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CPH exists to research and advance understanding of the history of the American presidency. The Article II Society is a giving society for loyal supporters who contribute \$2,500 or more each academic year to CPH, helping ensure the work and this organization can continue.

### From the Director

Dear Friends,  
They say time passes quickly when you are having fun. At the risk of revealing the dirty little secret that I consider mine the best job in the world—and thus quite a bit of fun—I’m nonetheless amazed at how fast our first ten years have flown by. A decade ago we were little more than an idea. Ten years later we’ve produced 22 post-doctoral fellows, who themselves have produced nearly a dozen published books with more on the way. We’ve seen them gain tenure-track and other permanent positions in the vast arena of academic and public history. We’ve created from scratch a new PhD program in American History that this upcoming year will reach double digits in students. We’ve done 140-plus oral histories for our collective memory project with no sign of slowing; we’ve hosted 12 local high school students and five SMU undergraduates as interns. We’ve taken friends and students to Pearl Harbor, Normandy Beach, and the Berlin Wall, and hosted more than 150 events including 10 large conferences. And oh yes, two podcasts, a book prize, faculty research and writing fellowships, and teacher institutes where we’ve instructed more than 500 K-12 educators. It’s been an exhausting, fulfilling, and yes, enjoyable ride. Thanks in no small measure to your ongoing support, here’s to another decade!



**Jeffrey A. Engel**

## From The Program Director

One of the joys we have at CPH is the opportunity to meet our Article II Society friends in small settings and to enjoy in-depth conversations about a shared passion in history. It's always fun to see you at our special programs, whether the High Table with Historians series highlighting the ongoing work of our postdoctoral fellows, or exclusive luncheons with authors like the recent one featuring former National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley. We have two events for you this spring. First, a talk by Greg Brew, one of CPH's own former postdocs, who recently published not one but two books about Iran, oil, and the Cold War. Second, one of our current postdocs Ashlyn Hand will lead a book salon to discuss William Inboden's new book about Ronald Reagan as peacemaker. Ashlyn was one of Dr. Inboden's graduate students at UT (Austin). These are of course in addition to our line-up of public lectures throughout the semester. We were especially glad to see those of you who joined us for our 10th anniversary event welcoming veteran journalists Peter Baker and Susan Glasser.

As CPH celebrates its first decade, we count our Article II Society friends among the things for which we are most grateful.



**LaiYee Leong**  
Senior Fellow and Article II Society Program Director

# The first 10 years

This newsletter comes in time for the 10th anniversary of the Center for Presidential History. See a snapshot of all that we have accomplished below.

**140**

Interviews Conducted for The Collective Memory Project

**56**

Episodes of *The Past, The Promise, The Presidency* Podcast

**4**

Episodes of *Cross Currents* Podcast

**12**

Books Published by CPH; 8 by Postdoctoral Fellows

**22**

Postdoctoral Fellows Hired

**11**

Faculty Writing Fellowships Awarded

**9**

Current Graduate/PhD Students

**5**

Undergraduate Interns

**12**

High School Interns

**14**

Members of the Article II Society

**142**

CPH Events, Including 10 Major Conferences

**16**

Private Article II Society Events Hosted

**8**

Travel Courses With Essential History Expeditions

**9**

Travel Courses With Taos Cultural Institute

**2024**

CPH Book Prize Inaugural Year

**500+**

Credit Hours Awarded by Texas Teacher Continuing Professional Education

**2**

Teacher Workshops by Humanities Texas Workshops

**6**

Teacher Workshops by Gilder Lehrman Institute

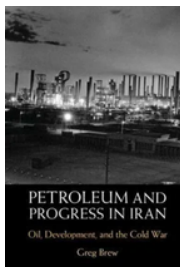
# Article II EVENTS

Members of the Article II Society are invited!  
Please look out for notifications about each special event.

## Luncheon with Gregory Brew

March 29, 12:00 pm

*The Struggle for Iran: Oil, Autocracy, and the Cold War, 1951–1954* (with David S. Painter)

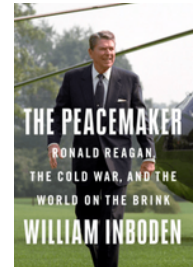


Gregory Brew is a historian of oil, U.S. foreign relations, and the modern Middle East and Iran. His work explores the connections between the formation of a global oil economy, the geopolitics of the Cold War, and the contemporary energy transition.

