

History Department Newsletter

The History Department Newsletter is back, and with a new format! We will be publishing periodically concerning items of interest to students of history at Lakehead University.

Welcome Back from the Department of History!

Special points of interest:

- **New Program: Minor in Comparative Religion**
- **Opportunities for Students: Community Placement & Peer Mentorship**
- **Publications from MA Students and Alumni**
- **Upcoming Event: TBHMS Free Public Lecture Series**

To all of our students, whether you are returning or starting your first year, we sincerely look forward to seeing you in our classrooms (and Zoom screens) as we begin a new academic year. Let's hope that life at LU will be closer to normal than it has been since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. We have all missed the interactions in and out of the classroom that are so essential to the university experience, but we understand that, for a variety of reasons, many students have come to prefer online course delivery. In the years ahead we will be in the process of discovering what post-pandemic education should be. Some things, however, will never change. September will always be a time for professors and students to enjoy the fresh start of a new academic year. Make your resolutions carefully, and best wishes for the year ahead!



Fall leaves photo

Inside this issue:

Academic Counselling	2
Consider a Community Placement	2
Peer Mentorship Program	3
Migration and Its Discontents in Central Europe	3
LU Alumni Book Published	4
Call for Abstracts	4
Faculty Changes	5
MA Student Book Reviews Published	5
TBHMS Free Lecture Series	5
Keep up to date on Department Social Media	6
Bursaries and financial aid - You may be eligible!!	6

New Program: Minor in Comparative Religion

This September sees the launch of a new Minor program in Comparative Religion.

The program consists of 3 FCEs:

a) Religious Studies 1100 Introduction to World Religions; and

b) any 2 FCE electives from the list below:

Religious Studies 2501 Introduction to the Bible
Religious Studies 2715 Special Topic
Religious Studies 3705 Special Topic
Religious Studies 3715 Special Topic
Anthropology 3718 Anthropology of Magic and Religion
Philosophy 2811 Asian Philosophy
Philosophy 3813 Philosophy of Religion



Religious symbols photo

Academic Counselling



Dr. Michael Stevenson
photo

With the start of a new academic year, you may want to review your course selections and academic plan with our faculty advisor, Dr. Michael Stevenson. No matter where you are in your degree program, you might also want to explore postgraduate options: graduate school, professional school, and career pathways.



Dr. Stevenson is also the department's Graduate Coordinator. He is the first point of contact for current and prospective graduate students.

You can make an appointment with Dr. Stevenson by emailing mstevens@lakeheadu.ca.



Layla Wiitala photo

Your Admin Assistant

Fourth-year student, Layla Wiitala, will be Admin Assistant for History/Philosophy until March 27, 2023. Layla can help with questions about registration, class time-tabling and navigating support services. Her office is RB-3014 in the Ryan Building. You can contact her by email at lmwiital@lakeheadu.ca.

Fourth Year Students: Consider a Community Placement

Community Placement opportunities are still available for fourth-year students on both the Lakehead Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses for the Fall and Winter terms. A Community Placement gives students the opportunity to gain practical, community-based experiences in history- and heritage-related career areas. As part of Lakehead University's commitment to experiential learning, it bridges the knowledge acquired in the classroom with the skills required for work in a history-related profession. A Community Placement is also an excellent way to build your resume and make connections in the field while also earning university credit.

If you are interested in the exciting prospects that a Community Placement offers, contact Dr. C. Nathan Hatton by email at cnhatton@lakeheadu.ca.

The History Department's Peer Mentorship Program

Going into its ninth year, the Department of History Peer Mentorship Program provides an opportunity for third- and fourth-year history majors and specialization students to work directly with undergraduate history students in a variety of co-curricular capacities. Focusing primarily on one-on-one peer mentoring of first- and second-year history majors and specialization students, mentors have in the past also worked with each other to organize workshops and activities aimed at the enhancement of academic skills and the building of community in the department.

One of the core purposes of the program is to work closely with undergraduate history students to help them with their transition to university life and learning. Mentors are paired with a student (or students) at the beginning of September, and communicate and meet with their mentee(s) throughout the year.

If you are interested in joining the program as either a peer mentor or mentee, please contact the Department Peer Mentor Coordinator, Dr. Steven Jobbitt, at sjobbitt@lakeheadu.ca, or come out to the information/organizational sessions held at the beginning of the fall semester. Dates of these meetings are yet to be determined. For more news, please keep an eye on your email or on the Department Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/lakeheadhistory>) and our Twitter feed (@lakeheadhistory).

Migration and Its Discontents in Central Europe

A special issue co-edited by associate professor Dr. Steven Jobbitt was recently published in the July issue of *Hungarian Studies Review*. Focusing on migration debates in the so-called Visegrád states (Hungary, Slovakia, Czechia, and Poland), the articles in the issue explore the politics and memory of migration in the region in the wake of the "migrant crisis" in the summer of 2015.

Titled "Narrating Crisis and Continuity in Migration Debates in the Visegrád States," the issue includes an introduction by Dr. Jobbitt and his co-editor Eva-Marie Walther, as well as articles on the anti-migrant polemics of Czech historian Jaroslav Pánek, the use of history in debates on asylum seekers in Slovakia, the memory of Polish and Jewish refugees in Hungary during World War II, and the response of Viktor Orbán's Fidesz-controlled government to the migrant crisis in Hungary. The issue also includes nine book reviews on monographs that deal primarily with issues of nationalism, identity, politics, and violence in Central Europe's border regions.

Our library does not have online access to the journal, but abstracts of the articles can be found here: <https://scholarlypublishingcollective.org/psup/hungarian-studies/issue/49/1>.

If you would like full-text copies of any of the articles or reviews, please contact Dr. Jobbitt directly at sjobbitt@lakeheadu.ca.

