the project also offers a reconsideration of a canonical corpus of Roman architecture from a postcolonial perspective. During the initial months of the sabbatical leave, Rodríguez conducted a final stage of field research in France and Italy for this project, then spending the rest of the year writing the last chapter of the book and editing the rest of the manuscript.



Sanctuary of Artemis at Brauron, Greece, one of the monuments discussed in the article “The myth of Iphigenia in fourth-century funerary vases of southern Italy” (photo by Gretel Rodríguez)

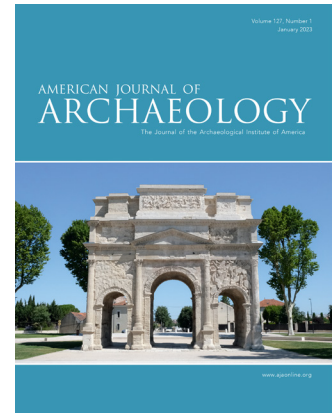
deliver a lecture at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston in winter 2022. Her talk, “Looking at The Other: Images of Captives in Roman Art,” offered an exploration of this topic highlighting examples from the museum’s permanent collection. As part of the early stages of research for her second book, tentatively titled “The Architecture of Water Sanctuaries in Roman Gaul,” she recently presented a paper at the conference, GODSCAPES: Ritual, Belief and the Natural World in the Ancient Mediterranean and Beyond, organized by the Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions and the School of Classics at the University of St. Andrews. Her presentation, “Sacred Rivers, Springs, and Fountains: The Religious Watery Landscape of Ancient Gaul,” offered preliminary observations on the relationship between the fluvial landscape of the region, the archaeology of indigenous water cults, and the architecture of religion under Roman colonization.

During this past academic year, Rodríguez also dedicated time to additional writing projects that were in various stages of completion. In fall 2022 she published an exhibition review in the journal *Studies in Late Antiquity* (Vol. 6, Issue 3), which assessed the historic reinstallation of the Ancient and Byzantine galleries at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA). She also published two scholarly articles: The first one, “[The Design and Reception of the Roman Arch at Orange](#),” was published in January 2023 by the *American Journal of Archaeology* (Vol. 127.1). This essay offers a preview of some of the ideas developed more extensively in her first book. A second article appeared in the journal *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics* with the title, “[The myth of Iphigenia in fourth-century funerary vases of southern Italy](#)” (Vol. 77/78).

Because of her ongoing work on the iconography of captives on Roman monuments, Rodríguez was invited to



The Arch of Constantine in Rome (ca. 315 C.E.), one of the monuments explored in the book “The Roman Triumphal Arch: Its Making and Ancient Reception from Augustus to Constantine” (photo by Gretel Rodríguez)



Cover for Vol. 127 of the *American Journal of Archaeology*, highlighting Rodríguez’s article on the Arch at Orange (photo by Gretel Rodríguez)



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Kareen Rozen

ECONOMICS • 2022-23

Kareen Rozen spent her sabbatical year as a visiting fellow at Princeton University's Department of Economics. During this time, Rozen made significant progress on several exciting new projects, each involving multiple coauthors (some of whom were colleagues at Princeton). Several of these current projects are focused on understanding the effects of complexity in economic decision making. How does it impact our beliefs, our choices, or our reactions to others? Another such project studies whether individuals whose behavior appears rational under standard measures, still qualify as rational when the modeler has a better understanding of their objectives. The final project considers the allocation of effort to tasks in a dynamic setting.

Rozen also continued or completed work on several existing projects, a couple of which are described below.

Rozen and her coauthor, Geoffroy de Clippel, completed "Bounded Rationality in Choice Theory: A Survey." This survey is intended for a wide audience of students and researchers in economics, and has now been accepted for publication at the Journal of Economic Literature. This work discusses how choice theory (the study of the decision processes individuals may use and the patterns of choice they generate) has incorporated bounded rationality. It taxonomizes the literature into five central departures from the traditional paradigm of rationality in economics; examines the importance of axiomatic characterizations in that literature; discusses the experimental testing of theories; and ventures into a fractious debate on welfare inferences when choices are inconsistent with utility maximization.

Rozen's work "Communication, Perception, and Strategic Obfuscation," which is joint with de Clippel, was also revised and resubmitted during the sabbatical. This project considers situations where an informed party (the Sender) must truthfully reveal information about the state of the world (e.g., their qualifications for a position, the risks of the medicine they produce, etc.) to an uninformed party (the Receiver). The Sender hopes the Receiver takes one particular action (e.g., hire them, buy the product), while the Receiver prefers the action yielding the highest payoff for herself. The complication is that while the Sender may not lie, she can potentially obfuscate: that is, make it difficult for the Receiver to understand the state. Moreover, even when the Sender attempts to be clear, there is a risk that the Receiver finds the Sender's message unclear. Consequently, when information appears to be obfuscated, the Receiver may be skeptical but cannot be sure the Sender intended to deceive. Theoretically, this should impact how much effort the Receiver exerts in deciphering information about the state of the world before making her decision. This project considers the testable implications of such a setting, and implements it in a controlled laboratory experiment. During the sabbatical, Rozen and de Clippel revised this work to include important new theoretical results showing that their model better explains their data than other natural models one might consider.

