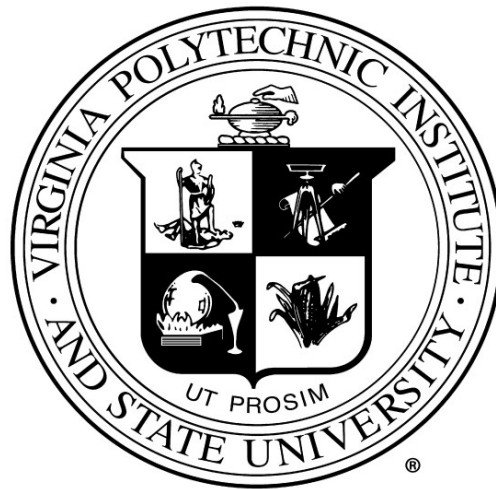


THE 23RD ANNUAL
B BRIAN BERTOTI
INNOVATIVE PERSPECTIVES IN HISTORY
GRADUATE CONFERENCE
MARCH 20-21, 2020



Sponsored by:
Department of History
Department of Religion and Culture
Department of Philosophy
Department of Political Science
Department of English
Virginia Center for Civil War Studies
Women and Minority Scholars Lecture Series, Moss Arts Center
Alliance of Social, Political, Ethical and Cultural Thought (ASPECT) Program
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS)
Virginia Tech Center for Humanities
Virginia Tech Student Budget Board

Welcome to the 23rd Annual Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Conference

This year marks the 23rd anniversary of the Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Conference. We have continued this tradition since 1998, when a group of graduate students led by Brian Bertoti saw the need for an outlet for graduate student research and founded this student-organized event. Over the past two decades, the Brian Bertoti Conference has given hundreds of aspiring historians from dozens colleges and universities the opportunity to come to Blacksburg and present their research in a cordial, constructive, and professional environment. Our 2020 conference features presenters from 14 institutions, with research topics that reflect the creativity of the next generation of historians.

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 and Minority Artists and Scholars Lecture Series, the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, ASPECT, the Material Culture and Public Humanities MA Program, the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, the Departments of English, Philosophy, and Religion & Culture. We would also like to thank 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 first realized his love of history. During his junior year at Boyertown Area High School, he won a scholarship to the Civil War Institute. 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*.

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. Brian died that fall before his conference came to fruition, but his peers picked up the pieces and the first "Innovative Perspectives in History" conference was held in 1998. Each year since, the Master's students have carried forward Brian's idea, and we are proud to contribute this year's conference to Brian's legacy.

VT History Graduate Student Association

All students in the history master's program are members of HGSA, and all contribute to conference planning. You can read about our experiences as graduate students and stories from our alumni at <http://www.myvthistoryma.com>.

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Megan Kate Nelson

Megan Kate Nelson will deliver the keynote address on Friday, March 20 at 5:00 PM in Owens Banquet Hall. Her address, titled "History as Imagination: Dispatches from the Writing Life," will discuss how to craft narrative histories and how to navigate historical work outside the academy.

Nelson is a writer and historian living in Lincoln, Massachusetts. Her new book, *The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West*, will be published by Scribner in February 2020. This project was the recipient of a 2017 NEH Public Scholar Award and a Filson Historical Society Fellowship. Nelson is the author of two previous books: *Ruin Nation: Destruction and the American Civil War* (Georgia, 2012) and *Trembling Earth: A Cultural History of the Okefenokee Swamp* (Georgia, 2005).

She has also written about the Civil War, the U.S. West, and American culture for the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Smithsonian* magazine, *Preservation* magazine, and *Civil War Times*. Her column on Civil War popular culture, "Stereoscope," appears regularly in the *Civil War Monitor*.

Dr. Matt D. Childs

Matt D. Childs, associate professor of history at the University of South Carolina, will deliver the luncheon address on Saturday, March 21 at 12:15 PM in the GLC multipurpose room. His address, "An African City in the Americas: Reframing Colonial Havana as a West African Port City, (1762–1867)," will explore how the culture, history, and identity that Africans brought with them to Cuba influenced their experiences under enslavement from the 1760s to 1860s.

