

HISTORY HONORS CONFERENCE

A photograph of a street in Cuba, featuring a green vintage car on the left and a wall with graffiti. The graffiti includes the text "EN CUBA NO HABRÁ TRANSICION HACIA EL CAPITALISMO" and "¡MANKI EL MIEDO NO COME AQUÍ!". The image has a warm, orange-toned overlay.

ANNUAL SHOWCASE OF
UNDERGRADUATE HONORS STUDENT
THESES

UF

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

— Liberal Arts *and* Sciences

APRIL 14, 2024 | SMATHERS LIBRARY EAST | [HISTORY.UFL.EDU](https://history.ufl.edu)



WELCOME!

For students and faculty in the Department of History, the annual History Honors Conference is a time of celebration, when some of our most talented undergraduates present the fruits of their year-long research projects. These young scholars have identified excellent topics, visited archives, patiently sifted through documents, and produced well-written narratives that put them at the top of their craft. No research, moreover, takes place in isolation. The support of faculty mentors, family and friends, program director Sheryl Kroen, and graduate assistant Rachel Laue is crucial to our students' success.

Research and teaching are at the heart of the historian's enterprise. In our department, faculty and students challenge each other daily to think, write and speak more clearly about the past and its impact on us. Without that constant questioning, knowledge ossifies, and a society loses a sense of who it is. That's why we do what we do.

Jon Sensbach

Jon Sensbach

SCHEDULE

[INTRODUCTION/WELCOME 9:00-9:15AM](#)

DR. JON SENSBACH & DR. SHERYL KROEN

[SESSION 1 9:15-10:15AM](#)

PUBLIC REINTERPRETATIONS OF HISTORY

The Seeds of Race in the South:

A Cultural and Intellectual History of Interracial Sex

AVERY GOODMAN (DR. STEVEN NOLL)

Who is James K. Polk? An Analysis of President Polk's Legacy and Public Memory

AIDAN HOUSDEN (DR. SEAN ADAMS)

Cleopatra and "Her Infinite Variety": Analyzing American Media Representations of Cleopatra from 1876-1934

RACHEL GIMBEL (DR. LOUISE NEWMAN)

Lobotomy and Growth into Inclusion: The Story of the Special Olympics

WILL MUNRO (DR. STEVEN NOLL)

Faculty Discussant: DR. STEVEN NOLL

[SESSION 2 10:15-11:15AM](#)

WOMEN AND GENDER

Devotion and Penitence: Following the Steps of Pilgrims from 15th-Century Lübeck

ZACHARY POTTER-ZIMMERMAN (DR. FLORIN CURTA)

Jeannette Marks: A Journey Through Identity, Sacrifice, and the Intimacies of Romantic Friendships

GRACIE RAMON (DR. BEN WISE)

Re-Orienting the Orient: The Americanization and Sexualization of Asian War Brides in the Cold War Period

MADÉLINE MENET (DR. SANDY CHANG)

Gisèle Halimi and the Fight for Abortion in France and Europe

ZOE GOLOMB (DR. SHERYL KROEN)

Faculty Discussant: DR. FLORIN CURTA

[COFFEE & TEA BREAK 11:15-11:30AM](#)

[SESSION 3 11:30AM -12:30PM](#)

COMMEMORATION AND NATIONAL IDENTITY

Remembering Terror: Exploring the Shifting Narratives of Commemoration in Post-Revolutionary Lyon

ALYSSA KNAPPEN (DR. ANTON MATYTSIN)

Performative Nationalism: Belgian State-building After 1830

CATHERINE HILL (DR. ANTON MATYTSIN)

"Ici On Noie les Algériens": October 17th, 1961 and the Unsilencing of French Colonialism

CORINNE TALHAM (DR. SHERYL KROEN)

Recalling Al-Andalus: Contention, Convivencia, and Cultural Heritage in the Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba

DANIEL HERNANDEZ (DR. NINA CAPUTO)

Faculty Discussant: DR. ANTON MATYTSIN



[LUNCH 12:30-1:45PM](#)

[SESSION 4 1:45-2:45PM](#)

NEGOTIATING POWER

Reform or Pragmatism? Pope Innocent III, the German Lands, and the Iberian Peninsula

NELSON A. CANALES (DR. FLORIN CURTA)

Neamul Nostru (Our People): Eugenics, Public Health, and Nationalism in Interwar Romania

LORENA MANASTUREAN (DR. STEVEN NOLL)

“Little to be Gained and a Good Deal to be Risked”:

The American Veto on International Justice after World War II

SONNY RUSSANO (DR. SETH BERNSTEIN)

Eugenic Sterilization of the Feeble-Minded in Georgia, 1937-1963

THALIA ESTEVEZ PEREZ (DR. STEVEN NOLL)

Faculty Discussant: DR. SETH BERNSTEIN

[SESSION 5 2:45-3:45PM](#)

MECHANISMS OF RESISTANCE

Reconceptualizing Resistance to Social Death: Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley’s Journey Through the Atlantic World

PATRICK GREY (DR. PHILLIP JANZEN)

Coming Out in the Cold: The Johns Committee, Academic Freedom, and Moral Panic in Florida, Cold War–Present

