

# CENTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL HISTORY



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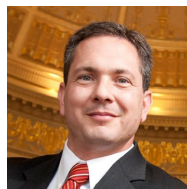
Newsletter produced by CPH  
research assistant Tyler McCall.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### From The Director

Greetings once more from the Hilltop! SMU's semester is rolling along. Everyone is thrilled to be back, and I don't recall ever before feeling with such absolute certainty that real learning is happening. What a wonderful feeling. As it's fall our second-year post-doctoral fellows invariably turn their eyes towards what might come next. There has been plenty enough written about the collapse of the job market across fields, and for history in particular. The pandemic has worsened those trendlines, but I'm confident that if anyone can succeed in this narrow space, our fellows can. They certainly have. It's wonderful to hear from our CPH alumni as they start jobs this fall at Yale, the London School of Economics, Clemson University, and more. So when you see our current crop of fellows on campus, understand their furrowed brows, and maybe drop a supportive note to your favorite deity if you have time. As always thank you for your invaluable support. We couldn't do it without you, and frankly, wouldn't want to. I look forward to expressing that sentiment in person, more and more, as 2021 rolls along.



**Jeff Engel, Director of the Center for Presidential History**

- Page 2:* Exclusive Events
- Page 3:* People at the Center
- Page 4:* Behind the Scenes with Dr. Hervey Priddy
- Page 5:* Press Play on CPH Podcasts
- Page 6:* In the News
- Page 7:* Travel and Events
- Page 8:* Research Rewind
- Page 9:* The Book Nook

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.

# EXCLUSIVE EVENTS

From the Program  
Director

Hope the fall has started well for you! After a summer of uncertainty, we are pleased to offer new and exciting programming to feed your thirst for all things presidential. CPH is planning a mix of Zoom and in-person public events. Let us know if you plan to attend any in-person event so we may reserve the best seats in the house for social distancing. In addition, we're delighted to invite our Article II Society supporters to special events. At the top of the list: a luncheon with author Blake Ball to discuss comics and a dinner with veteran journalist Susan Page to talk about her new book on Speaker Nancy Pelosi. We're also hosting High Table again –this time in-person –so you could hear our highly accomplished postdoctoral fellows chat about their cutting-edge scholarship. A fun activity you can do anytime is download and listen to various CPH podcasts. We are on a roll with several in the pipeline. And remember to sign up for our summer trip to Europe. See you soon!

LaiYee Leong  
Fellow and Article II  
Society Program Director



## Exclusive Article II Society Events

We hope you will join us for these programs open only to Article II Society supporters. Come mingle with the guest speaker, CPH fellows, and some of SMU's brightest students. Be on the lookout for your email invitation for each event.

**October 7: Luncheon with  
Blake Ball, *Charlie Brown's  
America: the Popular Politics of  
Peanuts* 11:30 am**



**November 16: Susan Page,  
Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi  
and the Lessons of Power  
6:00 pm**



## High Table with Historians

**Tuesday, October 19, 10 am:  
Amy Zanoni, "The Public  
Hospital and the Safety Net  
below the Safety Net."**



Source: Committee to Save Cook County Hospital  
Bulletin, January 1980, Quentin Young Papers,  
Northwestern University Archives, Evanston, IL

**Thursday, November 4, 10 am:  
Paul Behringer, "Woodrow  
Wilson and the Russian Civil  
War."**



U.S. Soldiers Marching in Vladivostok, 1918  
Source: "Frederick E. Brunner Papers, Hoover  
Institution Archives, Stanford, CA"

Both events take place at Herb's House Coffee + Company, 5622 Dyer St. Suite 100, Dallas, TX 75206. We will be on the outdoor patio. Coffee and snacks on us!

