

Swarthmore College Department of History



In this issue. . .

Faculty News 2

*Student & Alumni
News* 2

*Faculty Talks
Fall 2021* 6

I want to publicly thank Jen Moore, the Department of History's Administrative Assistant, for so ably guiding us through eighteen months of remote teaching and work. Now that life at Swarthmore is returning to normal with only in-person instruction during the Fall semester, I invite all of you on campus to drop by the Department's office to offer, in person, your heartfelt thanks to Jen for her hard work since the onset of the pandemic.

I encourage all readers of the newsletter to take a look at our revised requirements for majors that go into effect for [this year's incoming class of 2025](#). We have replaced the requirement that each major takes at least one course that focuses on the period prior to 1800 and one course that does not focus on the US or Europe. Instead, majors will select from categories of courses that are grouped thematically (for example, capitalism; empire and nation; culture and identity; domination and resistance; science and medicine). In addition, majors will need to take one course in historical methodology and theory. All majors will still be required to take History 91, our senior research seminar in which they write an essay based on primary and secondary sources.

I invite you to peruse the four published issues of the [Swarthmore Undergraduate History Journal](#). The editorial board has assembled articles written by students from a broad range of colleges and universities. The articles address a variety of topics that span the globe and cover hundreds of years of human experience.

Finally, I want to offer a warm welcome to our new colleague Vivian Truong. She received her Ph.D.

continued on page 5...

Faculty News

First- and second-year students were invited to campus in the fall, and juniors and seniors were permitted to live in dorms in the spring. Many students took advantage of the invitation to live on campus, though courses taught by History professors remained online for everyone's safety. Fortunately, only a handful of students who came to campus tested positive for COVID both semesters. Staff and faculty had a slightly higher rate of infection, though each group's positivity rate was relatively low as the College community participated in many mitigation measures.

Diego Armus taught in the January term and the fall and spring semesters. In addition, **Professor Armus** traveled the world virtually, being in high demand due to his expertise on the history of diseases. He presented a paper at Instituto de Estudios

Criticos in Mexico City. He lectured at El Congreso Futuro 2021 for the Chilean Senate and the Academy of Sciences of Chile as well as at the [Congreso Futuro 2021 - Región de Valparaíso](#); you can see his talks [on YouTube between 1:23:00-1:41:00](#) and between [00:48:00 and 1:48:00](#) respectively. [Television Canal 13](#) in Santiago, Chile; Radio program [All You Need is Lab](#) on channel 94.5 in Chile; the [popular TV program "Mentiras Verdaderas"](#); and the newspaper [La Tercera](#) interviewed **Professor Armus** during Congreso Futuro 20201.

In April and May, **Professor Armus** delivered lectures in Argentina at Universidad de San Andrés and Universidad Nacional de La Plata. In June, he was the keynote speaker at the São Paulo, Brazil Simposio Nacional de História das Doenças e das Artes de Curar with his talk, "[Presente y pasado en el desafío de estudiar las epidemias.](#)" In Santiago, Chile, **Diego** talked to the Sociedad Chilena de Historia de la Medicina about, "Momentos microbianos: Historia e incertidumbres." Again

continued on page 3...

Student & Alumni News

Two of our alumni have received prestigious Guggenheim Fellowships this year. [Seth Koven '88](#) was awarded the Guggenheim for his work in Intellectual and Cultural History.

[Tara Zahra '98](#)'s Guggenheim will support the completion of her forthcoming book: *Against the World: Deglobalization and Anti-Globalism in Interwar Europe*.

M. Kelly Tillery '76 published a new book, [Sidebar, Too: More Reflections of a Philadelphia Lawyer](#) (KD Publishing, 2020).

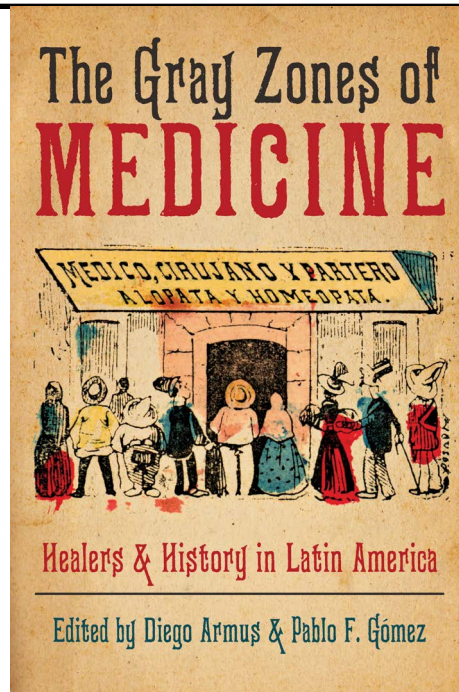
Pamela Haag '88 also published a new book, entitled

continued on page 4...

