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Young Historians Conference 2022

Apr 25th, 8:00 AM

32nd Annual Young Historians Conference

Portland State University History Department

Portland State University Challenge Program

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**32ND ANNUAL
YOUNG HISTORIANS CONFERENCE**

Sponsored by:
**Portland State University's History
Department
& The Challenge Program**
April 25, 2022



Young Historians 2022 Schedule

8:00 – 8:40	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
8:40 – 9:00	WELCOME & PDXScholar RECAP
9:00 – 10:15	FIRST SESSIONS
10:15 – 10:30	BREAK
10:30 – 11:45	SECOND SESSIONS
11:45 – 12:25	LUNCH
12:30 – 1:45	THIRD SESSIONS
1:45 – 2:15	AWARDS CEREMONY

8:00 – 8:40	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	SMSU 355 (Ballroom)
8:40 – 9:00	WELCOME: Matthew Carlson, Ph.D, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs John Ott, Professor and Chair, Department of History PDXScholar RECAP: Karen Bjork, Head of Digital Initiatives, PSU Library	

9:00 – 10:15 **FIRST SESSIONS:** Choose from two

SMSU 338:	Embodied History Moderator: <i>Professor David Peterson del Mar</i>
Tess Hoffman St. Mary's	Bad Blood: Hemophilia and Its Detriment to the Russian Imperial Family
Lucie Jain St. Mary's	Don't Breathe: An Analysis of the Factors of the Victorian River Thames' Restoration
Nola Lierheimer Grant	So Many Possibilities: A History of Noodles & Pasta
SMSU 328/9:	Utopian Thinking Moderator: <i>Professor John Ott</i>
Anabel Cull St. Mary's	Schism and Suppression: Early Threats to the Esperanto Language, and Resulting Impacts on International Acceptance
Beth Hamilton Grant	Thomas More's <i>Utopia</i> : Prescient Thoughts on Class Struggle
Sonja Cutts St. Mary's	The Failure of the Anabaptist Kingdom of Münster

10:15 – 10:30 **BREAK**

10:30 – 11:45

SECOND SESSIONS: Choose from three

SMSU 338:

Structures of Power

Moderator: *Professor Loren Spielman*

Luke Ognall
Grant

The Patriarchal Influence of *The Analects*

Tess Nye
St. Mary's

Angels, Snakes, and Everything In Between: The Fall of the Byzantine Eunuch

Ava Trueworthy
St. Mary's

Beyond Rudolph: The Cultural Impacts of Reindeer Herding on the Sami

SMSU 328/9:

Deception and Conflict in Modern Europe

Moderator: *Professor Karen Hoppes*

Noopur Barve
St. Mary's

Almost Won, Almost Lost: How Intelligence Failed the Allies and How Resourcefulness Saved Them

Maya DaSilva
St. Mary's

Operation Mincemeat: The Impact and Influence of WWII's Most Daring Intelligence Operation

Eleanor Snyder
St. Mary's

The Troubles: Root Causes of Tension in Northern Ireland

SMSU 327:

Philosophies of Power

Moderator: *Professor Brian Turner*

Jude Lenz
Grant

A Source of Power, Wealth, and Influence: Land Ownership

Caden McIlhenny
Grant

Discourses' Influence on Governmental Practices and Tyrannical Justification

Frances Currie
Grant

Poetry to Prose: The Influence of Herodotus on Written History

11:45 – 12:25

LUNCH

SMSU 355 (Ballroom)

12:30 – 1:45

THIRD SESSIONS: Choose from two

SMSU 338:

Shifting Legalities

Moderator: *Professor Jennifer Kerns*

Adrian Vasquez
Grant

Qur'an and Constitutions: Sharia in Modern Muslim Democracies

Anja Jolin
St. Mary's

Delegitimizing Diplomacy: The Berlin West Africa Conference

Carolina
Cunningham
Grant

Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*: A Timeless Piece of Strategy

SMSU 328/9:

Power of Reputation

Moderator: *Professor Patricia Schechter*

Ella Yarris
St. Mary's

Paving the Way: Women in Music at Ferrara, Italy During the Late 1500s

Emma Chally
St. Mary's

Bad Beguines: The Importance of Reputation in the Lives of the Beguines

Samantha Knofler
St. Mary's

All About Dynamics: Katherine Howard's Hidden Story

1:45 – 2:15

AWARDS CEREMONY

SMSU 355 (Ballroom)

Professor Jennifer Kerns, Department of History
Joy Beckett, Challenge Program Director