# PEOPLE *at the* CENTER

## Introducing New Postdoctoral Fellows

**Monica Kristin Blair, Sarah Nelson, and Cecily Zander** joined CPH this Fall.

**Monica** received her Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. She is working on a new book, *Private Schools, Public Money: The Modern History of School Choice*, which explores the role of race, region, and politics in the school privatization movement. From 2018 to 2019, Monica was the Lead Researcher for the American history podcast *BackStory*. She has created public and digital history content for multiple organizations. Monica is the new executive producer of CPH's podcast, *The Past, The Promise, the Presidency*.



**Sarah** holds a Ph.D. in History and a Joint Ph.D. in Comparative Media Analysis and Practice from Vanderbilt University. Her current book project, *Networking Empire: International Organizations, American Power, and the Struggle over Global Communications in the 20th Century*, examines how international telecommunications and the glow flow of news became key sites of geopolitical contestation from the interwar period to the end of the Cold War. Sarah's work in the Digital Humanities has produced interactive digital timelines, ArcGIS ESRI Story Maps, and several podcasts.



**Cecily** received her PhD from the Pennsylvania State University. Her current project surveys the history of the United States Army in the years between 1848 and 1872, chronicling political contestation over national military affairs in the Civil War era. The manuscript examines both partisan fighting over the army's deployment and financial maintenance, as well as clashes between the legislative and executive branches of the federal government over whether the president or Congress should oversee federal military policy.



## Mentoring High School Students

CPH is excited to continue its high school internship program this year. We welcome three students – **Shea Bowman, Emyah Cox, Jazmeen Rojas** – from Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School, a Dallas ISD magnet school. They will provide research assistance to LaiYee Leong, Monica Blair, and Cecily Zander.



"Our college bound students who have had the exceptional opportunity to work directly with CPH historians and SMU's academic librarians have gained perspectives in research that cannot be duplicated in the classroom. We have seen them rise to the challenge, gaining not only the skills they will use to succeed in college and beyond, but develop the confidence of self-advocacy for their challenges ahead." -- Diana O'Connor, IRYWLS's Teacher Librarian

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## *with Dr. Hervey Priddy*

### **Article II Society supporter and CPH fellow, Dr. Hervey Priddy, discusses his love for history**

#### **How does your connection with the CPH nurture your love for history?**

To start, I get the privilege of staying in regular contact with Jeff Engel and Brian Franklin in terms of what's being studied, what speaker is coming to talk, what books are coming out, that sort of thing. They're kind enough that I get to give input on suggested speakers and topics. I also get to interact with the postdocs and see what young historians are studying and what their dissertations are on. It keeps me active and keeps my mind involved to visit with them and to learn what they're doing. I also get to see vicariously what courses they're offering. In fact, right now I'm sitting in on Jeff Engel's class on U.S. presidents at war.



**Dr. Hervey Priddy**

#### **Do you have a favorite president?**

Let me rephrase your question. If I had a chance to work in the administration of any president and see firsthand exactly what happened, the two presidents that I would go back to work for would be Teddy Roosevelt or FDR. Teddy Roosevelt because he was a Type A personality: couldn't sit still, always on the go, enormous energy. TR wanted to be the bride at every wedding, the baby at every christening, and the corpse at every funeral. And he succeeded. He was very progressive in terms of his view. He invited Booker T Washington to the White House for dinner, which caused quite a stir, and he sailed the Great White Fleet. For FDR, I would take the first 100 days to see exactly what he did when he took office. When he gave the inaugural speech and the fireside chats, and he had the banking holiday. He did such a great deal during his first 100 days in office.

#### **Is there a book you've read recently that you'd recommend to our readers?**

I would highly recommend any of the books that Robert Caro has written on LBJ. He's got the 5th volume coming out soon. The first one is great because it gives a good picture of Texas. Anything by Caro including his first book, which is called *The Power Gulper*. It's about Robert Moses, who was a non-elected official in New York state who had enormous power: he built all the highways, the parks, everything, and he was never even elected. He was appointed. So, anything by Caro. There is a wonderful new book by David Reynolds called *Abe*. It's a life and times of Abraham Lincoln, and he's done a masterful job at describing that. They're thick books but excellent reads. Caro's reads like a novel to me since he writes so well, and Reynolds gives great descriptions.



