



President's Message

I write in uncertain times, marking the fourth full week of a consistent stay-at-home practice for me. I was able to withdraw a few days before my family because my on-campus teaching for the Winter quarter was over; I was on a glide path into finals week (only papers for history students!) and "spring break," which this year was even more of a euphemism than usual. My neighbors, along with 40 million other Californians, were ordered into awkward isolation a week later, on March 19.



WHA President Laura J. Mitchell

By the time you read this message, we'll all be another week or more into a now-familiar liminal space: the march of days goes on with unvarying monotony while the future of

things outside our homes is wildly unpredictable. This discomfiting paradox is the epitome of scalar thinking. Such circumstances also bring out the slipperiness of time: a concept that world historians struggle with more often than our colleagues who work in more homogenous cultural or temporal realms. The ordering of days into hours, weeks, months, and years is a cultural practice, as is allocating hours to work, recovery, eating, and sleep. If you doubt my claim, consider what the rapid dissolution of work days, school schedules, and business hours has meant for households across the developed economies of the world.

Time is malleable and scalable. Hours at home plod along mercilessly courting boredom for many

of us in Europe and North America, if the explosion of memes and TikTok distractions is any indication (I don't have the language skills to know first-hand what's happening in other hard-hit regions). At the same time, news in the wider world is unfolding so fast that journalists are struggling to keep up. What's the latest death toll in New York? What will happen as China begins to lift restrictions? Has Italy reached the epidemiological apex yet? What are the current rules in effect for my community? Which of the cobbled-together ventilator replacements will work? Can anyone 3-D print them fast enough? Time clearly means something different for a healthy but quarantined family and an ER doctor.

One of my extended family members has come through Covid-19 without requiring hospitalization, but so many others have not been as lucky. My heart goes out to those experiencing grave illness and loss. Statistically, most of us in North America will ride out this pandemic disrupted and greatly inconvenienced but basically safe. All of us, though, will be touched by the enormous and still poorly forecast economic consequences of sending the better part of the labor force home in large swaths of China, most of Europe, and the United States. Even a developing economy such as South Africa has shuttered its businesses as the government tries to enforce stay-at-home orders and social distancing in overcrowded townships that had insufficient space, sanitation, and health care for pre-pandemic needs. The human and economic costs of the pandemic are simultaneously global and local, communitarian and deeply, deeply personal.

The WHA is directly affected by the pandemic. As you know by now, we regrettably cancelled our annual meeting scheduled for June 25-27 in Salt Lake City, Utah. My message to members and conference participants is available on the WHA website, as is the program that would have been. I reiterate my heartfelt thanks to this year's program committee: Tammy Proctor, Maryanne Rhett, and Merry Wiesner-Hanks.



Many of the papers for this year’s program came as individual submissions that the program committee organized into coherent panels. I encourage you to take a look at the program, see who you’d have been in conversation with at the meeting, and make those connections via email or other communication platforms. We’ve all surely learned new ways of connecting in recent weeks. We didn’t publish email addresses in the publically-available program. If you have trouble tracking your co-panelists down, the WHA HQ staff will help put you in touch.

If you’d like to roll your individual paper or full panel over to next year’s conference in Bilbao, you’re welcome to do so. We also welcome adaptations of your paper topic, and any other contributions, to the WHA’s new blog, Pandem-Mondus.

For those of you who already registered for Utah 2020, you have three financial options:

1. You can convert your registration fee into a donation to the WHA; we will gratefully acknowledge your generous gift to the organization in a year when we have lost our main source of revenue: the annual meeting.
2. You can leave your registration fee with the WHA and apply it toward your registration fee in 2021.
3. You can request a refund of your registration fee(s), in full or in part; if you registered for tours or events and would like some but not all of your money back, we will cheerfully refund whatever you ask for.

Please request a registration refund or rollover to 2021 before April 30 by emailing Executive Director Kerry Vieira: info@thewha.org.

In the absence of an annual meeting this year, the WHA continues to foster conversation and exchanges among world historians. · We launched a blog in March: Pandem-mondus provides a platform for teachers and researchers to connect with each other, read about new resources for remote instruction and investigation, and stay plugged in to world history conversations.