Lakehead Alumni Book Published

Congratulations to Lakehead History graduate and former sessional lecturer Samira Saramo on the publication of her book, *Building That Bright Future: Soviet Karelia in the Life Writing of Finnish North Americans* (U of T Press).

In the early 1930s, approximately 6,500 Finns from Canada and the United States moved to Soviet Karelia, on the border of Finland, to build a Finnish workers' society. They were recruited by the Soviet leadership for their North American mechanical and lumber expertise, their familiarity with the socialist cause, and their Finnish language and ethnicity. By 1936, however, Finnish culture and language came under attack and ethnic Finns became the region's primary targets in the Stalinist Great Terror.

Building That Bright Future relies on the personal letters and memoirs of these Finnish migrants to build a history of everyday life during a transitional period for both North American socialism and Soviet policy. Highlighting the voices of men, women, and children, the book follows the migrants from North America to the Soviet Union, providing vivid descriptions of daily life. It brings readers into personal contact with Finnish North

Americans and their complex and intimate negotiations of self and belonging.

Through letters and memoirs, *Building That Bright Future* explores the multiple strategies these migrants used to make sense of their rapidly shifting positions in the Soviet hierarchy and the relationships that rooted them to multiple places and times.

For information or to purchase the book, please visit this webpage:

https://utorontopress.com/9781487523497/building-that-bright-future/?fbclid=IwAR2hLcSwCWwPpFC1Ik_A8d0SURWV4s1twWxHxBYoHboP4SZ3C03bharEYXDl

Call for Abstracts

Northern Policies is calling for abstracts on various topics related to Northern Ontario, rural and remote communities, and "working to scale" that may be of interest to you.

Faculty and students have the opportunity to present their work in in-person paper presentations of 15 minutes each or to compete for a \$500 prize in the poster competition.

Abstracts can be submitted here until September 15th, and those accepted will be notified by October 1st: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NorthernDirectionsCallforAbstracts>.

This call is part of the 2022 Northern Directions conference organized in partnership with the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation, scheduled for November 16, 17 and 18, 2022, in North Bay, Ontario: <https://www.northernpolicy.ca/northern-directions>.

Students will receive a discounted rate for admissions.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Bryanne Rocha, the senior policy analyst at Northern Policy Institute, at this email: bdrocha@northernpolicy.ca



Prof. Scott Bradley photo



Prof. Michael deJong photo

Faculty Changes

You will notice some changes in the Department's faculty. Dr. Pallavi Das and Dr. Ronald Harpelle are on sabbatical this year. We welcome [Prof. Scott Bradley](#) and [Prof. Michael deJong](#) as Contract Lecturers who will be teaching History 4850 FA Introduction to Museum & Heritage Studies.

Scott Bradley is the Executive Director of the Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society, having served in that role since January 2020. In this role he oversees the Museum's daily operations, and together with a Board of Directors sets policy and strategic direction for the Museum. Prior to this Scott served as a curator and project manager at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio for over 16 years.

Michael deJong is the Curator & Archivist of the Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society, having served in that role since 2017. In this role he oversees the Museum's collection and exhibits program, as well as the Society's archival records. Prior to this role he worked in a variety of local and regional museums in southern Ontario.

Prof. Scott Bradley and Prof. Michael deJong join the following Contract Lecturers who are returning: Prof. Sara Janes, Dr. Rafaela Jobbitt, Dr. Nicolas Lépine, Dr. Tom Peotto, Prof. Kelly Saxberg, Prof. Beverly Soloway, and Dr. David Ratz.

MA Graduate Book Reviews Published

Congratulations to MA graduates Laura Polcyn and Alex (Yawei) Zhang on book reviews published in academic journals.

Laura's review of Robert Austin's *Making and Remaking the Balkans: Nations and States since 1878* was published in the December 2021 issue of *Hungarian Studies Review*. Alex's review of *Guqian jipin* [Exceptional Rarities among Ancient Coins] was published in the Summer 2022 issue of the *Journal of the Oriental Numismatic Society*.

Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society's 2022-2023 Free Public Lecture Series

The Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society's free public lecture series is starting up again this fall. Talks on a wide range of topics are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Thunder Bay Museum from September to April.

For more information, please visit this webpage:

<https://www.thunderbaymuseum.com/community-programming/special-events-activities/lecture-series/>.

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Dr. Richard Maundrell photo

Dr. Maundrell is the Chair of the Department. His office is on the third floor of the Ryan Building, Office 3001. To meet with your Chair, email rmaundre@lakeheadu.ca

The mission of our department is to teach students about the past and ways of learning about the past. According to Cicero, "history is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life..." Our programs are designed to afford an opportunity to become involved in the process of creating a shared understanding of past events and to pursue areas of history relevant to your own concerns. With relatively small class sizes, you will be able to pursue your studies in close collaboration with your professors and your peer group.

If you have news or information that you would like us to share in the newsletter or on our website, forward to rmaundre@lakeheadu.ca

*Visit our website
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/departments/history>*

Department Social Media



For up-to-date announcements on Department events and faculty and student news, you can follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/lakeheadhistory>) and Twitter (@lakeheadhistory).

If you have any department or history-related items you would like to share, please send them to Dr. Steve Jobbitt (sjobbitt@lakeheadu.ca).

... Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries can help fund your education. All students are encouraged to fill out Lakehead's general application to be considered for a number of financial aid opportunities from a variety of sponsors. The short, online application is available through your myInfo account (Student Tab > Financial Aid & Rewards> myAwards).

The deadline to apply is Saturday, Oct. 15, don't delay or you will miss out on this great opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact Student Central by email at studentcentral@lakeheadu.ca.