**Robert Moses, New York public official**  
(Source: "Robert Moses," *Wikipedia*)

#### **What is one piece of advice you'd give to other history lovers out there on how to stay connected with your passion for history?**

The main thing I've found is to stay current in terms of reading. Constantly reading either the new books that come out or reading books published many years ago that you can get at the bookstore. In my case, because I'm interested in presidential history, I always want to see biographies. Also keeping track of the news. Just to know, what is the current administration doing? For instance, during the pandemic or the Afghan crisis, we can see the first draft of history and see what we have learned. Having lived through Vietnam, I see the Afghan crisis and think, "Wait, we've been here before." Or with the pandemic, reading books on the Spanish Flu of 1918 and seeing the differences in how it was handled.

# Press *Play*: CPH Podcasts

## ***The Past, The Promise, The Presidency***

You know Season One of our podcast *The Past, the Promise, the Presidency*? Have you tuned in to all 29 episodes? Yes, 29 wonderful opportunities to hear about how presidents have navigated the conundrum of race in our nation's public life and diplomacy. If you're not caught up, you might want to hustle--because Season Two is about to drop! In the new season, CPH Director Jeff Engel and Senior Fellow Lindsay Chervinsky retrace make-or-break presidential crises with the help of fellow historians. You will recognize some events, say, the end of the Cold War. Others like the Utah Wars and Bleeding Kansas may not ring a bell...yet. Starting October 7th, learn about these events and more. There are eight new episodes and a live season finale to look forward to!

If Season One has left you wanting to know more, you'll be thrilled to know that CPH has created "Dive Deeper" pages on our [pastpromisepresidency.com](http://pastpromisepresidency.com) website. These pages aim to offer additional resources--books, speeches, letters, articles, video clips, to name a few--to extend the conversations started by the podcast. We know educators and students of all ages may have additional questions about the themes covered in the discussions with the podcast's expert guests. So we are offering easy-to-find material and making it available on the website so you don't have to go far for answers. The pages reflect the fine work of former postdoctoral fellow Sharron Conrad and undergraduate intern Taylor Enslin.

## ***Cross Currents: US-Norway Relations Post-9/11***

Because one podcast isn't enough, CPH is offering another shorter production in early 2022! This one will feature four episodes drawn from our own oral history interviews. Called "Cross Currents: US-Norway Relations Post-9/11," the podcast examines how the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq strained our relations with a stalwart ally. Why Norway? An original NATO member, Norway found itself caught in the crosshairs when bigger allies like France and Germany fell out with the US. While much has been said about the "transatlantic drift" (remember "freedom fries?"), far less light has been shone on US alliances with other European countries during this difficult period. CPH fellow LaiYee Leong conducted many recorded interviews with senior Norwegian government leaders in 2017-18 to offer this new perspective. If you can't wait for the podcast, check out the original interviews [here](#).



President Bondevik and President Bush in Conversation About U.S.-Norway Relations (December 5, 2001)  
Source: "Kjell Magne Bondevik" CPH Website

## **Presidential fun fact!**

Martin Van Buren, U.S. President #8, owned two tiger cubs as pets, which were given to him as gifts from the Sultan of Oman.

# IN THE NEWS

## Accolade

**Paul Behringer's** dissertation, "U.S. and Japanese Intervention in the Russian Civil War: Violence and 'Barbarism' in the Far East," won the Betty M. Unterberger Prize from the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations for the best dissertation on any topic in United States foreign relations history. It also won the Andre Corvisier Prize from the International Commission of Military History for the best dissertation on military history in the broadest sense. To accept the award, Paul traveled to Athens, Greece, to attend the annual Congress and present his research.

## Public Engagement

In a timely contribution to a national conversation with an important local angle this summer, **Brian Franklin** shared this piece with NBCnews.com: "Texas Republicans take aim at history this Juneteenth. It could backfire."

