



Letter from the President

When the WHA officers and staff decided to cancel our 2020 annual meeting and took other quick actions to respond to the global public health crisis caused by 2019's novel coronavirus, none of us expected to still be grappling with fallout of the magnitude we're facing now. The social, economic, and educational upheaval caused by Covid-19 is compounded by global protests against racial injustice, and, in the US, growing violence, an increasingly vitriolic presidential campaign (how is that possible?), and climate-related natural disasters. It seems as though every acre of the country is either on fire, under water, or blown away.

This last sentence is, of course, hyperbole: a rhetorical strategy intended to grab your attention. "Gentle reader, Wake UP! The sky is indeed falling." We know, though, that the actual, physical sky is not getting any closer to our heads, despite the ash that fell from it for days in early September over my home in Southern California. We are, however, living through a time of heightened anxiety that is likely to look to future historians like an important turning point. We know from studying the past that living through epochal transitions is deeply uncomfortable. We'd ask the dinosaurs for confirmation, if we could. We also know from teaching and using history that no moment or process is truly unprecedented. Our current struggles are neither *sui generis* nor out of the blue.

This historical awareness is worth bearing in mind, especially since the majority of WHA members are teachers—of young people, young adults, and our peers. As Jerry Bentley pointed out in 2005, world historians have a moral opportunity to educate others about our shared human condition. I feel that especially keenly today. The experiences of 2020 have shifted my research and teaching priorities. For me, Bentley's moral implications are now obligations. Setting the singularity of individual experience in the larger contexts of geological, environmental, sociological, economic, and political processes is an increasingly urgent task—one that world historians are particularly well equipped to lead.

In the American context of misinformation, mourning, and political activism of September 2020, the majority of WHA members are, like me, trying to figure out how to do our jobs well, care for ourselves and our families, and meet the challenges of our moment. On my campus, we have transitioned from the "emergency remote instruction" (the official campus nomenclature) we undertook in March to "planned online damage control"

(definitely not official terminology) this fall. My focus, applicable at the scale of individual students, department politics, and making sense of current events, is: *You're not in this alone.*

In that spirit, the WHA continues to offer online gatherings **Under the Baobab** and active conversations about teaching in the **World History Association Teachers Facebook** group and on Twitter under the hashtag: **#teachWHA**. The officers and staff continue to monitor local conditions and global public health advice as we make plans for our 2021 annual meeting. As always, your health and safety are our primary concerns, followed by economic stability. Our shared intellectual engagement runs a close third, but will never eclipse your wellbeing.

Whether you are inventing new ways to teach online, figuring out how to manage distance and sanitation protocols with in-person classes, or happily reunited with students and colleagues, remember that you are not alone in this journey.

The Journal of World History

The Journal of World History (JWH) is in the middle of updating its format and style for the first time in its 31 years. This year, the JWH's editorial board, with Matthew Romaniello at the helm, is working to bring the digital and print additions into alignment, which includes adding an abstract, keywords and author's bios to the text of articles. In the next Volume 32 (2021), the Journal of World History will debut the new, full color cover which will change for each new volume moving forward. The goal is to update the journal's distinct identity and increase the "findability" for our content.

Along these lines, University of Hawai'i Press has supported making more of the content of the journal accessible to everyone. This past summer, the JWH published its first online thematic collection of previously published articles: the 30th anniversary edition. All these articles remain free through September 30th. The Journal of World History be launching a new collection each summer in hopes of sending more of our material out from the paywall and introduce new content for everyone to use in the fall classes. The Press also funded a small



project making all of the introductions to special issues throughout the journal’s history permanently available as Open Access to support increasing awareness about the topics and materials published over the years.

Aside from debuting the journal’s redesign in the next volume, the 2021 Journal of World History will feature two special issues. One edited by Antoinette Burton on “Digital Methods and Empire Histories” in issue 2, and a second edited by Iris Borrowy on “Global Development, 1940-1990.”



Under the Baobab

In spring 2020, the World History Association, like other associations, faced a decision about restructuring live gatherings. The answer: our online learning community, entitled Under the Baobab, has helped us resolve the question of how to gather. Our website has been a central platform to find information about Baobab sessions, starting with our landing page [\[https://www.thewha.org/conferences/under-the-baobab/\]](https://www.thewha.org/conferences/under-the-baobab/), where you can also find the registration links. Our new blog section also highlights many of the sessions, for example, this post about Baobab III: <https://www.thewha.org/refrevs/>. Baobab sessions have also been consistently announced through emails to members, as well as on WHA social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The themes of these sessions have drawn upon different topics and questions in world history, so members can identify with topics that resonate with them. The five sessions include: “How Can History Help You During A Pandemic”; “Road & Oceans, the 30th Anniversary of the *Journal of World History*”; “Reframing Revolutions: Centering Indigenous, Black, and Women’s Voices in the Age of Revolutions”; “Maritime History as World History”; and “Biography in History: Sex, Lies, & Secrets.” While two of these sessions are set for this fall, the first three gained energy full circle from registrant

questions or breakout sessions generating further conversation.