Professor Childs is the author of *The 1812 Aponte Rebellion in Cuba and the Struggle against Atlantic Slavery*, which was a finalist for the 2007 Frederick Douglass Book Prize and was translated and published in Cuba in 2012. He is also the coeditor of *The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World* and *The Changing Worlds of Atlantic Africa: Essays in Honor of Robin Law*.

Childs served as an associate editor for the six-volume *Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture*. With James Sidbury and Jorge Canizares-Esguerra he has coedited *The Urban Black Atlantic during the Era of the Slave Trade*. Professor Childs has published articles in *The Journal of Latin American Studies*, *The Americas*, *The Historian*, *The History Workshop Journal*, and the *Latin American Research Review*, among other journals.

Dr. Megan Kate Nelson

“History as Imagination: Dispatches from the Writing Life”

Notes:

Dr. Matt D. Childs

“An African City in the Americas: Reframing Colonial Havana as a West African Port City, (1762–1867)”

Notes:



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, March 20, 2020: Owens Banquet Hall

Virginia Tech Department of History Reception.....	4:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Keynote Address by Dr. Megan Kate Nelson.....	5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
<i>“History as Imagination: Dispatches from the Writing Life”</i>	

Saturday, March 21, 2020: Graduate Life Center

Registration.....	8:00 am – 10:30 am
Continuous Breakfast Bar	8:00 am – 10:30 am
Session I.....	8:30 am – 10:00 am
Session II.....	10:15 am – 11:45 am
Lunch Brian Bertoti Award.....	12:00 pm – 12:15 pm
Lunch Speaker: Dr. Matt D. Childs.....	12:15 pm – 1:15 pm
<i>“An African City in the Americas: Reframing Colonial Havana as a West African Port City, (1762–1867)”</i>	
Session III.....	1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

SESSION ONE: 8:30–10:00

Christianity, Literacy, and Conversion

Discussant: Dr. Glenn Richard Bugh

Moderator: Iris Swaney

Room: A

Tyler Balli (Virginia Tech)

“The 1888–89 Course of Reading and the Future of Zion”

Julia Bocchese (Villanova University)

“The Politics of Religion: How Politics Influenced the Conversion of the Pagan Vikings to Christianity”

Emily Q. Lu (East Tennessee State University)

“Title?”

Propaganda and Marketing during the Cold War

Discussant: Dr. Amanda Demmer

Moderator: John Legg

Room: C

Kathryn Morgan (American University)

“The Soft Power of a Soft Drink: Pepsi and the Soviet Union in the Cold War”

Kendall Barclay (Northwest Missouri State University)

“Cold War Propaganda: How the Soviet Union Used the United States Civil Rights Movement to Gain Momentum During the Cold War”

Cameron Brown (Virginia Tech)

“Whobob Whatpants: The Intimacy of Sociopolitics and Media”

Crowdsourcing the Past: The American Soldier Project

Discussant: Dr. Ed Gitre

Moderator: Jessica Brabble

Room: D

Elysia Budu (Virginia Tech)

Peyton Stoy (Virginia Tech)

Andrew Wills (Virginia Tech)

Jonathan MacDonald

Bringing Women to Light Using Omeka

Discussant: Corrine Guimont

Moderator: Janine Hubai

Room: F

Caitlin Gale (George Mason University)

“A Doctor, an Actress, Two Spies, and Franklin Thompson: Women Involvement in the Civil War”

Georgia Ferrell (George Mason University)

“Not Passive Victims: Indigenous Women Responses to State-Sanctioned Violence in the 19th Century”

Laura Brannan (George Mason University)

“Gendering the Runaways: Feminist Theories of Physical and Metaphorical Resistance”

SESSION TWO: 10:15–11:45

Women, Revolution, and Culture in the Middle East

Discussant: Dr. Carmen Gitre

Moderator: Ben Olex

Room: A

Kylie Broderick (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

“Women’s Transformations during Lebanon’s Period of Shi’i Revivalism and Political Activism (1960s-1980s)”

Montana Koslowski (Virginia Tech)

“Shaping the Revolution: The Role Egyptian and Tunisian Women Played in the 2011 Arab Uprisings”

Joy Pierce (Virginia Tech)

“Egyptian Protest Music and the Arab Spring: A Historical Approach”

