

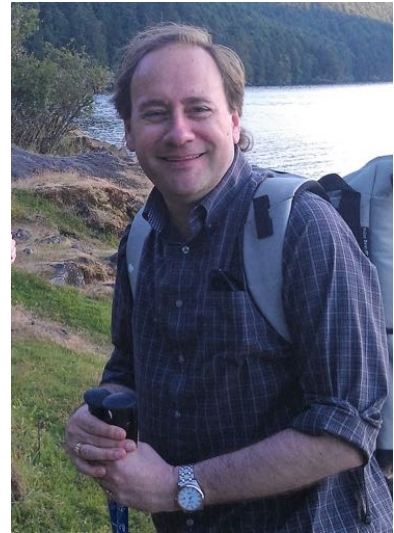
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Simon Devereaux (University of Victoria, BC)

I'm very pleased to be greeting everyone as the first Canadian-based President of the PCCBS. This is only the latest in a line of presidential "firsts" for our organization in the decade since it merged with the former NWCBS: first president from Washington, first from Oregon, and most recently the first from Nevada. Can Idaho or Alberta be far behind? The geographical breadth and intellectual vitality of our regional group is testimony to our energy and resilience in a time of hard-pressed public budgets.

Please plan to come to our next regional meeting, to be held 3-5 March 2017 here in Victoria, BC, just across the strait from the Olympic Peninsula. Our plenary speakers will be Margo Todd (University of Pennsylvania) and Nadja Durbach (University of Utah), and we hope to organize a roundtable discussion on the recent Brexit vote. As in years past, our grad student participants will enjoy generous support from the Sidney Stern Memorial Trust. Our program committee will once more be served by Aaron Windel (Simon Fraser University), who will be joined by a variety of colleagues from the University of Victoria: Andrea McKenzie and Mariel Grant (History), Erin Kelly (English) and Dennine Dudley (Art History). Book your room now at the Inn at Laurel Point < <http://www.pccbs.org/> >. (Pay for your room now, and engage in the thrilling sport of currency speculation! Who knows what the exchange rate may be after November 8th?)



This year, in addition to our annual prize for the best conference paper presented by a grad student in our region, we will be awarding our biennial prize for the best article published in the years 2015-16. Please consider submitting your article for the competition; and please encourage your grad students to submit their papers.

Our most recent meeting, held in the splendid new June & Merle Banta Education Center at the Huntington Library in San Marino, was a great success, attracting participants from across both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. We owe a large debt of thanks to Steve Hindle, the W.M. Keck Foundation Director of Research, for his generous support of our meeting, as well as to Juan Gomez, Housing & Programs Coordinator, for his unflinching good humour in keeping things humming. Thanks also to Aaron Windel for his service on our program committee and Deborah Deacon for her excellent administrative assistance. The meeting itself was truly a group effort, with our indefatigable past-president Michelle Tusan directing things on the ground, former secretary Alister Chapman supplying the nametags, and Amy Woodson-Boulton the

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Simon Devereaux (University of Victoria, BC)

(cont'd)

conference folders. A big “thank you”, also, to everyone else who joined us on Friday morning to help put the conference packages together, including our Grad Student Rep Karin Amundsen (USC). And special thanks to the grad students who managed the desk for us during the meeting: Karin Amundsen (again), Catherine Conner and Megan Gallagher (both Claremont Graduate University), and Lauren Weindling (USC)

We had two great plenary speakers at the Huntington, both of whom presented in the magnificent new Robert C. Ritchie Auditorium. Our Friday evening speaker, Frances Dolan (UC Davis), introduced by Andrea McKenzie, delivered “Blood of the Grape,” presenting the terroir arguments amongst early modern English commentators that a true English wine must be grown in English soil. Our lunchtime speaker on Saturday, Erika Rappaport (UC Santa Barbara), was introduced by Michelle Tusan. Erika’s talk, “Join the Tea Set: Youth, Modernity and the Legacy of Empire in Swinging London,” gave us a foretaste of her upcoming monograph and set a seemingly innocuous drink in several new and unexpectedly “hip” contexts. Steve Hindle and Vanessa Wilkie’s tips for “Demystifying Research at the Huntington” were also much appreciated.

