

News from the Director

By Alan McPherson



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This semester, CENFAD was back to almost fully normal levels of functioning after the COVID pandemic. Our lecture series featured only one speaker on Zoom—and only because he was too busy to come to campus! Our grad students made big plans for research in archives that now appeared fully open. And the AHA is on its way to Philly in January, with CENFAD and the rest of the Department hosting a reception. The entire CENFAD community is invited!

Fall 2022 Lecture Series

CENFAD's talks are now broadcast simultaneously on Zoom, from which audiences can ask questions, and the link is on

the posters advertising the talks. [Videos](#) of all the events below are now embedded in CENFAD's [lecture series page](#). This semester, six of our seven speakers gave their presentations in person.

Our first guest was Sarah Robey, a Temple History Department PhD and assistant professor of history at Idaho State University who [presented](#) on her first book, *Atomic Americans: Citizens in a Nuclear State*. On September 7, Robey argued that Americans did more than duck and cover when they entered the nuclear age; they engaged in a range of civic involvement groups.

Our next guest, assistant professor of criminology, law, and society at the University of California-Irvine, was Ana Muñoz. Visiting campus as part of the College of Liberal Arts's Hispanic Heritage Month on September 19, the author of *Borderland Circuitry: Immigration Surveillance in the United States and Beyond* [discussed](#) the bureaucratic system in which migrants across the southern border get redefined as criminal and stripped of rights and agency.

Next up was Alessandro Iandolo, a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University and a historian of Soviet foreign policy. On October 3, Iandolo [presented](#) on his book *Arrested Development: The Soviet Union in Ghana, Guinea, and Mali, 1955-1968*, showing how Soviet partnerships with these African countries in the Nikita Khrushchev era were ambitious and far-ranging but also generally doomed to failure.

On October 12, another Harvard historian, Serhii Plokhii, the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History and Director of the Ukrainian Research Institute, [gave a Zoom](#) CENFAD audience his historical take on the current war in Ukraine, noting especially Vladimir Putin's misuse of history.

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On October 26, Silke Zoller, another Temple History PhD, visited the Weigley Room to discuss her new book, *To Deter and Punish: Global Collaboration against Terrorism in the 1970s*. Focusing on aviation during that decade, Zoller [discussed](#) how the United States and its allies worked together to define terrorism to respond more effectively to it.

Finally, the week of November 14 brought two speakers to CENFAD's audience. The first was Fernanda Magnotta, a professor of international relations at the Armando Alvares Penteado Foundation in Brazil and a Fulbright fellow currently in the United States. She [predicted](#) the implications for the United States of the return of Luiz Inácio "Lula" da Silva to the presidency of the largest nation in Latin America.

Two days later, on November 16, University of Virginia Professor of History and American Studies Penny Von Eschen came to campus to [promote](#) her new book, *Paradoxes of Nostalgia: Cold War Triumphalism and Global Disorder since 1989*. She provided several examples from public opinion and popular culture of the post-Cold War wishes for the "stability" of the East-West struggle.

Fall 2022 prizes

In October, the following three graduate students won CENFAD research awards:

- **Graydon Dennison** won a John Votaw Endowed Research Grant of \$3,000 for research in Maryland, Florida, and Panama.
- **Anthony Guerrero** won a Jeffrey Bower Endowed Research Fellowship of \$1,660 for research at the 82nd Airborne Division Museum and the U.S. Army Airborne & Special Operations Museum at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

- **Brian McNamara** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship of \$3,000 for research in California and Washington, D.C.

The following students received CENFAD funds to present their work at academic conferences:

- **Graydon Dennison**, at the American Historical Association conference in Philadelphia.
- **Ryan Langton**, at the New Diplomatic History Network's conference in Turku, Finland.
- **Josh Stern**, at the American Historical Association conference in Philadelphia.
- **Casey VanSise**, at the American Historical Association conference in Philadelphia.

CENFAD co-sponsorships

CENFAD provided funds to other Temple faculty to help with the following events:

- Max Weiss, Princeton History, on his book, *Revolutions Aesthetic: A Cultural History of Ba'athist Syria*, CHAT meeting room, Temple University, November 10.
- [Women and War: Feminist Approaches to War and Violence](#) conference, Charles Library, Temple University, November 11-12.

Emerging Scholar Award

Thanks to the generosity of Todd Davis (Temple History PHD), CENFAD funds a yearly Emerging Scholar Graduate Award, a scholarship for applicants to the Temple University MA Program in History. The purposes of the award are to recruit and support MA-level students interested in

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diplomatic and military history and to do so especially among underrepresented candidates, including women.

Each year, one awardee receives \$12,000 in tuition remission over a two-year period (covering about one 3-credit course per semester at in-state rates). If the awardee's GPA is below a 3.5 after their first year of studies, second-year funding is subject to review.

The competition is now open for the 2023-2024 academic year, and the deadline to apply to the Temple MA Program in History is February 15, 2023. There is no application procedure. All students admitted to the MA program, including the MA Concentration in Public History, will automatically be considered.

Join us at the AHA!

On Saturday, January 7, 2023, CENFAD, together with the Temple University History Department, the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, and the Center for Public History, welcomes all to a reception at the American Historical Association annual conference. The largest university in Philadelphia, Temple offers undergraduates and graduates in History an unparalleled opportunity to study in an historically rich city, with a world-class faculty, and with significant support for graduates specializing in urban history or diplomatic and military history. The reception, which will include appetizers and one free drink per guest, will take place in Meeting Room 403 of the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market St., from 5:30 to 7 pm. No RSVP necessary.