Significant progress was also made on a National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded project, on which Rozen is principal investigator (PI) and de Clippel is co-PI. This project regards whether public pronouncements can help individuals coordinate on conventions of behavior in repeated games. Further work on this and other projects under the umbrella of this NSF grant will continue in the coming two years.

Rozen is looking forward to being back at Brown, and returning to her earlier role as director of undergraduate studies for the economics department.

Susan Short

SOCIOLOGY • 2022-23

Susan Short spent most of her sabbatical at the University of Michigan, where she was hosted as a visiting scholar by the Population Studies Center at the Institute for Social Research (ISR). During this time, she met and discussed ongoing projects and collaborative research ideas with colleagues in sociology, economics, public health and other fields. She also attended interdisciplinary workshops and met with ISR early career faculty, postdoctoral scholars and graduate students.

While in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Short worked on three research projects. The first centered on gender and health, and the measurement of gender ideologies and cultural sexism. This research was presented at a National Institutes of Health workshop and resulted in a paper under review. It also resulted in a published review paper and op-ed on women's health. The second, in collaboration with Brown anthropologist Jessaca Leinaweaver, and colleagues at an international NGO, focused on the topic of child-family separation. Papers and proposals from this project are under development. The third, in collaboration with Brown sociologist Meghan Zacher, developed a new stream of research on the social foundations of disparities in life course aging and health. This research generated new papers and proposals.



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Short also continued to work remotely with Brown graduate and undergraduate students. She served on five dissertation committees and one master’s committee, and worked with eight undergraduate research assistants. Short is grateful for the sabbatical opportunity, and looks forward to returning to campus, and rejoining her colleagues at the Brown Population Studies and Training Center and the Department of Sociology.

Joseph Silverman

MATHEMATICS • 2022-23

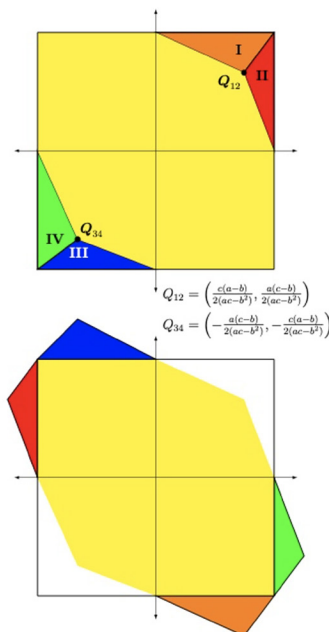
Joseph Silverman’s primary focus during his sabbatical was advancing his research in the areas of arithmetic geometry, arithmetic dynamics and cryptography, as well as traveling to work with colleagues and present his work at conferences.

Silverman spent five weeks in 2023 as an invited researcher at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute at University of California, Berkeley, during which time he attended two workshops, gave an invited address and started a major research project with Hector Pasten on arithmetic propagation of orbits that he planned to submit during summer 2023. This project centers around a new phenomenon that Pasten and Silverman discovered in which the existence of one large dynamical orbit forces the existence of many large orbits.

Silverman wrote and submitted a paper titled “[A Heuristic Subexponential Algorithm to Find Paths in Markoff Graphs Over Finite Fields](#),” in which he shows that a proposed cryptographic construction based on random paths in Markoff graphs is insecure. He collaborated with Wade Hindes to write and submit a paper titled “[The size of semigroup orbits modulo primes](#),” in which they improve by an exponential factor an earlier result of Silverman for semigroups of rank one, for semigroups of rank at least two. And he and Nicole Looper made the final editorial changes on their (as described by the referee) “seminal paper” titled “[A Lehmer-type height lower bound for abelian surfaces over function fields](#).” This paper represents the first progress in 35-plus years on extending to abelian varieties of higher dimension the Fourier averaging techniques used by Hindry and Silverman in the 1980s to study abelian varieties of dimension one.

