Sponsored By
The History Graduate Student Association
Virginia Tech
The Department of History
The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
The Departments of English, Political Science, Religion & Culture, Africana Studies,
Philosophy, and Women’s & Gender Studies
The Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought (ASPECT)
The Women and Minority Artists and Scholars Lecture Series
Welcome to the 20th Annual
Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Conference

Since 1998, the Brian Bertoti Conference has given over 150 aspiring historians from over 45 colleges and universities the opportunity to come to Blacksburg and present their research in a cordial, constructive, and professional environment. The 2017 conference features presenters from a variety of institutions and topics from diverse fields and perspectives.

The History Graduate Student Association wishes to thank the faculty and staff of the Department of History for their support and dedication to the continuing success of the conference. We are also grateful to the Women in Leadership and Philanthropy Endowed Lecture Fund the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, and the family and friends of Brian Bertoti for their continued support. Most of all, we thank Brian Bertoti for providing the inspiration for this conference.

About Brian Bertoti

Brian Bertoti was raised in the small town of Boyertown, Pennsylvania. At the age of four, his grandfather took him to visit the battlefield at Gettysburg. This was when Brian’s love of history was first realized. During his junior year at Boyertown Area High School, he won a scholarship to the Civil War Institute. Brian’s studies always concentrated on the South, surprisingly. When someone would ask why, he would explain in detail why he favored the Confederates and General Robert E. Lee. Brian graduated from Bloomsburg University. While at Bloomsburg, he wrote an essay about Confederate Soldiers and the Battle of Gettysburg that was published in the 1999 Bloomsburg Annual Journal. He planned to work in the History Department after completing his MA in history.

Brian joined the Master’s Program at Virginia Tech. As peers and faculty have told us, Brian was the first to arrive each morning in the department, ready to talk to anyone about history. During the fall of 1997, he initiated work on this history conference. His family clearly remembers the excitement in his voice when he spoke about what his conference would provide for students and scholars. Unfortunately, Brian never saw his dream come true, but his peers picked up the pieces and the first “Innovative Perspectives in History” conference was held in 1998.
Dr. Jeffery S. Reznick
National Library of Medicine

Embracing the Future as Stewards of the Past: Perspectives on Public History from the U.S. National Library of Medicine

Notes:

Public History Panel

Dr. Jeffery S. Reznick | National Library of Medicine
Tom Seabrook (VT 2015) | Hanover Tavern Foundation
Mary Kate Claytor (VT 2015) | Frontier Culture Museum
Kim Staub (VT 2012) | Betsy Ross House

Notes:
Dr. Jackson Lears
Rutgers University & Raritan Review

Beyond Creative Destruction: Animal Spirits and the Emotional History of Capitalism

Notes:

Dr. Wendy A. Woloson
Rutgers University-Camden

Talking Crap: What We Can Learn from Cheap Goods

Notes:
Keynote Speakers

**Dr. Jackson Lears**

Jackson Lears is Board of Governors Distinguished Professor of History at Rutgers University and Editor in Chief of *Raritan: a Quarterly Review*. He is the author of *No Place of Grace: Antimodernism and the Transformation of American Culture, 1880-1920*, which was nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award in 1981 and *Fables of Abundance: a Cultural History of Advertising in America*, which won the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award for History in 1995. He has written on cultural hegemony in the *American Historical Review*, on modern art and advertising in *American Quarterly*, on memory and power in the *Journal of American History*, and on a variety of topics in cultural history in other scholarly journals. He has also co-edited two collections of essays, *The Culture of Consumption* and *The Power of Culture*. His *Something for Nothing: Luck in America* was published by Viking Penguin in 2003 and his *Rebirth of a Nation, the Making of Modern America, 1877-1920* was published by Harper Collins in June 2009. He has held fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Winterthur Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, the Shelby Cullom Davis Center at Princeton University, and the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia. In 2003 he received the Public Humanities Award (for “making ideas current”) from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. He has contributed to *The London Review of Books, The New York Review of Books, The New Republic, The Nation, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post*, and *The New York Times*, among other publications. In April 2009 he was elected a Fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**Dr. Jeffery S. Reznick**

