

## Note from the Davis Fellow



To the CENFAD Community,

I must admit, my year as Davis Fellow was not what I expected. The global pandemic, the crises it produced in nearly every institution, and the many other political and social struggles brought to the world stage revealed the strengths and flaws of our societies. Academia was no exception. Luckily Zoom exists! And even though the blue light emanating from our computer screens have surely done irreparable damage to our corneas, those same computers have allowed CENFAD to host international lecturers from Taiwan, Norway, the Netherlands, and across the United States, sponsor interdisciplinary talks hosted by Temple professors in sociology, political science, geography and urban studies, and communication, and host a workshop with PhD students and professors from India, the UK, Brazil, Argentina, and Switzerland. What a privilege to learn from such a diversity of people, each with a unique set of political, social, and cultural contexts!

Zoom has also allowed for one of the highest attended lecture series in CENFAD history with some talks reaching close to 50 attendees! This semester, topics included whistleblowing and state secrecy, technological innovation and terrorism, Taiwan and Hong Kong's pro-democracy movements, the journey of a veteran-academic, fundamental questions surrounding war and human nature, and the evolution of Western democracy since 1971. We thank Dr. Kaeten Mistry, Dr. Hannah Gurman, Dr. Richard Immerman, Dr. Audrey Cronin, Dr. Ming-sho Ho, Dr. Alexs Thompson, Dr. Margaret MacMillan, and Dr. Simon Reid-Henry for an excellent lecture series.

In addition, the Temple history department's graduate students continue to demonstrate their academic rigor and love of the craft. This semester, *Strategic Visions* accepted six book reviews for publication from a wide range of topics. Former Davis Fellows Brandon Kinney and Michael Fischer produced excellent cold war history reviews of *A Wall of Our Own: An American History of the Berlin Wall* by Paul Farber and *Civil Aviation and the Globalization of the Cold War* by Peter Svik, respectively. Graduate students Amanda Summers, Madison Ingram, and Graydon Dennison produced reviews related to U.S. Empire including *Imperial Metropolis: Los Angeles, Mexico, and the Borderlands of American Empire, 1865–1941* by Jessica M. Kim, *Educating the Empire: American Teachers and Contested Colonization in the Philippines* by Sarah Steinbock-Pratt, and *Fantasy Island: Colonialism, Exploitation, and the Betrayal of Puerto Rico* by Ed Morales. Finally, graduate student Michael Onufrak reviewed the fascinating new book by Tanya Harmer, *Beatriz Allende: A Revolutionary Life in Latin America*.

Of the many things I learned from my experience as CENFAD's Davis Fellow, the necessity of creative adaptation based on international collaboration was the most important. The Covid-19 pandemic is one of many global crises facing the world, and more are sure to come. To solve these problems and those yet to be revealed, we as academics and students should produce scholarship and lesson plans which incorporate international perspectives in order to challenge our own. Hopefully, with a lot of work and a bit of luck, we can help to solve global problems with diplomatic solutions, rather than forceful ones.

Sincerely,

Josh Stern