## Book Salon with Ashlyn Hand

April 11, 7:00 pm

A conversation about *The Peacemaker: Ronald Reagan, the Cold War, and the World on the Brink* by William Inboden



Ashlyn Hand is a CPH fellow writing a book on religious freedom and US foreign policy. As a PhD student at UT (Austin), she worked with Dr. Inboden.

This book recounts how Ronald Reagan and his national security team confronted the Soviets, reduced the nuclear threat, won the Cold War, and supported freedom.

## CPH Book Prize

The inaugural CPH Book Prize for first-time authors is going to **Fritz Bartel** for his book *The Triumph of Broken Promises: The End of the Cold War and the Rise of Neoliberalism* (Harvard University Press, 2022). Dr. Bartel received his PhD from Cornell University and is an assistant professor at the Bush School of Government and Public Policy at Texas A&M. He will deliver the Book Prize Lecture at SMU in early 2024.

# MAKING *History*

**CPH intern Tamal Pilla sat down with Dr. Brian Franklin to discuss *Hand-off* and the making of the Transition Project.**

**Q:** *What is the Transition Project, and how does it relate to Hand-off?*

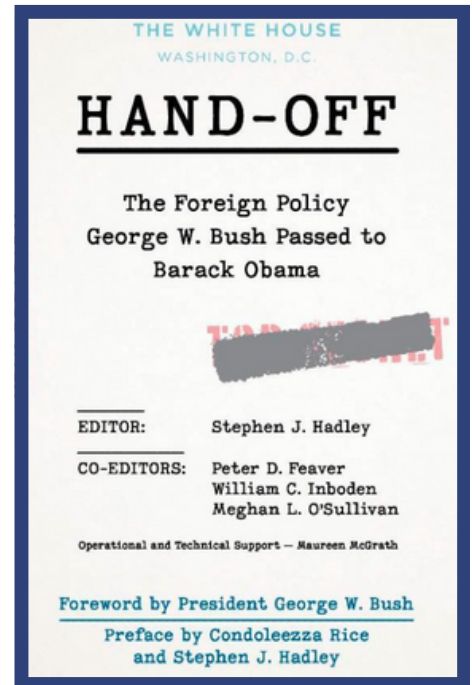
Well, *Hand-off* is the name of the book that was just published by Stephen Hadley, the former national security adviser, and some of his colleagues. The project that we've developed, alongside that and to expand on that book, is called the Transition. And that project features over 700 documents produced by members of the National Security Council under George W. Bush as they were handing off critical national security information to their incoming successors in the Obama administration. So what it's really about is providing firsthand documentation about how one presidential administration attempted to at least set up the next administration with some base of knowledge for where they'd be working from.

**Q:** *How did this project get started and what is its status right now?*

This project really started from their idea for the book. Once we heard from them in the spring of 2022, we were in touch with them because they had many, many more memos and supporting documents that they had produced as part of that research that were not going in the book. So the book is a portion of the document part of the memos, about two dozen, along with some commentary. The website is all 700+ of the memos along with all the attached documents that they gave with the memos, all in one spot. The website has launched, and you can find all of the above information and more to come as we declassify more documents.

**Q:** *Why is this project significant for the CPH?*

The Transition is an important project for at least two important reasons. First, it provides a series of documents that tell the story of how a presidential administration attempted to hand off their ideas to a succeeding administration of a different political party. This sort of seemingly amicable transition is uncommon in American history, so the project provides a powerful window into understanding both the policies and the motivations of the policymakers. Second, The Transition is significant because it pulls together in one user-friendly place, a large amount of documentation that is otherwise scattered and relatively inaccessible to the average person.



**Visit the Transition Project website at [nsctransition.com](https://nsctransition.com).**

# Press *Play*: CPH Podcasts

## Season 4: Conversations

This season, we want to bring you something different. Something that exemplifies what we at the CPH are all about: finding and supporting the best research in American and presidential history, and then bringing it to you. Not everyone has the time to read *every* history book they might want to—and few can attend *every* public lecture we host on campus. But we can bring the books and the historians to you! In Season 4, you'll have access to an array of fascinating conversations we've recorded with scholars: covering the fraught presidencies of the 1870s to the mid-20th century politics of Charlie Brown, and many other topics in between.

In Season 4, you'll join our undergraduate interns, Tamal Pilla and Tyler McCall, as they chat with the authors who have visited (or will visit) us at SMU to talk about their latest published works.