ABSTRACTS

9:00 – 10:15
SMSU 338

FIRST SESSIONS

Embodied History

Moderator: *Professor David Peterson del Mar*

Bad Blood: Hemophilia and Its Detriment to the Russian Imperial Family

Monarchies have often defined the flow of history. Their decisions and ideas affect whole countries, which can lead to a crisis if the ruler is unable to lead effectively. A lack of leadership can bring about war, famine, political instability, and political unrest, all of which occurred in Russia during the 19th and 20th centuries. The poor decision-making of Tsar Nicholas II and Tsarina Alexandra brought about civic unrest that eventually led to their downfall. In addition to the unstable country, the Imperial family was also struggling with the state of their only heir, who had inherited the genetic disorder hemophilia. This paper seeks to explore the connection of the Tsar's political decisions to the chronic illness of his son Alexei and how it impacted the Russian Revolution and beyond.

Tess Hoffman, St. Mary's Academy

Don't Breathe: An Analysis of the Factors of the Victorian River Thames' Restoration

In the summer of 1858, the River Thames of London was polluted beyond recognition, producing an intolerable smell that reached all corners of the city and inspired a surge of rhetoric commenting on the state of the once adored river. Prior to the nineteenth century, the Thames was the jewel of London and the main source of the city's prosperity. However, industrialism took a toll on the river's beauty and health, and the once pristine waterway was quickly spoiled in the space of mere decades. Tracing back to nineteenth century London, this paper aims to explore the causes of the physical deterioration of the River Thames and to more specifically analyze the factors that promoted the Thames' large-scale and effective restoration. With the help of unbridled media publications, moral outcry, a deadly cholera epidemic, and finally the direct impact of an olfactory crisis on the members of Parliament, the Thames transformed from a fermenting sewer to the cleanest metropolitan river in the world.

Lucie Jain, St. Mary's Academy

So Many Possibilities: A History of Noodles & Pasta

There are many foods historians consider to be an important part of history, but many have overlooked a food with rich culinary, cultural, and historical impact: the noodle. Much of the history of this food is complex and different throughout the diverse societies it is a part of. This paper focuses on the unique, influential cultures and traditions of Italy and China, through the lens of noodles and pasta. Additionally, it expands to examine surrounding regions and the culmination of ideas that have led to distinct noodle cultures around the world. From prehistoric times to the present day, this food has had a lasting legacy and will continue to be a staple food for millions of people worldwide.

Nola Lierheimer, Grant High School

9:00 – 10:15
SMSU 328/9

FIRST SESSIONS
Utopian Thinking
Moderator: *Professor John Ott*

Schism and Suppression: Early Threats to the Esperanto Language, and Resulting Impacts on International Acceptance

The constructed language of Esperanto, created by Polish linguist Ludovic Lazarus Zamenhof in 1887, was founded with the intention of facilitating global peace and unification. Due to the mission and philosophy of the language, known as Esperantism, Zamenhof's invention gained popularity among political reformers and communities facing religious discrimination. Aiming to resolve conflict through common language, Esperantism inspired hope amidst the increasingly oppressive social and political climate present in Eastern Europe and Russia during the early 1900's. This paper explores the contributing factors to Esperanto's decline, and the impact of internal conflict, political affiliation, and religious significance on efforts to achieve universal acceptance.

Anabel Cull, St. Mary's Academy

Thomas More's *Utopia*: Prescient Thoughts on Class Struggle

This paper is an investigation into the intention, goals, and evolution of Thomas More and his novel *Utopia*. This paper examines the lineage of utopianism, and how *Utopia* has had a substantial effect on modern-day socialism and communism. Taking a traditional approach to the text, *Utopia* is seen from the perspective of its most apparent truths, that More wrote the novel as a framework for an ideal society. From this standpoint, *Utopia* is further viewed as the first landmark socialist work, seen in its social and economic systems and More's critique of feudalistic society and the repudiation of class society. This paper first analyzes More's intention of creating such a text, far from the society of which he was a central figure, discussing More's use of satire when considering such serious matters such as human equality, and his identity as a humanist. This work will go further as to assume More intended *Utopia* to be, in some capacity, a socialist work, despite it being written during the very beginnings of modern-day capitalism. By asserting this connection between the communistic qualities of *Utopia*, we can then further analyze *Utopia*'s influence on later ideas such as Marx's communism, and their stark similarities. And on a broader scope, the popularization of writing and dreaming of utopias after *Utopia*'s publication has had a strong influence on specifically the minds of oppressed peoples, as seen in Marx and the oppression of workers during the budding capitalism during the Industrial Revolution. Both More and Marx had a significant effect on the fight for Black liberation, as More revived utopian visions, and Marx's work served as a blueprint for the Black Power movement and the Black Panther Party. Finally, the paper considers the role of Utopian thinking, and if the revolutionary ideas of significant utopian thinkers can ever be realized in today's capitalist society.