Jeffrey Reznick, is an award-winning organizational leader and historian who currently oversees the History of Medicine Division of the U.S. National Library of Medicine and maintains a diverse, interdisciplinary, and highly-collaborative research portfolio supported by the Intramural Research Program of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Reznick joined the National Library of Medicine following his tenure as director of the Institute for the Study of Occupation and Health of the American Occupational Therapy Foundation. Previously, he served as senior curator of the National Museum of Health and Medicine of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, as Executive Director and Senior Research Fellow of the Orthotic and Prosthetic Assistance Fund, and as Assistant Director of the Institute for Comparative and International Studies at Emory University. Dr. Reznick’s record of scholarly historical research is as extensive as his executive career in the national nonprofit sector. As a social and cultural historian of medicine and war, he is author of two books, both published by Manchester University Press in its Cultural History of Modern War series, as well as numerous book reviews, articles for the popular press, and entries in major reference works. Besides holding active membership in several professional associations, including the American Historical Association and American Association for the History of Medicine, Dr. Reznick is a member of the University of Birmingham’s Center for War Studies and an elected fellow of the Royal Historical Society, which was founded in 1868 and remains the foremost society in Great Britain promoting and defending the scholarly study of the past. Dr. Reznick has lectured nationally and internationally on a variety of historical and contemporary health subjects, speaking to academic and non-academic audiences alike at healthcare professional meetings, nonprofit organizations, colleges and universities, and federal
agencies. Complementing these public presentations are Dr. Reznick’s numerous interviews with international, national and regional press, including the BBC, CBS Sunday Morning, The Christian Science Monitor, Emory Magazine, KUNC Public Radio, The New York Times, Rochester Review, Time Magazine, Smithsonian Magazine, Washingtonian Magazine, and WUSA Channel 9 News of Washington, DC. A native of Rochester, New York, Dr. Reznick lives in Rockville, Maryland, with his wife and daughters. He received his MA and PhD from Emory University and his BA from the University of Rochester, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

Dr. Wendy A. Woloson

Wendy A. Woloson is Associate Professor of History at Rutgers University-Camden where she teaches courses on American cultural, social, economic, and public history. For over a decade, she was the Curator of Printed Books and Bibliographer for the Program in Early American Economy and Society at the Library Company of Philadelphia. Dr. Woloson is the author of several articles, including the forthcoming "Fence-ing Lessons: Child Junkers and the Commodification of Scrap in the Long 19th Century," Business History (2017) and "Itinerant and Informal Distribution of Print," The Oxford History of Popular Print Culture, U.S. to 1860 (2018). In addition, she is co-editor of the collection Capitalism by Gaslight: Illuminating the Economy of 19th-Century America (UPenn Press, 2015), and author of the monograph In Hock: Pawning in America from Independence through the Great Depression (Chicago, 2009). She is also the editor of Common-place's "Tales from the Vault" column. Dr. Woloson's research interests include the history of consumer culture, material culture, and underground economies.

She is currently working on a book provisionally entitled, Crap: A History of America's Romance with Cheap Goods
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, March 17, 2017: The University Club

Registration................................................................. 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Public History Address by Dr. Jeffery S. Reznick (NLM)........ 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
Embracing the Future as Stewards of the Past: Perspectives on Public History from the U.S. National Library of Medicine
Break................................................................. 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Public History Roundtable................................................................. 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Virginia Tech Department of History Reception......................... 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm
Keynote Address by Dr. Jackson Lears (Rutgers)......................... 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Beyond Creative Destruction: Animal Spirits and the Emotional History of Capitalism

Saturday, March 18, 2017: Graduate Life Center

Registration................................................................. 8:00 am – 10:30 am
Continuous Breakfast Bar ................................................................. 8:00 am – 10:30 am
Session I................................................................. 8:45 am – 10:15 am
Break................................................................. 10:15 am – 10:30 am
Session II................................................................. 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Lunch & Paper Prize................................................................. 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm
Lunch Speaker: Dr. Wendy A. Woloson (Rutgers-Camden)........... 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm
Talking Crap: What We Can Learn from Cheap Goods
Break................................................................. 1:30 pm – 1:45 pm
Session III................................................................. 1:45 pm – 3:15 pm
Break................................................................. 3:15 pm – 3:30 pm
Session IV................................................................. 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

SESSION ONE: 8:45-10:15

Legacies of World War I
Discussant: Dr. Tom Ewing  
Moderator: Grace Hemmingson  
Room: F