THE PAST  
THE PROMISE  
THE PRESIDENCY  
CONVERSATIONS

Associate Professor and Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor **Jill Kelly** will be the **CPH History Department Writing Fellow** for the upcoming year. This annual award affords a member of the department teaching relief to complete a major project. There have been ten Writing Fellows to date.

Dr. Kelly's project is a history of rural women's organizing in apartheid South Africa. It is situated at the nexus of feminist, intellectual, and struggle historiographies.

**Want to see more of the CPH?**

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[twitter.com/cphat-smu](https://twitter.com/cphat-smu)



**and check out our webpage:**

[smu.edu/cph](http://smu.edu/cph)

**SMU** Center for Presidential History

# Accolades

Former postdoctoral fellow **Sarah Coleman's** book, *The Walls Within: The Politics of Immigration in Modern America*, was named the winner of the 2022 Richardson Keller-Sierra Prize for best monograph from Western Association of Women Historians and the winner of the 2022 Theodore Saloutos Book Award from the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, for the book judged best on any aspect of the immigration history of the United States.

Former postdoctoral fellow **Elizabeth Ingleson's** "The Invisible Hand of Diplomacy: Chinese Textiles and American Manufacturing in the 1970s," *Pacific Historical Review*, won the 2022 W. Turrentine Jackson (Article) Prize awarded by the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association.

**Augusta Dell'Omo** has won the 2023 Lathrop Prize for Best Dissertation in History given by the University of Texas at Austin.

## Interns at CPH



A junior majoring in economics, **Jackson Powell** began assisting the Collective Memory Project as an intern this semester. Jackson helps conduct background research and prepare dossiers, facilitate interview logistics, and edit transcriptions.



**Tamal Pilla** joined CPH last fall as a research assistant working on a range of public outreach activities. He is taking the lead in producing the latest season of CPH's podcast. Tamal is a sophomore majoring in History and Business Analytics.



**Tyler McCall** is CPH's longest serving intern. She has provided all-round support for the work of the Center. She helped to give tangible form to raw ideas, from conducting video interviews for our website to producing this newsletter. We wish Tyler the best as she moves on to the professional world!



CPH is hosting five juniors from the **Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School** in our continuing partnership with the Dallas ISD magnet school. They are mentored by our postdoctoral fellows and assist in semester-long research projects. The students acquire college-ready skills while gaining invaluable experience with historical research, digital humanities, and more.



ASIAN AMERICAN  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Dallas

CPH has just launched a new program to place SMU undergraduates with the Dallas Asian American Historical Society as interns. The position gives students the opportunity to research local history while learning to organize related artifacts and support the work of the Society through grant-writing. Undergraduates may also seek credit for the internships. Three students – **Olivia Doyle, Sarah Khoja, and Katherine Tao** – make up the inaugural class.

# Updates: Current Postdoctoral Fellows & Students

## Camille Davis

The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery chose a portion of Camille's dissertation to feature on its Scholar Day. Camille's work was presented to a panel of leading scholars of early American history and art history.

Camille was promoted to the role of Material Culture and Critical Race Fellow at the Winterthur Museum, a renowned institute for the study of American visual culture. Camille has served as a Fellow at the Museum for two years.

## Ashlyn Hand

Ashlyn's article "Democracy's Effect on Terrorism," appeared in the highly ranked, peer-reviewed *Journal of Conflict Resolution* in December.

## Carolyn Levy

Carolyn contributed a chapter titled, "She Might Regain a Degree of Respectability: A Brief History of the Rosine Association," to *Rosine 2.0: Futures + Histories of Collective Care*. Her writing examines the origins and significance of the organization in aiding those engaged in sex work and drug abuse.

## Shaffer Bonewell

History PhD candidate Shaffer Bonewell received the O'Donnell Grant from the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs to conduct research at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library. His research examines the relationship between the creation of the North American Free Trade Agreement and George H. W. Bush's grand strategy at the end of the Cold War.

# Updates: Former Postdoctoral Fellows

We're proud to provide updates on the important and exciting work that our former postdoctoral fellows and students are doing.

## Lindsay Chervinsky & Sharron Conrad

Sharron and Lindsay were in Washington, D.C. with Matthew Costello of the White House Historical Association for a *Mourning the Presidents* panel discussion moderated by Michael Beschloss.

## Aaron Crawford

Aaron is now Associate Editor of the Papers of Martin Van Buren at Cumberland University. He is working on creating a multi-volume letterpress edition of Van Buren's writings. Until recently, Aaron was Assistant Editor on *The Papers of Andrew Jackson*, Vol. 12, which will be published in April.