...continued from Faculty News on [page 2](#)

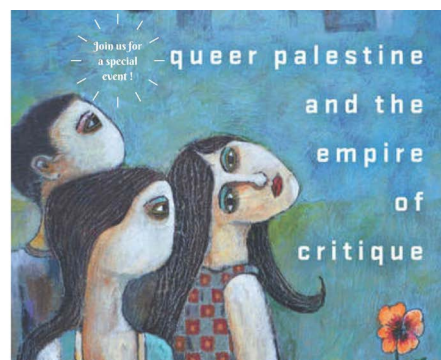
in Brazil, but this time at the Rio de Janeiro Casa Oswaldo Cruz - Fiocruz, **Professor Armus** delivered a keynote talk entitled: [“Qué historia social y cultural de la vacuna BCG?”](#)

Professor Armus also guided our students in the publication of volume two of the [Swarthmore Undergraduate History Journal](#), while maintaining a busy publication schedule himself. He published “La post-pandemia entre los vaticinios de cambios profundos y las modestas oportunidades” in *Volver al después del contagio. Las post-epidemias argentinas de la colonia a nuestros días* (Tandil, Argentina, 2021) and “Elogio de la mascarilla: epidemias, incertidumbres y civilidad sanitaria” included in *Pensar la Post-pandemia* (Buenos Aires: Presidencia de la Nación, 2021). He also edited [The Gray Zones of Medicine: Healers and History in Latin America](#) with Pablo Gómez and a fall 2021 commissioned special issue on the history of health and disease in Latin America for the *Journal of Social History of*



Medicine & Health published by Shanghai University.

Farid Azfar also taught in the fall and spring semesters and the January term. **Professor Azfar** interviewed Professor Sa'ed Atshan '06's about the latter's book, [Queer Palestine and the Empire of Critique](#) in February. May found **Professor Azfar** participating in the [Global](#)



GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES CELEBRATES
PROF. ATSHAN'S WORK IN CONVERSATION WITH PROF. FARID AZFAR

WITH THIS BOOK, PROF. SA'ED ATSHAN ASKS HOW TRANSNATIONAL PROGRESSIVE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS CAN ADVANCE STRUGGLES FOR LIBERATION ALONG MORE THAN ONE AXIS. HE EXPLORES CRITICAL MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF PALESTINIAN LGBTQI ACTIVISM, REVEALING THE QUEER PALESTINIAN SPIRIT OF AGENCY, RESISTANCE, AND CREATIVITY IN THE FACE OF RACISM, PATRIARCHY, AND OTHERS WORKING TO CONSOLE THE QUEER PALESTINIAN AND THE IMPURE OF EXISTENCE. EXPLORES THE NECESSITY OF CONNECTING THE STRUGGLES FOR PALESTINIAN LIBERATION WITH THE STRUGGLE AGAINST HOMOGENEITY.

PROF. SA'ED ATSHAN PROF. FARID AZFAR

Friday, February 12th | 12:00-1:00p.m.
Please register at:
<https://bit.ly/2NB9FH6>

[Early Modern Formations of Race and Their Afterlives](#) conference, where he delivered a lecture entitled “Racial Leviathan: Making Peace with the Asiento, 1518-1857.”

Tim Burke gave a virtual talk on the virtual inauguration as part of the [SwatTalk Shorts](#). **Tim** also taught the entire year and continued his co-direction of the [Aydelotte Foundation](#). **Professor Burke** will get a reprieve next year as he takes a well-deserved and overdue sabbatical.

During her leave, **Megan Brown** signed a contract for her book, *The Seventh Member State: Algeria, France, and the European Community* (Harvard University Press), expected out in spring 2022. In February the [European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh](#) hosted **Professor Brown**, who spoke about Algerian independence and European integration in a lecture entitled “Inescapable Liabilities’: Locating Algeria in European Integration’s History.”

[Stanford Humanities Center](#) will be welcoming

continued on page 4...

...continued from Faculty News
on page 3.

Professor Chen as an External Fellow during the upcoming academic year.

Dr. Allison Dorsey has been elected as a member of [The Southern Historical Association](#) Executive Council and will serve from 2022-2024. On May 6th, **Dr. Dorsey** had the pleasure of having a conversation—courtesy of the [President's Fund for Racial Justice](#) and the Social Responsibility Committee of the Board of Managers—with the United States' 82nd Attorney General, Eric Holder.

During his leave **Ahmad Shokr** participated in the book launch for [A Critical Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa](#). His piece, titled “Capitalism in Egypt, Not Egyptian Capitalism” is coauthored with Aaron Jakes. You can [view the webinar on YouTube](#). **Professor Shokr** also published “Cotton: Made in Egypt” in [Global Middle East: Into the Twenty-First Century](#), edited by Asef Bayat and Linda Herrera (University of California Press, 2021).