Silverman took advantage of his sabbatical leave to present his work at a numerous conferences and workshops, including a conference in Cambridge, England, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Mordell’s groundbreaking paper on elliptic curves; a conference in Bordeaux, France, in honor of Marc Hindry, with whom Silverman has written a book and several important papers; and a Number Theory Day in Utrecht, Netherlands, at which he was the featured speaker. In January 2023 Silverman co-organized one special session and spoke at another at the annual Joint Mathematics Meeting of the American Mathematical Society, and in May 2023 he delivered the Heilbronn Lectures at the University of Bristol, where his three talks, “Arithmetic Geometry,” “Arithmetic Dynamics” and “Arithmetic Complexity,” illustrated the interaction of number theory with other major areas of modern mathematics. Silverman also gave two lecture series for graduate students and postdocs, one consisting of five talks on lattice-based cryptography in Utah, and one consisting of three talks on elliptic curves in Wales.

Finally, Silverman continued his service on the board of trustees of the American Mathematical Society, including a one-year term as chair in 2023.



Decomposition and reconstruction of the fundamental domain for local height Fourier averaging on abelian varieties of dimension 2



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Laurence C. Smith

EARTH, ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANETARY SCIENCES, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY • FALL 2020

Laurence C. Smith mainly used his sabbatical to assist scientific and technical goals of the Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) [mission](#), a new water-mapping satellite that was launched by NASA in December. Together with a team of students and a postdoctoral scholar, assisted pre-launch planning and post-launch field verification of SWOT satellite observations, which map the world's freshwater resources in unprecedented three-dimensional detail. The first publicly available SWOT data are expected to be released later this year.

Smith also published nine articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and two publicly released scientific datasets in open-access archives. Six other article manuscripts were submitted for journal review, of which three were led by Brown undergraduate students. He also submitted two NASA grant proposals with Brown colleagues, one of which was selected for funding. Despite being on sabbatical Smith oversaw the completion of seven undergraduate student senior honors theses or independent research projects last year.

For public outreach he presented seven public lectures and book signings for his book titled "[Rivers of Power](#)," including to Howard University, Middlebury College, the University of Michigan and Tulane University, among others. Media outreach included two podcast recordings and authoring an [op-ed](#), "Long Stretches of the Mississippi River Have Run Dry. What's Next?" in the New York Times.

Mark Suchman

SOCIOLOGY • 2022-23

Mark Suchman coupled a Fall 2022 Faculty Fellowship at the Cogut Institute for the Humanities with a Spring 2023 sabbatical leave. This gave him the opportunity to develop an emerging project on "The New Corporate Personhood," exploring recent upheavals in the legal treatment of business organizations, and placing these shifts in the context of larger cultural developments beyond the law.

Recent court decisions such as *Citizens United* and *Hobby Lobby* reframe corporate personhood in three interconnected ways: (1) depicting corporations as moral actors, not merely as commercial entities; (2) treating corporations as extensions of principals' holistic personas, not merely as vehicles for limited joint purposes; and (3) granting corporations constitutional rights, not merely statutory powers and duties. This emerging "New Corporate Personhood" doctrine, Suchman argues, reflects the growing salience of "entrepreneurial authenticity" within our cultural imagination. As the figure of the entrepreneur becomes a dominant trope for understanding business activity, corporations become entangled with the personas of their larger-than-life founders, often obscuring the complexities of the firm as a multiple-stakeholder polity. Ironically, the more we see organizations as extensions of human will and individuality, the more likely we are to afford them the deference that we would afford to their most visible stakeholders. What gets lost in this dynamic, however, is the fact that organizations are political systems, composed of multiple, not-entirely-consonant constituencies. The consistency of organizational actions (and with it, the illusion of corporate personhood) is thus neither natural nor inevitable. Instead, it is socially constructed by the governance structures of culture, power and law — including by corporate personhood doctrine itself.

Over the course of the year, Suchman worked with a team of 14 undergraduate research assistants to identify and analyze relevant court cases, political and legal commentary, and other writings on the nature of corporations as social actors. By participating in this investigation, the students gained both in-depth exposure to cutting-edge legal developments and valuable experience in conducting legal and cultural research. The work yielded an annotated bibliography of over 75 articles and court cases, a series of topical memos, and a pilot survey, which was fielded to a sample of 65 Brown undergraduates in Spring 2023. Suchman is now integrating and expanding these products into a book proposal and a National Science Foundation grant application.

In addition to launching on this new project, Suchman also used the sabbatical year to draft an anthology chapter on "The Legal Environment for Innovation and Entrepreneurship," and to continue work on two ongoing projects: one on the downsides of organizational networks and the other on information technology governance in healthcare. These activities generated presentations at the annual meetings of the Law and Society Association, the Academy of Management and the American Sociological Association, respectively.