## Thomas Blake Earle

Cornell University Press will publish Blake's book, *The Liberty to Take Fish: Atlantic Fisheries and Federal Power in Nineteenth-Century America*, in August.

## Augusta Dell'Omo

Augusta was the lead author of case studies on [Grand Traverse County, Michigan](#) and [Mecklenburg, North Carolina](#) for Princeton University's Bridging Divides Initiative, a research initiative tracking political violence in the United States.

Augusta has been invited to deliver a lecture, "Networking White supremacy – Understanding the Pro-Apartheid Movement, 1980-1988," at the University of Regensburg in Regensburg, Bavaria in November.

## Kaete O'Connell

Kaete has just started her new position as Assistant Director of the Brady-Johnson Program in Grand Strategy at Yale.

## Amanda Regan

Amanda's book, *Shaping Up: Physical Fitness Initiatives for Women 1880-1965*, is under contract with University of Virginia Press. It will be released in 2025 or 2026.



# Paul Renfro

Paul was recently promoted to Associate Professor of History (with tenure) at Florida State University.

# Cecily Zander

Cecily has taken on the role of Chief Historian at [Emerging Civil War](#), which is a website that draws together public and academic historians in a community dedicated to amplifying the voices of rising scholars in Civil War era history. She'll also be participating in Gettysburg College's Civil War Institute this June, where she'll be giving presentations on several topics drawn from her book manuscript.

## The Collective Memory Project: Updates

In November, **Paul Behringer**, with his collaborators, Simon Miles and Ivan Grek, presented their work on the Collective Memory Project, "U.S.-Russian Relations under Bush and Putin," at the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) annual conference in Chicago.



Several more interviews have been added to the project, including former Senator Joseph Lieberman, and our scholars have now interviewed 29 U.S. and Russian officials and analysts, with more in the works. So far they have published 23 interviews online. Check out the latest additions [here](#). These original interviews highlight the pivotal role of the president in crafting foreign policy strategy and as diplomat-in-chief.



**Former Senator Lieberman**  
AI Drago/New York Times

**Jonathan Ng** is extending the project, "[The United States and Latin America](#)," begun under former postdoctoral fellow **Evan McCormick**. The interviews examine themes such as immigration, trade, post-9/11 security policy, democracy and human rights, and the legacy of the Salvadoran Civil War. The project aims to shed light on major geopolitical shifts during the Bush years — in particular, the rise of the Pink Tide and escalation of the war on drugs.



# public ENGAGEMENT

In November, **Paul Behringer** published an op-ed in The Washington Post's 'Made By History' series titled, "[Harry Truman illuminates why Trump having classified documents is illegal.](#)"

Former postdoctoral fellow **Monica Blair** is now the Historian and Education Coordinator for Hopkins Retrospective; a public history project intended to research and share the history of Johns Hopkins University with the public.

**Camille Davis** recently published an op-ed in The Washington Post titled, "[Presidents' Day shows the complexity of America's origins.](#)"

**Paul Renfro's** writing recently appeared in [Slate](#) and the [New Republic](#). He has been interviewed for stories in the [New Yorker](#), on [WTSP](#) in Tampa/St. Petersburg, and [two stories](#) in Salon.

## Travel

**World War I Tour: An American Journey through "The Great War"**  
**A Travel Experience for Students, Alumni & Friends of SMU**  
**June 1-10, 2023**

Join SMU's Center for Presidential History's **Jeffrey A. Engel** and Essential History Expeditions' **Brian DeToy** for a spectacular and engaging examination of Belgium and France in World War I. For students, alumni and friends, this intergenerational tour offers an in-depth exploration of America's role in The Great War in the cities and on the fields where history took place.



Trip registration is closed. Be on the lookout for excursion pictures and updates on our social media.

Visit our webpage:  
[smu.edu/cph](http://smu.edu/cph)

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more of the  
CPH?***

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[twitter.com/cphatsmu](http://twitter.com/cphatsmu)



# Recent Speaker Events

# Upcoming Speaker Events

All events take place on the SMU campus (Dallas Hall, McCord Auditorium) unless otherwise indicated.