Beth Hamilton, Grant High School

The Failure of the Anabaptist Kingdom of Münster

In February 1534, after rebelling against the authority of their Catholic prince-bishop, the German town of Münster fell under Anabaptist rule. During the next sixteen months, the city's religious leaders would advocate in favor of Münster becoming a "community of goods," in which all goods are shared in common. However, their egalitarian dream never fully materialized. This paper examines how the hidden motives of Münster's political leaders both helped the Anabaptist Kingdom of Münster come into being and prevented the accomplishment of its economic goals.

Sonja Cutts, St. Mary's Academy

10:30 – 11:45
SMSU 338

SECOND SESSIONS
Structures of Power
Moderator: *Professor Loren Spielman*

The Patriarchal Influence of *The Analects*

The Analects, a famous Confucian work written around 470 B.C.E, has been a hot topic of study for many scholars. Having received high praise and still holding relevance in contemporary society, I chose to examine the contemporary impact it has had. While the patriarchy has been around for thousands of years, it's worth noting that society has really only been able to truly see the effects of a male dominated society in the past hundreds of years. Confucius, having known nothing besides patriarchy, succeeded in furthering the agenda of male rule by establishing rigid relationships with hierarchical undertones that typically involved subordination. He believed that this was the only way to mend a crumbling Zhou dynasty. By establishing these relationships, his global influence allowed for the gross mistreatment of women, especially in the workplace, to still be seen today. Furthermore, his negative influence doesn't only show up in the form of gender inequality against women. Sex-selective abortions that are greatly influenced by Confucian ideals have led to an influx of men in Chinese society via the one child policy. Moreover, this leads to potential ramifications for women's mental health and success in society.

Luke Ognall, Grant High School

Angels, Snakes, and Everything In Between: The Fall of the Byzantine Eunuch

Great figures of fascination, eunuchs have mystified ancients and contemporaries alike through their physical mutilation, sexual ambiguity, and distinct roles within civilizations and societies. Underpinning Byzantine imperial court life, eunuchs possessed great influence in domestic and political spheres for much of the empire's history. Following the Latin occupation of Constantinople in the 13th century and extending onwards, however, eunuchs and their influence became increasingly obsolete. This paper explores the broad scope of the Byzantine eunuch's social and political power and the causes for the eunuch's decline nearing the collapse of the Byzantine empire.

Tess Nye, St. Mary's Academy

Beyond Rudolph: The Cultural Impacts of Reindeer Herding on the Sami

The reindeer is a quintessential symbol of the Sami, the indigenous people of Northern Scandinavia. Reindeer have always been integral to Sami culture, but they have not always had the same significance that they do now. In the 16th and 17th centuries, reindeer herding practices shifted from small-scale domestication to large-scale reindeer herding and nomadism. This paper explores the political and cultural dynamics that surrounded this shift: pressure from encroaching settler nations, dwindling resources, and a loss of traditional practices. Ultimately, this shift irrevocably impacted Sami identity. Knowledge of the historical factors surrounding the transition to reindeer nomadism is essential to Sami cultural preservation and activism today.

Ava Trueworthy, St. Mary's Academy

10:30 – 11:45
SMSU 328/9

SECOND SESSIONS
Deception and Conflict in Modern Europe
Moderator: *Professor Karen Hoppes*

Almost Won, Almost Lost: How Intelligence Failed the Allies and How Resourcefulness Saved Them

In the final two years of World War II, the battle of Ardennes was the last major German counteroffensive launched in the hopes of reclaiming victory. Also known as the Battle of the Bulge, the Ardennes counteroffensive revealed the merit of German strategy, planning, and surveillance efforts due to the significant headway German troops initially made through Allied lines. However, the German counteroffensive ultimately failed to meet its goals of weakening Allied forces and turning the tide in the war, spending their last resources on the endeavor. This paper explores the role espionage and surveillance played in allowing German forces to initially take Allied troops by surprise. Additionally, this paper examines the areas of success and oversight on both sides of the conflict which led to its ultimate end in Allied victory in a battle crucial to the outcome of World War II.