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Cole Swensen

LITERARY ARTS • FALL 2022

A poet and hybrid-genre writer, Cole Swensen she spent her sabbatical time based in France, focusing on writing in museums and galleries in Paris and London. Most of her work has for many years been ekphrastic, which is to say, creative writing in conversation with visual art, so this work was an extension of the practice that she has been developing throughout her career. During Fall 2022, she wrote several pieces that will eventually form a sequel to her recent book “Art in Time” (Nightboat Books, 2021), a collection of lyric poetic essays on experimental landscape art in painting, film and installation, much of which was written during her Fall 2018 sabbatical. This past fall, she began new pieces on works by David Hockney, Dawoud Bey, Tacita Dean and Christian Marclay, and continued work on pieces already underway on Daïchi Saito and Jasper Johns. The pieces in this new series all follow a form closer to the poem than to the essay, incorporating technical and biographical information, but foregrounding sound, association and image.

She is also a translator; she has translated 20 volumes of French poetry and prose, which have been published by a variety of presses, including Chronicle Books and New Directions, and part of her sabbatical was spent finishing translations-in-progress of books of poetry by Vincent Broqua (“Recovery”) and Pierre Alferi (“And the Street”); the former was published by Pamenar Press in London in spring 2023, and the latter was the runner-up for the inaugural Stephen Mitchell Award in Translation, given by Green Linden Press, and will be coming out from them in early December 2023. She also finished a translation of Emmanuel Hocquard’s “Elegies,” a book that has become a classic of French post-’68 poetics, and that book has been accepted for publication by New York Review Books.

She was also able to finish a manuscript, long underway, of “nano-essays” — loose lyric essays of between 20 and 200 words — on subjects pertaining to poetics. She submitted it at the beginning of December 2022, and it will be coming out from Shearsman Books in England this fall. She was also able to work on more pieces in the “nano-essay” form, mostly on animals and the environment, in an ongoing enquiry regarding the difference between traditional nature poetry and the increasingly prominent genre of eco-poetics. Thanks to the time afforded by the sabbatical, she was able to focus on sending work out to journals for publication, and 56 pieces have been accepted by 17 different journals for publication in the 2023 year, including in *The Bennington Review*, *The Colorado Review*, *Conjunctions*, *The Harvard Review* and *The Southern Review*.

Swensen is warmly thankful for this sabbatical — it enabled her to engage in the kind of concentrated work only possible with such unobstructed time.

Peter Szendy

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE • 2022-23

Peter Szendy spent his Fall 2022 sabbatical semester in Paris, where he actively promoted his recently published book, “Pouvoirs de la lecture: de Platon au livre électronique” (“Powers of Reading: from Plato to ebooks,” soon to be translated in English for Zone Books). Organized by its French publisher (La Découverte), the book’s promotion entailed a number of radio shows as well as presentations in various bookshops and literary festivals across France (in Paris, Tours, Lyon, Toulouse, Marseille and others). These events gave Szendy the opportunity to meet with a wide range of readers and to reflect more deeply upon reading practices that the book mentioned only briefly: in particular, after meeting with an actor who specializes in audiobooks, he was able to witness some recording sessions (for the French translation of David Graeber’s “Toward An Anthropological Theory of Value: The False Coin of Our Own Dreams”) and expand his approach of reading as a distribution of voices. These encounters and discussions were inspiring as Szendy was writing the preface for the upcoming English edition: he was able to widen his perspective on the recent and less recent history of reading aloud, including materials about the tradition of the lectores in Cuban cigar factories.

Szendy also spent time collaborating closely with Olivia Custer, the excellent translator chosen by Zone Books. Since the structure of the book is in some ways unusual — for example, it mimics in a number of passages the shifting focus of the readers by playing graphically with their fluctuating attention, using fading fonts or blank paragraphs — this collaboration was particularly important and very rewarding.

Also during Fall 2022, Peter Szendy has been working on a possible continuation of his book published in French in 2021, “Pour une écologie des images” (“For An Ecology of Images,” soon to be translated in English for Verso). These new developments, presented at a conference in Prague (at the Film and Television School of the Academy of Performing Arts, or FAMU), take the idea of an ecology of images, with its initial emphasis on the multiple and differential temporalities involved in the image, in other directions, in particular toward a focus on the transportation of images: drawing on the work of Aby Warburg (with his notion of *Bilderfahrzeuge*, literally “iconovehicle”) and recent publications by Jennifer Roberts (her



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book titled “Transporting Visions”), this line of inquiry sets out to orchestrate a conversation between the history of image formats and Marx’s discourse on transportation in “Capital.” A first outcome will soon be published in French as part of a volume titled “Sites du film,” edited by film scholar Jean-Michel Durafour for Les Presses du Réel.

Szendy’s sabbatical was extended to the spring semester thanks to a Cogut fellowship. This second sabbatical semester was spent mainly on campus at Brown, participating in the Cogut seminar and doing research on the project that was submitted when applying for the fellowship, i.e., an inquiry into the history and theory of “breathing together” as co-inspiring (“conspiring”). This is a new research project that should eventually lead to a book-length manuscript. A first and short draft was presented and discussed in the Cogut seminar, where it received extremely useful comments and suggestions. Some materials for this project grew out of the collaborative teaching experience with Leela Gandhi (the Collaborative Humanities seminar “Thinking Breath,” taught in Spring 2021), and this additional sabbatical semester allowed Szendy to complete them with many others. Psychoanalysis, for example, turned out to be a fruitful field of research, in particular the work of Otto Fenichel and his notion of “respiratory erotogenicity.”