**October 26: *Civil War by Other Means: America's Long and Unfinished Fight for Democracy***

Jeremi Suri, University of Texas at Austin  
Article II Society Private Luncheon

[Click here to watch this event!](#)



**January 10, 2023: *Euromissiles: The Nuclear Weapons That Nearly Destroyed NATO***

Susan Colbourn, Duke University

[Click here to watch this event!](#)



**February 9, 2023: *The Third Reconstruction: America's Struggle for Racial Justice in the Twenty-First Century***

Peniel Joseph, University of Texas at Austin



**February 13, 2023: *Hand-Off: The Foreign Policy George W. Bush Passed to Barack Obama***

Luncheon with Steven J. Hadley, former National Security Advisor



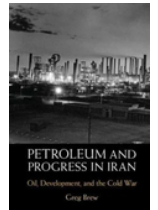
**March 7, 2023: *Presidential History in Real Time: Insights into the White House from Inside Washington***

Peter Baker, *The New York Times*  
Susan Glasser, *The New Yorker*

## March 2023

**March 29, 2023 @ 6pm: *Petroleum and Progress in Iran: Oil, Development, and the Cold War***

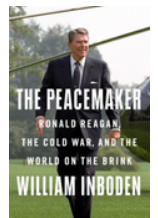
Gregory Brew, Yale University



## April 2023

**April 19, 2022 @ 7pm: *The Peacemaker: Ronald Reagan, the Cold War, and the World on the Brink***

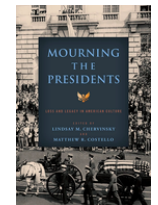
William Inboden, University of Texas at Austin



## May 2023

**May 11, 2023 @ 6pm: *Mourning the Presidents: Loss and Legacy in American Culture***

Lindsay Chervinsky, Senior Fellow  
Camille Davis, Postdoctoral Fellow  
Sharron Conrad, Tarrant County College  
Matthew Constello, The White House Historical Association



**You can find video recordings and additional resources for each event at: <https://blog.smu.edu/cph/upcoming-events/>**

# Where Are They Now?

Former Postdoctoral Fellows

**Dr. Paul Behringer**  
Defense POW/MIA  
Accounting Agency  
*University of Nebraska*

**Dr. Monica Blair**  
Sheridan Libraries  
*Johns Hopkins  
University*

**Dr. Gregory Brew**  
Jackson Institute  
for Global Affairs  
*Yale University*

**Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky**  
John W. Kluge Center  
*Library of Congress*

**Dr. Sharron Conrad**  
Department of History  
*Tarrant County College*

**Dr. Sarah Coleman**  
Department of History  
*Texas State University*

**Dr. Aaron Crawford**  
Martin Van Buren Papers  
*Cumberland University*

**Dr. Sarah Nelson**  
Faculty of Humanities  
*Leiden University*

**Dr. Elizabeth Ingleson**  
Department of History  
*London School of Economics*

**Dr. Paul Renfro**  
Department of History  
*Florida State University*

**Dr. Timothy Sayle**  
Department of History  
*University of Toronto*

**Dr. Amy Zaroni**  
Elk River Arts and Lectures  
*University of Montana*

**Dr. Amanda Regan**  
Department of History  
and Geography  
*Clemson University*

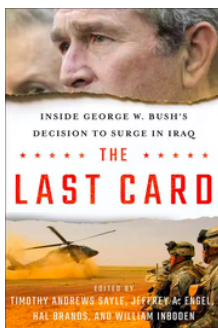
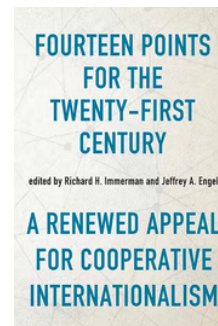
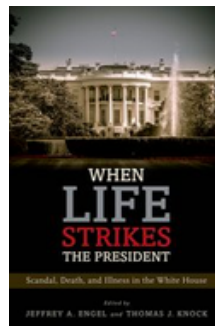
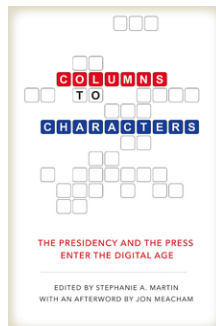
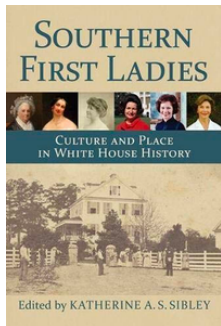
**Dr. Evan McCormick**  
Obama Presidency Oral  
History Project  
*Columbia University*

**Dr. Kaete O'Connell**  
Jackson Institute for  
Global Affairs  
*Yale University*

**Dr. Blake Earle**  
Department of History  
*Texas A&M University  
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## Publications

## from the Center



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