Our incoming faculty member, **Professor Vivian Truong**, earned a [ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award](#) for her dissertation, “Whose City? Our City!': Asian American and Multiracial Movements Against Police Violence in New York” (University of Michigan).

We must close this section by acknowledging the loss of [Emeritus History Professor Bernard Smith](#). He passed at the end of January at 95, having enjoyed his nearly 40 years of retirement in Wales.♦

...continued from Student &
Alumni News on page 2

[Revise: The Scholar-Writer's Essential Guide to Tweaking, Editing, and Perfecting Your Manuscript](#) with Yale University Press.

Beth Maloney '95 is the Director of Interpretation at the Baltimore Museum of Industry and recently partnered with WYPR on the release of [Sparrows Point: An American Steel Story](#). Sparrows Point was recently awarded a Silver in the Podcast category at the [2021 MUSE Awards](#) and is part of the larger

Bethlehem Steel Legacy Project.

Sasha Issenberg '02's long-awaited book on the struggle for gay marriage has been released and he may be coming to your area. Look at [Sasha's website](#) for more information on *The Engagement: America's Quarter-Century Struggle Over Same-Sex Marriage* (Pantheon, 2021).

Major **Sierra Mondragón '21** (and Special Honors Major in Indigenous Studies) and Honors Major **Tiffany Wang '21** both won the Intercultural Center's (IC) Legacy Leader for Community Leadership, Commitment, and Contribution this year. The IC commended Sierra for her tireless work to give voice to Indigenous peoples—particularly women—on campus and in the world. The IC recognized Tiffany for her founding and editing [Voices](#), her work with and for the [Tri-College Asian Student Conference](#), and [Organizing to Redefine “Asian” Activism](#) (ORAA; formerly SAO). **Cameron Johnson '21** won a Social Justice Award from the IC, as well. **Sierra** also earned one of the College's highest honors for a graduate: [The Oak & Ivy](#).

continued on page 5...

*Interested in speaking with students about your career path?
Email us about our *History with a Future speaker series!**

*...continued from Student &
Alumni News on [page 4](#)*

Minor **Faith Booker '21** was awarded the [Black Cultural Center](#) (BCC) Director's Award for her "significant contributions, leadership, and engagement with the BCC and the larger Swarthmore College community," while minor **AynNichelle Slappy '22** received the BCC Leadership Award for "constructively and proactively contributing to the BCC."

Tiffany, Cameron, Sophia Stills '21—a history major—and **Samantha Wagner '21**—an honors history major—all presented as part of the [Center for Innovation & Leadership](#) and the [Writing Center's](#) Senior Showcase. The Senior Showcase highlights works by students from across disciplines and asks them to summarize their work in a single slide and a three-minute presentation.

Double major in History and Economics **Zachary Camp '22** was featured in [406 MT Sports](#), which highlighted his efforts to play baseball and stay fit while Swarthmore's last two seasons have been canceled.♦

*...continued from the Letter from
the Chair on [page 1](#)*
from the University of Michigan and has been a postdoctoral fellow at Vassar College this past year. Her research focuses on the Asian American community in New York City, police violence, and efforts to displace Asian-American communities from their neighborhoods. She coordinates a public history program that works closely with grassroots Asian American organizations and documents their activities over the past three decades. She also participates in a public memory

project about the experiences of Asian Americans and Pacific Americans during the pandemic. Vivian will offer a range of courses on twentieth-century US history, Asian American history, the immigrant experience, and the carceral state. This coming year she is teaching: [History 5B](#) (Modern American History); [History 1N](#) (Chinatowns: Then and Now); and [History 56](#) (Police, Prison, and Protests).

I extend a warm welcome to all our students who are returning this fall and hope all our former students and their loved ones are in good health and spirits. ♦

Robert Weinberg
Isaac H. Clothier Professor of
History & International Relations
& Chair
Department of History
Interim Director, Honors Program

Faculty Talks

Fall 2021

AUGUST, 2021

8/19	Diego Armus	“Se aprende del pasado? Epidemias, vida cotidiana y políticas sanitarias” at L'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and Universidad de la República	Paris, FRANCE & Montevideo, URUGUAY
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SEPTEMBER, 2021

9/9	Diego Armus	“Adventures of the Marlboro Man in the Buenos Aires Consumer Marketplace of Tobacco Cigarettes” at the 2nd World Congress of Business History	Nagoya, JAPAN
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OCTOBER, 2021

10/22	Diego Armus	“Epidemias y tiempos de incertidmbres” at Universidade dos Vales - Minas Gerais	BRAZIL
10/28	Diego Armus	“Historia/Epidemias/Cultura” at Universidad Nacional, Mar del Plata	Mar del Plata, ARGENTINA

NOVEMBER, 2021

11/26	Diego Armus	“Qué historia de una pandemia? A propósito del Covid y otras epidemias” at Universidad de San Andrés	San Andrés, ARGENTINA
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