In sum, while Fall 2022 was dedicated to continuations of existing work (on reading and on the ecology of images), Spring 2023 focused on exploring new materials for a major research and writing project to come.

Sarah Thomas

HISPANIC STUDIES • 2022-23

Sarah Thomas spent the bulk of her post-tenure sabbatical in Spain, advancing research and writing related to her second monograph, “Frames of Crisis: Gender, Subjectivity, and Space in Contemporary Iberian Cinema.” This project focuses on cinema produced by emerging generations of women filmmakers from Spain, born roughly since 1975. It traces the intertwined representation of space and subjectivity in a historical conjuncture marked by relentless economic, political and environmental catastrophes. In examining how a diverse range of films represent responses to personal and collective crises, the project argues that despite what might appear a bleak panorama, the films in question foreground and valorize vulnerability, intimacy and interconnectivity as potent antidotes to despair in the face of neoliberal brutality, patriarchal oppression or environmental collapse.

Despite the bureaucratic complexities entailed in actually pulling it off (with a partner and two cats in tow!), living in Spain for the year provided invaluable opportunities for life and work. In addition to conducting preliminary research in Barcelona’s Filmoteca de Catalunya and Madrid’s Filmoteca Española, Thomas was privileged to participate in a year-long seminar at the Reina Sofía Art Museum in Madrid, under the framework of the newly-launched Tejidos Conjuntivos Program in Critical Museology, Artistic Research Practices and Cultural Studies, meeting monthly with fellow scholars and students to discuss key texts for the field of Iberian Cultural Studies. Thomas also presented in several international conferences and talks, exploring new material from her current book project at conferences held at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and Durham University (U.K.), as well as in an invited talk, the Annual Film Lecture at the University of Liverpool. She also presented on cinema from Spain’s transition to democracy in several venues: an invited presentation on director Carlos Saura in a film screening and roundtable held at the Reina Sofía Museum in honor of his recent passing; and two additional conference papers, one co-written with María Rosón on images of female delinquency, presented at a conference on images of Spain’s and Portugal’s transitions to democracy, and another, on Pedro Almodóvar, at the annual meeting of the European Network for Cinema and Media Studies in Oslo.

In addition to writing these talks, Thomas was enabled — with Brown’s support of a year of leave — to write and submit a book chapter on vulnerability and female subjectivity to an edited volume on women filmmakers, forthcoming with Peter Lang, as well as a review of a recent book on Barcelona’s urban landscapes, forthcoming from Catalan Review. Two additional articles drawn from Thomas’s new monograph are also underway, and will hopefully be submitted during the late summer and fall semester respectively, as will a book chapter co-written with Rosón.

Alongside these new ventures, during her leave Thomas also shepherded her first monograph, “Inhabiting the In-Between: Childhood and Cinema in Spain’s Long Transition” (U Toronto Press, 2019), recently translated thanks to the generous support of a Faculty Development Fund grant, through the complex editorial process with one of Spain’s most important academic presses, Cátedra, where it is forthcoming in Spanish in 2024. It is very exciting that the book will soon be available for a Spanish-language readership, given its appeal in this national context both for scholars and those interested in key films from the nation’s democratic transition.



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Likewise, on the translation front, this year Thomas began work translating a novel, “La veu melodiosa” (“The Melodious Voice,” 1987) by Catalan feminist writer Montserrat Roig (1946-1991). Spending a year living in Barcelona and becoming fully proficient in Catalan was an invaluable experience for many reasons, not least of which was the ability to begin to bring this beautiful, moving text to an English-language readership. Thomas hopes to be able to continue this project in the fall alongside her ongoing research and writing, despite the demands of chairing the Department of Hispanic Studies, effective July 1.

While very grateful to have time to focus on her own projects largely free of other responsibilities, Thomas nonetheless thought it important to participate in the department’s search for a tenure-track hire in modern Iberian studies and the Global Hispanophone, co-chairing the search committee with Laura Bass. She is very grateful for how much of the work Bass shouldered, so that she might have as uninterrupted a leave as possible, and is thrilled that Alejandra Rosenberg-Navarro will be joining the department in Fall 2023. It was also a pleasure to collaborate with Erica Durante, who is likewise officially joining Hispanic Studies in Fall 2023, as co-advisors of Lucero Velasco Oropeza’s dissertation. She is similarly grateful for Durante taking the lead in the process of reviewing prospectus drafts throughout the year.