Noopur Barve, St. Mary's Academy

Operation Mincemeat: The Impact and Influence of WWII's Most Daring Intelligence Operation

In 1943, during the height of the Second World War, the dead body of a man in his early thirties was released from HMS Seraph submarine off the south-west coast of Spain. This corpse carried fabricated letters outlining the Allies' plan to attack Greece and Sardinia which convinced German forces to defend Greece and move away from the real target, Sicily. This successful, radical, and deceptive operation led by Ewen Montague to disguise the Allied Invasion of Sicily using false-intelligence tactics forwarded the Allied victory and increased the prevalence of deception in war. This paper explores Operation Mincemeat's revolutionary nature, the significance of its success, and its relevance today.

Maya DaSilva, St. Mary's Academy

The Troubles: Root Causes of Tension in Northern Ireland

Since the first British invasion of Ireland in the 12th century, the native Irish people have been negatively affected by British presence and rule. When the English first set out to conquer Ireland, they did so on the notion and basis of religion, aiming to anglicize the Irish people. The ramifications of creating a class of people who were second to the British colonizers have remained persistent throughout history and into present times. The modern culmination of this historical conflict occurred in the 1960's during the time of the Troubles. However, this Northern Irish conflict was not divided on theological lines but instead on those of class and politics, as those who had been so long oppressed were demanding change, equality and freedom. This paper explores the variety of factors which truly influenced the conflict in Northern Ireland and led to the Troubles, shaping what Northern Ireland is today.

Eleanor Snyder, St. Mary's Academy

10:30 – 11:45
SMSU 327

SECOND SESSIONS
Philosophies of Power
Moderator: *Professor Brian Turner*

A Source of Power, Wealth, and Influence: Land Ownership

By analyzing human history with regard to the underpinnings land ownership has had on societal development, scholars can better understand underlying patterns of economic, social, and political development in history and the effect land ownership had on them. Throughout all civilizations, the notion of owning land has been relatively constant, albeit there are variations in the form and function of varying land tenure systems. Land ownership is often overlooked in the study of civilizations, although the wealth, power, and influence one can gain from their landholdings can drastically affect a society. Without some variation of a land ownership system, how can a civilization efficiently manage its agricultural output, or even establish a large-scale farming and irrigation system in the first place?

Jude Lenz, Grant High School

Discourses' Influence on Governmental Practices and Tyrannical Justification

Discourses by Machiavelli is a book used to justify the governmental style of states by their leaders. While it is a detailed book that explores ideas such as religion, expansion, and unification, it is written in a way that allows for a variety of interpretations. These previously stated single ideas can be pulled out and separated from the larger context of the book, giving a way for leaders to only use the points that increase their power and presence, rather than what is best for the state.

Caden McIlhenny, Grant High School

Poetry to Prose: The Influence of Herodotus on Written History

In his book, *The Histories*, Herodotus of Halicarnassus expertly displayed his inquiries into the cultures and conflicts that transformed the Mediterranean world during the Greco-Persian Wars of the fifth century BCE. By writing his narrative in prose, citing his work, and providing cultural reasoning for past events, Herodotus earned himself the nicknames “father of history” and “father of comparative ethnography,” but his inclusion of fables also labeled him the “father of lies.” A historian named Thucydides eventually refined the historical genre to focus on politics without the inclusion of myths, narrowing the discipline of history for another thousand years. In fixing Herodotus’ mistakes, Thucydides also highlighted them, paving the way for future historians to devalue Herodotus’ writing. Famously, Cicero says “even in Herodotus, the father of Greek history... we find fables scarcely less numerous than those which appear in the works of the poets.” This paper explores whether or not Herodotus is deserving of these titles, ultimately arguing that despite Herodotus’ use of fables, his influence has outlasted his critics.

Frances Currie, Grant High School

12:30 – 1:45
SMSU 338

THIRD SESSIONS
Shifting Legalities
Moderator: *Professor Jennifer Kerns*

Qur'an and Constitutions: Sharia in Modern Muslim Democracies

In contemporary society there has been a gradual shift in the politics of the Muslim world toward more democratic constitutions. This shift can be seen in the aftermath of successful uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt during the Arab Spring as well as isolated cases in other countries. The change echoes those that resulted from the Protestant Reformation's challenge of the Catholic Church's authority in 16th century European politics. By looking at the ideas of early constitutionalism in Europe that supported liberalism, it is possible to compare those with the goals of constitutions of new Muslim democracies. Though in many cases the shift towards a liberal constitution involves secular reform - the case of Nigeria shows that Sharia can also be used within the constitution to guarantee personal freedoms.