On the diplomatic front, **Paul Behringer** published an op-ed in *Responsible Statecraft* in which he argued that closing U.S. consulates as a way of punishing Russia for its international and domestic behavior is ultimately self-defeating, ineffective, and plays into the hands of President Vladimir Putin.

For those of us seeking lighter fare, **Jeff Engel** fact checks presidential scenes from movies for *Vanity Fair*. When not on the couch, Jeff remains in high demand for his expert commentary on President Biden's first months in office and former President Trump's refusal to depart the national scene.

**Want to see more of the Center for Presidential History? Follow us on social media:**

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## Where are They Now?

**Elizabeth Ingleson** is Assistant Professor of International History at the London School of Economics.

**Greg Brew** and **Kaete O'Connell** are Henry A. Kissinger Postdoctoral Fellows at International Security Studies and the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs at Yale University.

**Sharron Conrad** is Associate Professor of History at Tarrant County College. **Amanda Regan** is Lecturer at Clemson University.

# TRAVEL

and

# EVENTS

## Presidential Fun Facts!

Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th U.S. president, was born Hiram Ulysses Grant, but changed his name because he did not like his monogram, HUG.

The middle initial 'S' in the 33rd president Harry Truman's name is not an abbreviation and does not stand for another name.

Calvin Coolidge (#30) was the only president sworn in by a former president, Chief Justice William Howard Taft

### For more information:

Contact Ronna Spitz at  
[rspitz@smu.edu](mailto:rspitz@smu.edu)

or call 214.768.3210, or explore  
this link:

[www.historyexp.com/events/partnershipssmu/](http://www.historyexp.com/events/partnershipssmu/)

## Czech and Germany in World War II and the Cold War: May 16-26, 2022

Get up close to World War II and Cold War history on [our trip](#) to the Czech Republic and Germany this summer! The fully guided and immersive tour will take you through Prague, Nuremberg, Dresden, Leipzig, and Berlin. You will walk the cities and fields where soldiers



fought for Europe's liberation and spies schemed for generations to create a new world order. Contact Ronna ([rspitz@smu.edu](mailto:rspitz@smu.edu)) for details.

## Pearl Harbor 80th and Hawaii: December 2 - 8, 2021

The CPH-led trip to Hawaii to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack has sold out! We are pleased to include 12 Hunt Scholars on the trip. The travel group will attend remembrance ceremonies in addition to getting a fully guided tour of many sites of war.



## 2021 Speaker Event Schedule

### September 2021

*Joseph Smith for President: The Prophet, the Assassin, and the Fight for American Religious Freedom*

Spencer McBride: September 9th, 6:00-7:30 pm

### October 2021

*Charlie Brown's America: The Popular Politics of Peanuts*

Blake Ball: October 7th, 6:00-7:30 pm

### November 2021

*Paper Trails: The U.S. Post and the Making of the American West*

Cameron Blevins: November 11th, 6:00-7:30 pm

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

# Research Rewind

See what projects our postdocs and fellows have in the works

## Ongoing Research

**Paul Behringer** is developing an oral history project titled “U.S.-Russian Relations under Bush and Putin, 2001-2009.” The website will launch with the first set of interviews in October. Among the American officials featured are former National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley and former U.S. ambassadors to Russia. Others include former Russian officials and influential commentators.

**LaiYee Leong** and **Amy Zanoni**, in partnership with SMU colleagues, have received grants from the Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute to convene research clusters. The clusters –open to faculty, staff, and students –support common interests and collaboration across disciplines. LaiYee’s cluster seeks to advance creative teaching in Asian and Asian American Studies (for example, integrating perspectives on how US diplomacy has shaped developments at home and abroad). The cluster will also explore the experiences of Asian Americans in higher education. Amy’s cluster will produce a series of workshops called “Narratives of Covid-19 in Dallas.” Participants will conduct first-person interviews with health care and other essential workers as well as marginalized populations in Dallas about their experiences during the pandemic. The narratives will be archived at SMU as a historical and academic resource.