As a final note, sabbatical time allowed Thomas to revise her summer course Screening Social Justice in the Spanish-Speaking World to include a new film and more material dealing with questions of Indigeneity, which have definitely improved and strengthened the class.

Amal Trivedi

HEALTH SERVICES, POLICY, AND PRACTICE • SPRING 2023

Amal Trivedi spent his sabbatical at the University of Melbourne’s Institute for Applied Economic and Social Research. There he initiated and collaborated on projects related to evaluating Australia’s policy strategies to close disparities in access to care and health outcomes for Indigenous Australians. This work built on research he conducted during prior sabbaticals and a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award at the University of Melbourne.

Trivedi’s research focused on evaluating the consequences of Australia’s Closing the Gap PBS Copayment policy. The overall goal of Closing the Gap was to reduce substantial and troubling disparities in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. For instance, prior research has documented a 10- to 12-year gap in life expectancy between these two populations, largely driven by a greater burden of chronic disease among Indigenous Australians. As part of the Closing the Gap strategy, the Australian government created a program to reduce or eliminate copayments for prescription medications for Indigenous Australians with chronic disease or risk factors for chronic disease. To date, there has been limited understanding of the effects of these targeted copayment reductions on out-of-pocket spending, use of medications and health outcomes. To conduct this project, Trivedi and his Australian collaborators acquired novel linked data from Australia’s Multi-Agency Data Integration Project, which includes detailed person-level information on health, education, government payments, income and taxation, employment and population demographics (including the Census) for the entire population of Australia. Preliminary findings suggest the Closing the Gap policy was associated with sustained reductions in out-of-pocket costs for Indigenous Australians and reductions in disparities in the use of prescription medications. Analyses of changes in mortality are underway. The sabbatical provided an important opportunity to build relationships with an international group of health policy researchers and provided valuable insight into how other health systems approach implementing strategies to address health equity.

Trivedi also devoted the semester to his ongoing research examining the effects of payment and financing policies on outcomes for vulnerable populations with chronic disease and social risk factors. During his sabbatical, he published 15 manuscripts and continued his mentorship of graduate students and junior faculty remotely. He submitted a grant to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on the consequences of dual enrollment in the VA health care system and Medicare Advantage plans, and made substantial progress on an National Institutes of Health program project renewal on the impact of health policies and systems for patients with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias to be submitted in September 2023.



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Isabel Vogt

MATHEMATICS • SPRING 2023

Isabel Vogt spent her sabbatical leave at the Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute (SLMath) in Berkeley, California, taking part in the special thematic program on Diophantine geometry as a research member. She consequently spent this time meeting and discussing new and developing research directions with other members and visitors to the program. In addition, Vogt organized the research seminar for the members of the Diophantine geometry semester.

Vogt's research concerns the geometry and arithmetic of algebraic curves and their higher-dimensional generalizations. Algebraic curves are the points (x,y) where some polynomial function of x and y is zero. As an example: the zeros of the polynomial $x^2 + y^2 - 1$ are the points (x,y) on the unit circle. The world of arithmetic is concerned with counting numbers, with fractions, and with their generalizations. A central problem in Diophantine geometry is to understand the points (x,y) on an algebraic curve whose coordinates are not arbitrary numbers, but are in fact fractions. These sets of points can be very interesting! For example, the points on the unit circle whose coordinates are fractions give the Pythagorean triples! It was known to the ancient Greeks that such triples are infinite, and the geometry of the unit circle can give a slick parameterization. By contrast, a beautiful theorem of Faltings from the 1980s implies that if the defining polynomial equation of the curve involves some terms with total degree at least 4 (for example: x^5 or x^2y^2) then there are only finitely many points with coordinates that are fractions! Vogt works to understand what else must be added to the set of fractions in order to get infinitely many points with those coordinates. This minimal amount that must be added is an important invariant of the curve and Vogt is determining how it captures the geometry of the curve. Being at the SLMath special semester in Diophantine geometry provided an ideal environment to discuss these ideas with new and old collaborators.

In other directions, Vogt continued her ongoing collaboration with Brown professor Eric Larson. They worked to revise and publish their proof of the Interpolation Conjecture for Brill-Noether curve (covered in [this article](#)). They also began several new research directions in the geometry of curves, including other important interpolation problems.

Michael Vorenberg

HISTORY • 2022-23

The two-semester leave taken by Michael Vorenberg allowed him to make significant progress on a number of projects. He completed the book manuscript about the many endings of the American Civil War, which will be published by Alfred A. Knopf and should go into production by the end of 2023. The book begins where most people think the Civil War ends — with the surrender of Robert E. Lee to Ulysses S. Grant. Then it moves forward to lesser-known endings and non-endings, from the final battles in the Mexican borderlands to treaty-making endeavors between the U.S. and Native peoples, and from the prosecution of former Confederates to the debate between Congress and Lincoln's successor, Andrew Johnson, to settle whether and when the war actually ended.