· You’ll receive the next iteration of the World History Bulletin in May: a special issue, Teach in a Time of Corona(virus). There is still time to submit a contribution before the April 30 deadline.

· We also have plans in the works for virtual workshops this summer. Details forthcoming.

· Finally, we eagerly anticipate renewing in-person connections at our next annual meeting in June 2021 in Bilbao, co-hosted by the University of the Basque Country.

In the meantime, if you have logistical, financial, or membership questions, please don’t hesitate to ask Kerry: info@thewha.org. If you have any other questions, concerns, or suggestions for the WHA, please write to me: mitchell@uci.edu.

Sala kahle, (“stay well,” the usual Zulu farewell, which seems especially apt right now)

Laura



Under the Baobab: Conversations & Community in World History

More information about this series will be forthcoming.



Pandem-Mondus Blog

The World History Association recently launched ‘Pandem-Mondus,’ a new blog offering guidance and support for World Historians during the current COVID-19 crisis. The series provides teaching tips, historical perspectives, and moral support for those of us transitioning to online instruction, or those simply seeking historical perspectives on current events.

Within the past two weeks, contributors have offered their insights into planning and organizing the transition to online learning, resources for World History AP exercises, and experiences of the pandemic overseas. Through these curated posts, the WHA is hoping to give members a creative outlet to expand on their own perspectives of our current historical moment. As we all have far more important concerns, surrounding particularly the safety of our families, friends, and neighbors, Pandem-Mondus aims to share the burden of teaching by providing resources and critical narratives in one place.

The series can be found at <https://www.thewha.org/wha-blog/>, and will be updated frequently in the following days and weeks. If you would like to contribute to the blog or propose ideas for future posts, please contact us at info@thewha.org.

World History Bulletin Special Edition: Teaching in the Time of Corona(virus)

As teachers around the world adapt to distance learning, the Spring 2020 issue of the World History Bulletin will focus on what this means for world history education, researchers, teachers, and students. We invite contributions on:

- How world historical perspectives inform our understanding of the present pandemic and global response

- Histories of disease
- Histories of global communication (and communicable disease!)
- Pedagogical responses, including lessons on pandemics, disease in world history, and more
- Student responses and insights
- Research-driven responses to the coronavirus pandemic
- Reflections on how you’re adapting to a changing travel landscape as a globally-connected scholar

Contributions on other aspects of world history research and teaching in the context of the current coronavirus pandemic are also welcome.

Please send inquiries and submissions to guest editor Laura J. Mitchell: mitchell@uci.edu. Completed submissions are due by April 30, 2020

Celebrate Student Scholarship with the WHA

The World History Association annually awards the World Historian Student Essay Competition to one outstanding K-12 scholar. We receive dozens of excellent papers from across the globe that seek to answer the question: *In what way has the study of world history affected my understanding of the world in which I live?*

The winning entry for 2019 was submitted by Juliana Boerema, a student at Cary Christian School in North Carolina. Her essay, which can be found on our website, draws attention to the ways that cyclical patterns in world history can help us understand our own societies and cultures. She writes:

‘History repeats social and philosophical ideas over and over again throughout many countries, so understanding the past creates an even deeper understanding of the future. This is the pattern that world history provides. Developing a deeper



understanding of the cultures of the entire world throughout history also creates a meaningful knowledge of one's own culture. This is the context that the study of world history provides. These two characteristics of the study of world history change my viewpoint of the world I live through developing an understanding of and hope for the future through the patterns of world history and developing an understanding of and appreciation for not only the different cultures of the world but also my own culture through the context of world history.'

For those students interested in following the lead of our past prize winners, the deadline for entries to the Student Essay Competition is **May 1st, 2020**. For more information on eligibility and the submission process, please visit our [website](#).



In addition, the WHA Phi Alpha Theta (PAT) Student Paper

Prize is awarded to both an undergraduate and graduate student exemplifying fine scholarship in World History. The variety of topics over the years speaks well to the work being pursued in the field.

For example, the graduate paper awarded in 2019, entitled "The Seas But Join the Nations They Divide: Connecting Science and Humanity on the Nineteenth-Century Atlantic through Messages in Bottles" further explores the movements of scientific rationalism and emotional romanticism influencing ideas of the ocean as an unoccupied expanse. Through the work of editor Alexander Becher in London, the messages from the bottles were published, along with the scientific inquiry of the movement of ocean currents.