The speakers have included WHA members and friends who hold specializations in these specific areas, whether through researching, writing or teaching. For example, the Roads & Oceans session and this September’s Maritime session highlight the writings of Lauren Benton, the Biggs Professor of History and Professor of Law at Yale University, whose specialty focuses on the legal history of European empires. Bentley concludes, “The Baobab series began with the goal of helping to keep a semblance of intellectual exchange alive in the field during a time of canceled in-person conferences and serial lockdowns. But the series has done much more: it has moved the field forward. I discovered its value when I participated in the series’ second session, one that brought together world historians from diverse perspectives to celebrate the 30th anniversary of *The Journal of World History*. The workshop not only offered an opportunity to reflect on the journal’s important role in nurturing innovative scholarship in world history under the inspirational editorial guidance of one of the field’s American founders, Jerry Bentley, but it also prompted a collegial and occasionally pointed discussion of methodological differences. The spirit was entirely in keeping with the WHA’s long commitment to intellectual inclusiveness.”

This fall, the Baobab sessions will hit YouTube for those unable to attend live. In the meantime, expect more information about Baobab V, happening on Saturday, October 17 at 10:30 am Pacific Time/1:30 pm Eastern Time. We look forward to seeing you at Under the Baobab!



Under the Baobab

SATURDAY
17
OCTOBER
10:30 – Noon
pdt



bit.ly/wha-baobab

Sex
Lies
Secrets

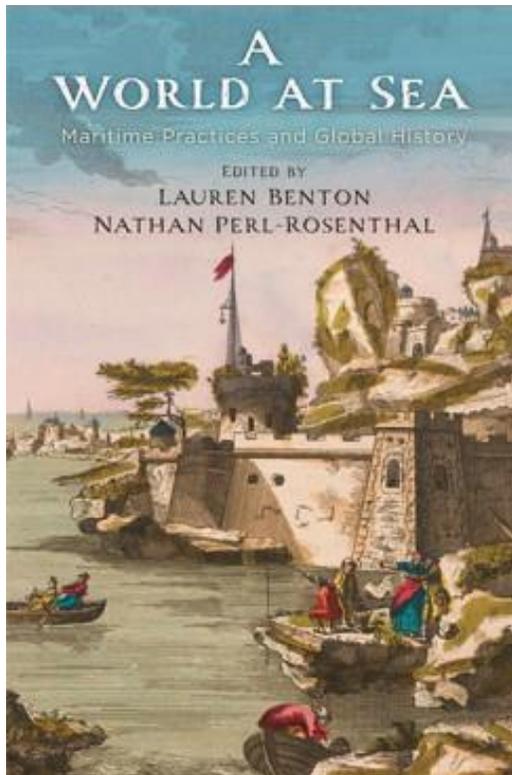
Bio
graph
y





In celebration of Baobab IV on September 23, based on the book *A World at Sea*, our friends at University of Pennsylvania Press are offering WHA members a generous 30% discount on this book. The offer is good through October 23; here is the link to their website: <https://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/16146.html>

The discount code is **WHA20BAOBAB-FM**



2020 Elections

Elections for the World History Association (WHA) in 2020 are slated for mid-to-late November, following the delayed WHA Business Meeting. Sometime during October, members should expect an announcement asking for candidates. These will be reviewed by the Nominating Committee and the final ballot will be announced. Consistent with the past few years, the election will be processed electronically, which ensures accuracy, fairness, and the timely counting of votes.

The following positions will be vacant: WHA Treasurer and either three or four Council positions. (The number will be based on the outcome of the Treasurer election.) We encourage both nominations and self-nominations, from all types of members: graduate students, secondary school teachers, contingent faculty, community college instructors, and full-time college and university faculty.

President Laura J. Mitchell adds, "Our election cycle is a high point in the Association's annual calendar. I'm especially eager to welcome new high school and community college representation onto the Council in January." WHA Council members attend the Council Meeting at the annual conference and are called upon throughout the year to provide feedback on association policies and priorities.

World History Connected New Edition

World History Connected announces that the forthcoming October issue addresses Southeast Asia, a region once neglected by, but now of increasing interest to, world historians. Among those new areas of interest addressed in this issue are articles discussing the global importance of its diverse Muslim population and indigenous modernization among them; new understandings of trans-regional trade; and how the tensions of 20th century generational, sexual, and ethnic identity are reflected in the work of women writers of anti-colonial Vietnamese literature in French (and in its English editions).

Future issues will address topics in Empires and Sustainability from a world historical perspective. Individual articles offering new research on, and the teaching of, any subject germane to world history are welcome at any time. Recent submissions to the journal suggest that research in the field is still blooming, despite COVID-19. However, the pandemic has made it difficult for practitioners at all levels of instruction to share their experience of teaching world history methodologies to their students. In response, *WHC* has added two new editors, Suzanne Litrel and Angela Lee, to increase the journal's outreach and support efforts. For *WHC*'s Guidelines for Submission and holistic approach to research and teaching, see <https://worldhistoryconnected.press.uiillinois.edu/submissions.html>.