Daniel Newcomb (Virginia Tech)  
“Living in a New World”: World War One and the Decline of Military Tradition at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1916-1923

Mason Ailstock (Virginia Tech)  
Making Their Mark: World War I Memorial and Commemoration Formation by Veterans in Johnson City, TN, 1918-1999

20th Century American Culture and Identity

Discussant: Dr. Marian Mollin  
Moderator: Ellen Boggs  
Room: B

Jonathan MacDonald (Virginia Tech)  
Reel Guidance: Midcentury Classroom Films and Adolescent Adjustment

Chris Keller (Virginia Tech)  
Bluegrass by Flatt & Scruggs: Sophisticated and Nostalgic

Rebecca Williams (Virginia Tech)  
“Weird Old Figures and a New Twist”: Cultural Functions of Halloween at the Turn of the 20th Century

SESSION TWO: 10:30-12:00

Challenging Racial Hierarchies

Discussant: Dr. Beverly Bunch-Lyons  
Moderator: Heather Ryan  
Room: F
Earl K. Cherry, Jr. (Virginia Tech)
Training Virginians: Rural Training Schools of Virginia’s Segregated Education System
1895–1955

Mary M. Bathory Vidaver (Yale Divinity School)
A Christian Fifth Column: Liston Pope and the Training of Southern Seminarians at Yale
Divinity School

Robin Crigler (Michigan State University)
No Laughing Matter? Humor and the Performance of South Africa

Bookending the Civil War

Discussant: Dr. Dennis Halpin
Moderator: Daniel Newcomb
Room: B

Kevin Caprice (Virginia Tech)
No True Veteran…: Constructing a Hierarchy within Union Veteranhood

O.J. Early (University of Tennessee)
Vile Miscreants and Political Prostitutes: Antebellum Politics in Northeast Tennessee

Jake Calhoun (University of Maryland)
By Bayonets and Gatling Guns

SESSION THREE: 1:45-3:15

Urban Space

Discussant: Dr. Neil Shumsky
Moderator: Delia Tomlinson
Room: F
Jenny Nehrt (Virginia Tech)
The Opportunity in Disaster: Securing White Supremacy in Memphis during the 1878 Yellow Fever Epidemic

Patrick Fox (Loyola University Chicago)
English Chicagoland: How English Immigrants Built the Suburbs

Medicine and Society

Discussant: Dr. Melanie Kiechle
Moderator: Katelyn Brown
Room: B

Grace Hemmingson (Virginia Tech)
The Battle in Richmond: Catawba Sanatorium and Virginia’s “War on Tuberculosis”

Paul Braff (Temple University)
The Dawn of the Non-Expert as Leader: National Negro Health Week in the Progressive Era

Re-visioning Military History

Discussant: Dr. Glenn Bugh
Moderator: Earl Cherry
Room: G

Gabriel Moss (University of North-Carolina- Chapel Hill)
The Spatial Limits of Warfare: Towards a G.I.S. Model of Ancient Roman Military Control

Jake Harris (University of Maryland)
An Unconventional Approach: How Colonel Francis Marion's Ambush of Robert McLeroth Helped to Shift the Southern Balance of Power

SESSION FOUR: 3:30-5:00

National and Imperial Projects

Discussant: Dr. Danna Agmon
Moderator: Kevin Caprice
Room: F

Juan-Diego Marroquin (University of Arizona)
A Republic by Nature: The Making of Spanish Republican Nationalism, 1793-1824

Bonnie Soper (University of North Carolina, Wilmington)
   Inflamed by the Fury of an Ignorant Zeal: Criticisms From a Scottish Traveler of the Lower Cape Fear Region in the Years Leading Into the American Revolution

Derek Litvak (University of Maryland, College Park.)
   Imperial Contest: Re-imagining Somerset v. Stewart’s Place in the British Empire

Public History and Material Cultures

Discussant: Dr. David Cline
Moderator: Mason Ailstock
Room: B

Joanna Paxton Federico (University of Louisville)
   “In-Between” Sources: The Meaning of Replica Objects in Museum Education

Lindsay Holman (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
   Herzog’s Tesserae: A Methodological Intervention

Neil Humphrey (Auburn University)
   Tough Love: How Sultan Tipu’s Gruesome Tiger Captivated the British Public

Notes