JORDAN DICKENS (DR. STEVEN NOLL)

Give us Land or Give us Death: Brazilian Indigenous Communities and Their Quest for Agency Under the Brazilian Military Dictatorship, 1964-1985

JENNIFER IZQUIERDO (DR. JEFFREY NEEDELL)

When Worlds Collide: the 1968 St. Petersburg Sanitation Strike, the “Otherworlds” of Florida, and the Development of a Mass Tourist Political Economy

MITCHELL REID (DR. PAUL ORTIZ)

Faculty Discussant: DR. PAUL ORTIZ

BRIDGET PHILLIPS AWARD

Each year, our department awards the Bridget Phillips Scholarship to students traveling for study or research. Bridget Phillips completed her BA degree in History at UF before starting a PhD at Johns Hopkins University in 1988. Tragically, she was murdered in her apartment in 1989 in an unsolved case. To honor her memory, her parents established this scholarship. In 2021, Tim Dean, a friend of Bridget's who is now James M. Benson Professor of English at the University of Illinois, made a generous contribution to increase the fund. At last year's honors conference, Professor Dean announced a new initiative to establish the Bridget Phillips Term Professorship, aimed at supporting the department's research and teaching efforts

2023 RECIPIENTS



CATHERINE HILL

Catherine Hill spent last summer doing research in Brussels, Belgium.

Her research at the Belgian National Archives was complemented by the archive of the feet. "There's something exciting about reading letters from Lord Palmerston at 10 o'clock and then finding yourself walking along Palmerston Avenue at 3 o'clock," she said. "The legacy of the revolution is part of everyday life."



DANIEL HERNANDEZ

Daniel Hernandez traveled to Madrid, Spain, to conduct research for his honors thesis.

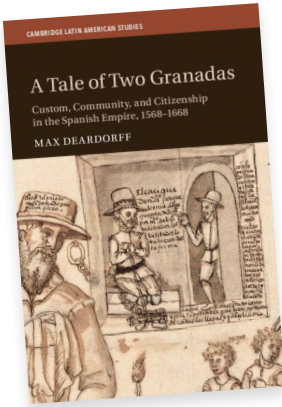
During his study abroad in 2022, he became fascinated with the legacies of Al-Andalus and Islamic rule in Iberia. Working in the archive with centuries-old documents about the very places he had visited gave him new confidence. "My experience made me realize that I could communicate in a completely Spanish-speaking academic setting better than I expected," he said.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)

history.ufl.edu/bridgetphillips



DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



A Tale of Two Granadas: Custom, Community, and Citizenship in the Spanish Empire, 1568-1668, Max Deardorff, Cambridge University Press, 2023. In the New Kingdom of Granada (today's Colombia), a new generation of half-Spanish, half-indigenous men (*mestizos*) sought positions of increasing power. Deardorff examines the trans-Atlantic transformation of ideas about subjecthood that allowed some colonial *mestizos* and *indios ladinos* (acculturated natives) to establish urban citizenship alongside Spaniards.

Fulbright is a prestigious national program that funds exchanges for recently graduated students and faculty worldwide. In 2023, Dr. Daniel J. Fernández Guevara and Dr. Oren Okhovat, both of whom recently defended their PhDs in the Department of History, received research Fulbrights to spend the 2023-24 academic year in Spain. Shannon Scott (pictured), who graduated in 2023, won a Fulbright teaching assistantship to spend the current year in Germany before beginning a PhD at the Ohio State University.



ACLS Award: Assistant Professor in Modern Asian History Sandy F. Chang, last year's honors program director, won the selective American Council of Learned Societies fellowship. The grant provides her with a year of research leave, which she is using to work on her book project "Across the South Seas: Gender, Intimacy, and Chinese Migrants in British Malaya, 1870s-1930s."

RECENT ALUMNI



SUJAYA RAJGURU

Sujaya graduated with a BA in History from UF in 2019. After graduating from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2022 and completing a clerkship with Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader on the Supreme Court of Maryland, she recently became a staff attorney with the Women's Law Project in Philadelphia.

During her time at UF, Sujaya completed an honors thesis based on research she had begun at the Matheson Museum in Gainesville. She credits her history education with giving her examples of past injustices that inform her perspectives on social change today.

Sujaya says her experience at UF was formative: "I entered law school with a well-rounded view of the world and felt very comfortable talking to clients from various walks of life and cultural backgrounds in part because of my study of history and the humanities at UF."



KELLY SCHINDLER

Kelly completed her History degree in 2011. As an honors student, she focused her thesis on Black settlements in Nova Scotia. Her experience as an undergraduate archives intern at the Florida Historical Society and then a post-graduate intern at the museum at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello inspired her to become a historic preservationist.

These experiences propelled her to work at the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Georgetown Heritage, culminating in the completion of a master's in historic preservation at the University of Maryland.

Kelly credits her history education for honing her research and analysis skills, which have been instrumental in advocating for the preservation of historic sites in her previous endeavors. Today, she applies these same skills at the Southern Environmental Law Center to effectively communicate the importance of environmental issues.