Once he had submitted the book manuscript, titled "Lincoln's Peace: The Struggle to End the American Civil War," he returned to work on his next book project, a study of incarceration and military justice during the Reconstruction era focused on a prison-fortress located at the Dry Tortugas, a remote atoll in the Gulf of Mexico. He completed the research on the project, visiting archives in Florida, Georgia and Washington, D.C. He is now working with an Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award-funded team of students to create online exhibits that will accompany the published book. Meanwhile, the subject matter has started receiving extra attention from the U.S. National Park Service, which operates a site on the island and is conducting underwater archaeological research related to the [fortress-prison](#).

The research-leave provided Vorenberg the opportunity to complete some shorter projects. One was an essay revealing and analyzing a hitherto-unknown story of 20 African American soldiers who died all at once because of an act of unpunished negligence by a white officer. The piece will be published later this year in a volume on [Civil War graves and memory](#). Another research endeavor yielded a keynote address on race and citizenship in 19th century America that he delivered at a conference at the American Academy in Rome devoted to [Citizenship and Identity in Italy and the United States](#).



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Much of Vorenberg's research and writing activity during the leave was engaged in a new, unplanned endeavor: producing expert reports on the history of firearms and firearms law for federal court cases. In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's June 2022 *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen* opinion, which struck down some gun regulation and required all gun laws to have historical precedents, a number of state attorneys general contacted Vorenberg, asking him to offer expertise related to the regulation of high-capacity firearms. Expert reports that he wrote have so far appeared in nine cases in five different states, including [Massachusetts](#) and [Rhode Island](#).

Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro

POLITICAL SCIENCE • 2022-23

Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro spent much of her sabbatical working on a new book manuscript (joint with Matthew Winters, University of Illinois) that explores the links between knowledge of social rights and the pursuit of social welfare program benefits in Argentina and Brazil. Over the academic year, she carried out data collection in both countries, drafted a series of chapters and presented the manuscript's theoretical argument and preliminary empirical findings in a number of venues. To collect data for this project, she oversaw a series of focus groups in Brazil in summer 2022 and two large citizen surveys carried out there in December 2022 through January 2023. These results informed the planning for a series of focus groups in Argentina, which were conducted in May and June 2023. In the remaining part of her sabbatical, she will design followup survey work in Argentina.

The book highlights the importance of citizen persistence for ultimately gaining access to social policy benefits and elaborates on two pathways through which individual knowledge of social rights can increase that persistence: an entitlement pathway and an expectations pathway. During her sabbatical, Weitz-Shapiro presented the work at seminars at New York University, Harvard and Torcuato Di Tella Universidad in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In addition to work on this new project, Weitz-Shapiro completed final revisions on two related projects and saw them published. The first, "[Voluntary Audits: Experimental Evidence on a Novel Approach to Bureaucratic Monitoring in Argentina](#)" (with Ana De La O and Lucas Gonzalez) reports the results of a field experiment that sought to increase school principal motivation and effort in the administration of a school meal program in Argentina. The second, "[Credit Claiming by Labeling](#)" (with Virginia Oliveros and Winters), examines the phenomenon in which politicians literally place their names on public works projects or programs and the consequences this practice has for voter support, using survey data from Argentina.

Finally, Weitz-Shapiro continued her advising work and service to the profession. This included regular meetings with her graduate student mentee writing group and serving as division chair for the Democracy and Autocracy section for the American Political Science Association's annual meeting in August-September 2023.



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Rachel Wetts

SOCIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY • 2022-23

With the support of a Cogut Fellowship, Rachel Wetts was able to make progress on several research projects related to American climate politics. Broadly, these projects examine the social forces shaping how we think and talk about climate change, with a particular interest in examining the interactions between cultural and social psychology processes on the part of the American public, and the strategic interventions of powerful organizations and political elites.

Wetts primarily spent Fall 2022 finishing an article examining how mainstream media coverage of climate change in the U.S. is shaped by both the cultural meanings of climate messages and the material resources of the organizations that promote them. In the paper, she first uses automated text analysis to describe a large, random sample of business, government and social advocacy organizations' press releases about climate change across three decades of the climate change debate. Next, she uses plagiarism-detection software to track how organizations' messages have been picked up in all articles about climate change published in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and USA Today from 1985 to 2014. These techniques allow her to describe the ways different interest groups frame the issue of climate change, and then to investigate why some messages succeed and diffuse into the larger cultural environment and others do not, highlighting organizational power and cultural resonance as two distinct paths through which interest groups' perspectives gain visibility. This article is now in press at the American Journal of Sociology.