## Latest Publications

**Brian Franklin** contributed a chapter titled “John Mason Peck: Missionary for the West” to the book *More Witnesses to the Baptist Heritage*, edited by Michael E. Williams (Mercer University Press).

**Sarah Nelson’s** article, “A Dream Deferred: UNESCO, American Expertise, and the Eclipse of Radical News Development in the Early Satellite Age,” will appear in *Radical History Review* in October.

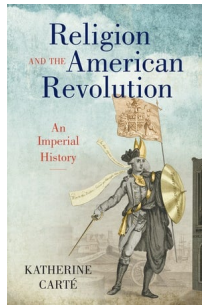
**Cecily Zander** has a chapter titled “One Widow’s Wars: The Civil War, Reconstruction, and the West in Elizabeth Bacon Custer’s Memoirs,” appearing in *Civil War Witnesses and Their Books: New Perspectives on Iconic Works*, edited by Gary W. Gallagher and Stephen Cushman (Louisiana State University Press). She is also publishing another chapter, “What If Jefferson Davis Hadn’t Been So Loyal to Braxton Bragg?” in *The Great What Ifs of the American Civil War: Historians Tackle the Conflict’s Most Intriguing Possibilities*, edited by Brian Matthew Jordan and Chris Mackowski (Savas Beatie).



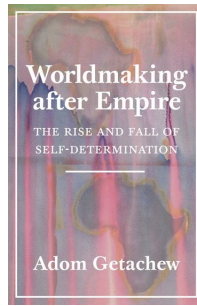
# THE BOOK NOOK

## Looking for reading suggestions? CPH scholars share a few of their recent favorite reads.

Carté, Kate. *Religion and the American Revolution: An Imperial History*. University of North Carolina Press, 2021.



Getachew, Adom. *Worldmaking After Empire: The Rise and Fall of Self-Determination*. Harvard University Press, 2019.

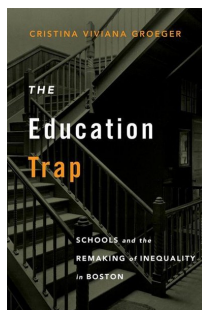


Gordon-Reed, Annette\*. *On Juneteenth*. Liveright Publishing, 2021.

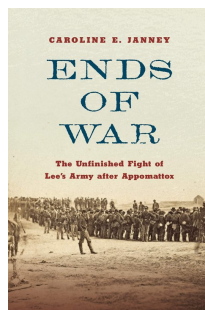
\*CPH will be hosting the author in March 2022.



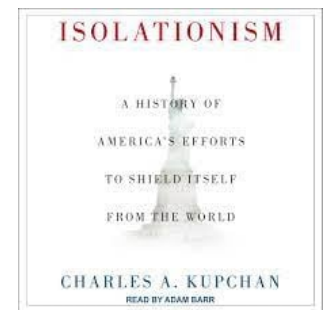
Groeger, Cristina Viviana. *The Education Trap: Schools and the Remaking of Inequality in Boston*. Harvard University Press, 2021.



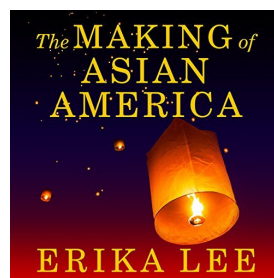
Janney, Caroline. *Ends of War: The Unfinished Flight of Lee's Army After Appomattox*. University of North Carolina Press, 2021.



Kupchan, Charles A. *Isolationism: A History of America's Efforts to Shield Itself from the World*. Oxford University Press, 2020.



Lee, Erika. *The Making of Asian America*. Simon & Schuster Publishing, 2015; new edition with a postscript on Asian-American activism during the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021.



### ABC NEWS podcast series, *In Plain Sight: Lady Bird Johnson*

We recommend this podcast, which uses Lady Bird Johnson's audio diaries from her time in the White House to reexamine her role in the Johnson administration as a true political partner and advisor to her husband, Lyndon B. Johnson.

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