Adrian Vasquez, Grant High School

Delegitimizing Diplomacy: The Berlin West Africa Conference

On November 15, 1884, representatives from thirteen European nations and the United States convened for the Berlin West Africa Conference. Hoping to end decades of political tension and conflict over imperial control in Africa, the participants presented the conference as a diplomatic way to decide the rules for colonial occupation of the continent. Despite the conference's diplomatic facade, African leaders were prevented from participating in the proceedings and the sovereignty of existing African states was ignored. The conference resulted in new guidelines for colonization that allowed European imperial powers to expand their territory with no regard for existing political, cultural, and linguistic boundaries. The subsequent partitioning of Africa into new European-controlled territories set the stage for over a century of political and economic challenges in Africa. This paper explores how the conference's veneer of diplomacy was used to legitimize unfettered colonial expansion in Africa.

Anja Jolin, St. Mary's Academy

Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*: A Timeless Piece of Strategy

Sun Tzu's *The Art of War* has maintained relevance throughout the ages despite being written in ancient times. How has it maintained its relevance? Why have its strategies aged so well? How has it been used outside its original realm of war strategy? These questions will be answered in this paper and an analysis of the influence of the text, its interpretations in other fields, the shortcomings of its interpretations, and its translations will be provided. The paper will also contain a brief overview of the context of *The Art of War* and its author. The conclusions of this paper were discovered through research with academic sources. Sources from multiple disciplines including history and business were included to provide a better understanding of how *The Art of War* has had cross-disciplinary influence. It was found that *The Art of War* has maintained its influence by using logic that does not age poorly or lose relevance over the years. It continues to impact the world today because it is able to be used in fields like business and everyday life, and its teachings are not only applicable to war strategy. The findings of this paper allow us to recognize what makes a historical piece influential, how it is applied to different fields, and how a historical writing changes through its interpretations, translations, and uses.

Carolina Cunningham, Grant High School

12:30 – 1:45
SMSU 328/9

THIRD SESSIONS
Power of Reputation
Moderator: *Professor Patricia Schechter*

Paving the Way: Women in Music at Ferrara, Italy During the Late 1500s

During the late Renaissance period, musical advancement and development thrived in the courts of dukes around Italy. However, in Ferrara around 1580, a group of women began to gain unprecedented attention for their court performances and dedication to music. Interestingly, this region was also home to a prolific group of cloistered musicians. This paper explores the impact that the Ferrarese madrigal singers would have on the future of music professions for women of all social classes, as well as the relationship of court music to religious music in a time where life as a whole was becoming more secular.

Ella Yarris, St. Mary's Academy

Bad Beguines: The Importance of Reputation in the Lives of the Beguines

Beguines, a group of semi-religious laywomen who rejected social, religious, and gender norms, struggled against the limiting force that was the Catholic Church since their beginnings in the thirteenth century. Religious authorities attempted to categorize and contain the beguines, as the ambiguity of their lives was something they could not understand or accept. However, the beguines persisted for seven centuries, even after official condemnation from the Catholic Church. This paper examines how reputation played into the lives of the beguines, and how public perception was key to their continued existence.

Emma Chally, St. Mary's Academy

All About Dynamics: Katherine Howard's Hidden Story

Often considered Henry VIII's "wanton wife," Katherine Howard's story has been twisted and appropriated throughout the centuries to fit the propaganda of the court or the perceived love story between her and Thomas Culpepper. No older than nineteen at the time of her beheading, Howard supposedly professed "I die a queen, but would rather die the wife of Culpepper." However, through an in-depth analysis of primary sources and new scholarship, her story is far more complicated than previously considered. Transcripts from court documents, witnesses throughout her life, and her own words paint less of a romantic tragedy and more of the tragic end of a young woman, alone and abandoned by her family, a victim of sexual abuse, taken advantage of time and time again without the resources to defend herself. Looking both through a feminist and mental health lens, this paper intends to set the record straight on the often-ignored tragedy of the young queen Katherine Howard.

Samantha Knofler, St. Mary's Academy

Thanks to all those who make The Young Historians Conference possible:

Challenge Program Instructors

Don Gavitte, Grant High School:
PSU HST 104, 105, 106 - World History
PSU HON 101, 102, 103 - The Global City

Matt Vannelli, St. Mary's Academy:
PSU HST 102 - Western Civ

PSU Challenge History Faculty

John S. Ott, Department Chair
Jennifer Kerns, Young Historians Coordinator
Thomas Lockett, History Faculty Partner

Other Participating Faculty

Karen Hoppes
David Peterson del Mar
Patricia Schechter
Loren Spielman
Brian Turner

History Jurors

Bennett Gilbert
Gabe Lopez
Amanda Swinford

Challenge Program

Joy Beckett, Director
Stephanie Gustafson, Coordinator
Sarah Holliday, Event Coordinator

PSU Librarians

**Special thanks to
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