Those eligible to receive the Phi Alpha Theta award will be WHA or PAT members or the

membership of the faculty teaching the class also validates their submission.

Overviews for both awards can be found here:

<https://www.thewha.org/awards/>

in addition to the separate pages describing each in full detail. The committees look forward to reviewing these student papers.



WHA Director, Kerry Vieira meets Lifetime Member Morris and Mary Jane Rossabi at ACLS-sponsored book soiree

World History Connected Special Issue: Pandemics in World History

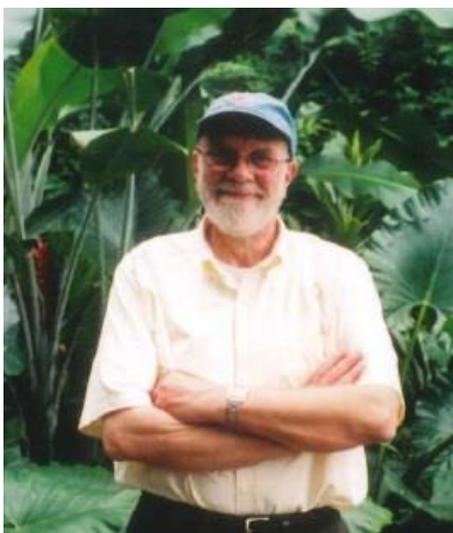
William H. McNeill's *Plagues and Peoples* is often considered a foundational work in the field of World History. At this moment, the term pandemics, usually with reference to the plague in Renaissance Italy and the "Spanish" influenza outbreak near the end of First World War is now familiar to millions of sequestered families across the globe. *World History Connected*, a 14-year-old affiliate of the World History Association published by the University of Illinois Press, is seeking papers for a special issue devoted to research and the scholarship of teaching on that pandemics germane to the interdisciplinary field of world history, embracing, but not limited to, trans-regional, comparative, gender, and global studies. Submissions should be received by November 2, 2020 for possible publication in the February issue of 2021. Manuscripts should be submitted electronically to the Editor at



mgilbert@hpu.edu. Correspondence relating to books to be reviewed and those interested in reviewing books for this issue, should contact cskwiot@mma.edu. Due to cost, books for review cannot be supplied to reviewers outside the United States. *World History Connected* reserves the right to decline to publish any submission.

All submissions must follow the style sheet at the journal's webpage and conveyed with the subject line "WHC Submission and the author (s) last name." Submissions should be prepared double spaced, with one-inch margins and subheads at the left-hand margins, with endnotes, and a short biography (250 words) such as that appears on all published WHC articles. Submission e-mails must include a mailing address, and phone number with, if possible, identification as a WhatsApp number. Length of submitted articles should be more than 3,000 words, with a usual upper limit of 10,000 words.

Social Media Platforms



Prof. Jo Hays, Loyola University Chicago

Through our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram platforms, the WHA is endeavoring to reach as many world historians as possible. We publish weekly updates on matters of

importance to our members, so

you can stay connected with all of our work in the periods between newsletters and email updates. For instance, a recent post alerted our followers to a free eBook offered by Rutgers University Press.

Prof. Jo Hays, Emeritus Professor at Loyola University Chicago and WHA Member, is one of the preeminent historians of disease and empire. Given the unprecedented historical moment we find ourselves in, his book *The Burdens of Disease: Epidemics and Human Response in Western History* is being offered as a free ebook by Rutgers University Press via [this link](#). In addition to that work, Hays' other books study the close relationship between disease and imperialism, as well as pandemics in world history. As such, we highly recommend that any members interested in these topics take advantage of this wonderful offer.

Donate to the WHA with Amazon Smile

Ove the winter, the World History Association partnered with Amazon Smile to enable a new way for members to donate to the organization. Amazon Smile donates 0.5% of your spending to the WHA when you shop through [smile.amazon.com](#). After opening the webpage, simply enter the WHA as your chosen charity and confirm. Donations through [smile.amazon.com](#) will go directly into our operating budget and will help to support expenses such as our website and webmaster, email, database, publications, awards and conferences.