In addition, she worked on a series of articles examining elite and public responses to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports, using this as a lens to examine historical shifts in contestation over climate change. In the first paper in this project, she worked with an international team of researchers to examine the widely cited claim of recent scholarship which suggests that groups who oppose taking action on climate change have shifted their emphasis from attacking the credibility of the science itself to questioning the policies needed to address it. To investigate this claim, the researchers examined television coverage of the IPCC's latest report on the physical science of climate change in the U.S., the U.K., Australia, Sweden and Brazil, tracking the degree to which media coverage on mainstream and right-wing channels expressed these different varieties of climate obstruction. This article was [recently published](#). In addition, she also worked with two other members of this research team on a followup paper examining the diverse ways that the IPCC's report on solutions to climate change was discussed on mainstream and social media in the U.S. and the U.K. This paper is currently under review at Climatic Change.

Next, in Spring 2023, she primarily focused on developing a major new research project. In this project, she proposes that apathy, contentiousness and partisan polarization around climate change can be better understood by conceptualizing American climate change politics as a form of status politics — as a way that various groups in American society seek to have their skills, tastes and identities recognized and socially validated. She argues that fights over climate science and climate solutions become meaningful for members of the American public because they are tied into struggles over the social worth of their own skills and identities, particularly those related to social class and masculinity.

In the first paper in this project, tentatively titled “Climate Change and the Diploma Divide: How Struggles over the Symbolic Worth of Educational Credentials Shape the Climate Change Debate,” she highlights how environmental activists have cast concern about climate change as a matter of deference to scientific experts at the same time as educational attainment increasingly divides partisan groups, with the Democratic Party becoming the party of highly educated Americans. In this environment, she argues climate attitudes have become a way for members of the public to symbolically affirm or reject the status afforded to educational credentials in American society. To explore this theoretical framework, she uses computational text analysis to examine how partisan media commentators have characterized the status value of scientific and academic knowledge over the last 30 years, and she uses representative survey data to examine how individuals' attitudes about climate change may be shaped by their educational identities and status concerns. Wetts is currently finalizing this manuscript, with plans to submit it to American Sociological Review by the end of the summer.

Finally, Wetts worked on several smaller projects over the course of the year, including completing a paper with colleague J. Timmons Roberts and former Brown undergraduate Ann Garth on the interest group perspectives that have dominated local news coverage of key climate solutions across the U.S.; developing a new computational tool with graduate student Dan Kitson to automatically identify texts that elevate, leverage or denigrate scientific expertise; and beginning work on two papers with colleague Scott Frickel and a larger international working group of researchers examining the intersection between computational social science and environmental science and technology studies.



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David Wills

FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES • 2022-23

David Wills used his leave to work on two projects that are both now close to completion. Wills's first project is titled "The Saturated Slate of the Rothko Chapel." It involves the development and completion of research begun six or seven years ago, on the Rothko Chapel built by the Menil Foundation, and containing 14 canvases by painter Mark Rothko, in Houston. Wills returned to Houston to spend many hours in the newly renovated chapel, and read extensively in the literature on Rothko, and on the Menil family's ecumenical and human rights-oriented activities. He wrote drafts of all five chapters ("Dimming," "Muting," "Stilling," "Voiding," "Saturated Slate") that will constitute a short monograph for university press publication.

The emphases of the project include the tension between museum-type space and sacred space, the influence, for the Menils, of the Matisse chapel near Nice, and particularly in the tension between emptiness and fullness that arises owing to the muted light and sound of the chapel, and the dark, almost monochrome canvases that Rothko painted. Do they represent a clean, or saturated slate is the first major question to be posed in Wills's estimation; and how does one define that opposition? The second major question is whether, in the era of climate change — which is increasingly being considered a human rights matter — and given the fact that the source of the Menil Foundation's funds is fossil fuel extraction, it is still possible to approach the philosophical and esthetic considerations that this project involves without importing into the discussion the deleterious effects of the extraction economy; whether — to put it figuratively — the clean slate of a quiet, meditative, emptied mind such as the chapel encourages, is not irrevocably sullied and saturated by oil.

The second, less academic project, is Wills's own translation into English of a novel he wrote in French during a period when he was living and working in France in the late 1990s. The novel's title is "Olivier's Second Millenium." The draft translation will be completed in the coming weeks. The novel's protagonist, named Olivier, takes up paragliding after falling in love with an American, and the narrative follows his descent from a mountain peak to the beach below, in a specific, identifiable site between Nice and the French-Italian border. As Olivier descends, he "encounters" various characters who are living their own lives and adventures at different levels of the highway, road, path, railway, etc., that crisscross the landscape he is flying over. In the last chapter of the book, the human characters remain suspended in the background as the narrative is taken over by a two-thousand-year-old olive tree (also *olivier* in French), considered the oldest tree in France, which is found in the village in question.



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