Politics and Education in the 20th Century

Discussant: Dr. Marian Mollin

Moderator: Jessica Brabble

Room: C

Emily Stewart (Virginia Tech)

“Standardizing Education for All: Virginia Educational Leaders’ Focus on Uniformity for Public Schools during Jim Crow, 1898-1917”

Savannah Flanagan (North Carolina Wesleyan College)

“What Was Lost in the Fight: Exploring the Process and Results of Educational Desegregation in the Rural South through Oral History”

Bryce Nolan (Virginia Tech)

“Americans in Rome: The American Academy and the Rise of Mussolini”

Indigenous Sovereignty and Land Rights

Discussant: Dr. Edward Anthony Polanco

Moderator: Sydney Sweat

Room: D

John Legg (Virginia Tech)

“The Dakota Death Song: White Victimhood and Dakota Erasure during the Largest Mass Hanging in U.S. History”

Thomas Harvell-DeGolier (Villanova University)

“From Brotherhood to Federation: Native Alaskan Organizing and Land Claims”

Henry Jacob (Yale University)

“The Crowning Jewel of the Canal Fairs: A History of Panama’s 1916 Exposición”

Perspectives on Understudied Historical Topics

Discussant: TBA

Moderator: Dylan Settle

Room: F

Keri Blair (East Tennessee State University)

“‘Palfrey of Honor’: Equestrianism in Tudor Coronation Ceremonies”

Jarred Begley (East Tennessee State University)

“Christianity and the Shifting Views of Witchcraft in Scandinavia”

Dakota Mullins (East Tennessee State University)

“The Preserving Pennsylvanian”

SESSION THREE: 1:30-3:30

War and Society: Global Perspectives

Discussant: Dr. Bradley Nichols

Moderator: Dylan Settle

Room: A

Rebecca Capobianco Toy (College of William & Mary)

“‘Intended to Be Permanent:’ Struggling for Freedom in Post–Civil War Yorktown, Virginia, 1865–1868”

Mark Wolter (Virginia Tech)

“An Analysis: Russia’s Foreign Media Depiction of the Syrian Civil War”

Noah Mulligan (Christopher Newport University)

“A Tangible Difference: Stephen Wise, Henry Morgenthau Sr., and American Humanitarianism during the Armenian Genocide”

Kyuhyun Jo (University of Chicago)

“In Search of Cascades Amidst a Cataract: Understanding the Origins of the Korean War as a South Korean Civil War”

Technology and Environment

Discussant: Dr. Melanie Kiechle

Moderator: Noah Crawford

Room: C

Shaun Hoppell (University of Maryland – Baltimore County)

“‘Strange Tempests and Outragious Fluddes’ — Perceptions of Severe Weather in Early Modern England”

Caroline Harvey (Virginia Tech)

“Dam Perceptions: A Look at Virginia’s Hydroelectric Dams”

Kamil Ashan (Yale University)

“The Disastrous Binary: Fossil Fuels, Fisheries & Artificial Reefs in the Gulf of Mexico”

Christopher Walton (Shepherd University)

“Maryland Taking Flight”

Historiography of Rock 'n' Roll

Discussant: Dr. Dennis Halpin

Moderator: Clay Adkins

Room: D

Gillian Barth (Virginia Tech)

“Need Title”

Grace Barth (Virginia Tech)

“Need Title”

Chris Fawthrop (Virginia Tech)

“Heavy Metal: Reality of the Underdog”

Karson Lyon (Virginia Tech)

“Punk Across the Atlantic”

Public Health and the Body

Discussant: Dr. Matt Heaton

Moderator: Tyler Balli

Room: F

Moyra Schauffler (Villanova University)

“A Comfortable Harbour Where He May Safely Moor: The United States Naval Asylum and Veterans’ Institutional Care in the Early Republic”

Katarina Andersen (Villanova University)

“Picturing Eugenics and Race Formation: State Performance of Social Control through Photography at Pennhurst State School and Hospital, 1908–1930”

Dana Stevenson (American University)

“‘As Dangerous as Enemy Bullets’: Eugenics, Social Hygiene, and Republican Anti-venereal Campaigns during the Spanish Civil War”

Katie Gibson (College of William & Mary)

“Feet, Breeches, and Itches: Rural Public Health in the Early Twentieth Century”

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