Further questions can be directed to the editor, Marc Jason Gilbert.

The Middle Ground

The Middle Ground Journal: World History and Global Studies is an open-access, non-profit, peer-reviewed academic journal for everyone with an interest in world history, including students. In particular, the journal, which is edited by members of the Midwest World History Association, seeks to serve as the shared,



common space between world history in the K–12 institutions and world history in the colleges and universities. Middle Ground invites submissions of articles and essays as well as nonfiction, fiction, film, and television reviews. It also publishes reviews of textbooks and reflective presentations of teaching materials.

In its most recent issue, the Middle Ground Journal emphasized approaching pandemics from the angle of world history. A sample of articles include “Pandemics, Past and Present: Influenza, COVID-19, Military Hospital Ships in Japan”; “The Viral Game: The Global Football Community’s Response to Epidemics and Pandemics in the Twenty-First Century”; and “Artifacts, Virality, and Connection: Social Media and Teaching in the Age of COVID-19.”

Submissions to Middle Ground will be accepted on a continual basis. Please see the journal’s site [<https://middlegroundjournal.com/>] for the submission guidelines. All inquiries should be directed to the chief editor, Professor Jeanne Grant <middlegroundjournal@gmail.com>.

Member Benefits Reminder

One of the key website pages for members to enjoy the benefits of World History Association membership is our Members’ Area page. This can be found under the Membership tab on our homepage, and setting up the account, login and other commands can be found at:

<https://www.thewha.org/membership/accounts/>

If you have not set up this account, click on the URL above and choose “create an account on this site.” Once you place in your name and email, an auto-generated email will be sent, which will enable you to create a password. Then our office can approve you as a member, and you can access this page 24/7.

This area allows you to read all of our recent publications – the *Journal of World History* through the University of Hawaii Press system, as well as the *World History Bulletin*. You can keep current with member news and information with the WHA newsletters as well. If you have further account questions, feel free to contact us via email or telephone.

2020 Dissertation Prize

The World History Association is calling on submissions for its 2020 WHA Dissertation Prize for the best doctoral dissertation in world, global, or transnational history. A world, global, or transnational history dissertation examines any historical issue with global implications, including but not limited to the exchange and interchange of cultures, the comparison of two or more civilizations or cultures, or the study in a macrohistorical manner of a phenomenon that had a global impact. To be eligible for the 2020 prize, the dissertation must have been defended as part of a Ph.D. or equivalent degree between the dates of 31 August 2018 and 21 August 2020.

The prize consists of a \$500 award, a certificate, and a one-year membership to the WHA. The deadline of all submissions is October 1, 2020.

Submissions should include a cover letter or contact information sheet, abstract, and a PDF file of the full dissertation. All dissertation submissions must be in the English language. The cover or contact sheet should include the following: name, professional or home address, email, telephone, and name of Ph.D. granting institution. Please e-mail all materials to the WHA [info@thewha.org] with the subject line “WHA Dissertation Prize.”

The Dissertation Prize Committee, chaired by David Northrup, professor emeritus of history at Boston College, will determine the winner of the prize. In the event that the committee consider that the quality of the entries does not warrant the awarding of any prize, it shall have the right to make no award.

Former awards include Kristen Alff’s “The Business of Property: Levantine Joint-Stock Companies, Land, Law, and Capitalism Development Around the Mediterranean, 1850-1925” [2019]; Vladimir Hamed-Troyansky’s “Imperial Refuge: Resettlement of Muslims from Russia in the Ottoman Empire, 1860-1914” [2018]; Sara Silverstein’s “Doctors as Diplomats: The Origins of Universal Healthcare in International Society” [2017]; and Barry McCarron’s “The Global Irish and Chinese: Migration, Exclusion, and Foreign Relations Among Empires, 1784-1904” [2016].

Entries must be submitted by **October 1, 2020**. Late entries and submissions that do not adhere to these guidelines will be disqualified. If you have any questions regarding the prize or its guidelines, please contact the WHA [info@thewha.org].



New WHA Graduate Assistant

Luke Sebastian Scalone is a Ph.D. Candidate at Northeastern University studying modern France and the French colonial empire in the Maghrib. More specifically, his research looks at the forging of a “Vichy Tunisia.” He is particularly interested in the imperial connections that existed between France, Italy, and North Africans in the Mediterranean. In addition to his research at Northeastern and his work with the World History Association, he has taught courses on Colonialism/Imperialism and World History, is a network editor for H-French-Colonial, co-organizes a North Africa working group for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in the Boston area, has been a Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre d’Etudes Maghrébines à Tunis, and is an officer for the New England Regional World History Association [NERWHA]. Moreover, Luke was the recipient of the World History Association/Phi Alpha Theta graduate paper award in 2018. Luke looks forward to the team approach at the WHA, as well as working on ideas to move our community forward during the pandemic!