Our Biennial Book Prize for 2014-15 was shared by two authors. The inimitable Tom Cogswell (UC Riverside) co-authored (with Alistair Bellany) *The Murder of King James I* (Yale UP, 2015), an epic and widely-praised account of the conspiracy rumours swirling about the Stuart court in the years leading up to the English Civil War. Marc Matera (UC Santa Cruz) was also recognized for *Black London: The Imperial Metropolis and Decolonization in the Twentieth Century* (U of California P, 2015), his much-acclaimed study of race and cultural politics in the metropolis during the waning years of empire. Our annual prize for the best conference paper by a graduate student in the PCCBS region was awarded to Sofia Zepeda (University of Arizona) for “‘She has got a husband at sea’: Seamen, Women, and the State, 1792-1815”, presented in Las Vegas at our 2015 meeting. The citations for both prizes can be read in this newsletter. Congratulations to our colleagues for their achievements!

Finally, it is my great pleasure to recognize my fellow PCCBS officers, past and present. Our former president, Michelle Tusan, has been a constant inspiration, not only in her unfailing energy and good humour in some occasionally difficult moments ... but in producing prize-winning scholarship while so ably guiding our ship! Hers is no easy act to follow. David Champion kept the books as Treasurer, and Alister Chapman kept us all in touch as Secretary. Karin Amundsen set an outstanding example as our first ever Graduate Student Representative. And Molly McClain cheerfully continues to allow us to exploit her as the organization’s Website Editor. Thank you, one and all, for your service to your colleagues! Susan Amussen (UC Merced) has generously consented to serve as Vice President (and President-in-waiting), Patty Seleski (CSU San Marcos) has taken up the burden of managing our finances, David Clemis (Mt Royal University, Alberta) is our new Secretary, and Jacqueline Swaidan (Claremont Graduate University) our new Graduate Student Representative. I look forward to our working together to keep our organization happy and healthy. Thanks, also, to the many people who have so often provided encouragement and advice on a number of fronts: Jenny Anderson, George Behlmer, Lori Anne Ferrell, Peter Hoffenberg, Norma Landau, Rebecca Lemon, David Lieberman, Sears McGee, Randall McGowen, Erika Rappaport, Reba Soffer, Amy Woodson-Boulton ... and of course Andrea McKenzie.

We hope to see you all next March on beautiful Vancouver Island!

**PCCBS ANNUAL MEETING, 3-5 MARCH 2017
VICTORIA, BC (CANADA)**

The Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies invites paper and panel proposals for its 44th Annual Meeting, to be held at the Inn at Laurel Point in Victoria, British Columbia, 3-5 March 2017.

The PCCBS invites papers representing all fields of British Studies -- broadly defined to include those who study the United Kingdom, its component parts and nationalities, as well as Britain's imperial cultures. We welcome proposals from scholars and doctoral candidates in a wide range of disciplines across the humanities, social sciences, and the arts, including History, Literature, Political Science, Philosophy, Religion, Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Theater Studies, and Art History.

Proposals for individual papers, partial panels, or complete panels are all welcome, although complete panel proposals are preferred. We encourage the submission of proposals dealing with interdisciplinary topics, as well as panels on new pedagogies and technologies associated with British Studies. This particular year, we also welcome potential contributions to a proposed roundtable discussion of the Brexit vote that was held on 23 June 2016.

The deadline for submission of proposals is DECEMBER 1st, 2016. Proposals should include a 200-word abstract for each paper plus a one-page c.v. for each participant. Those submitting full or partial panel proposals should include a brief description of the panel plus a 1-page c.v. for the panel chair as well as for its commentator. Please place the panel proposal, its constituent paper proposals, and all vitae *in a single file*, making certain that your contact information, especially e-mail addresses, are correct and current. Proposals should be submitted via e-mail attachment by December 1, 2016, to: PCCBS2017@gmail.com

**Graduate students who have papers accepted by the program committee will be eligible to request reimbursement for some travel expenses from the Stern Trust when registering for the conference.*



**Call for Submissions:
PCCBS Article Prize, 2015-16**

The biennial prize for the best article published in the years 2015-16 by a member of the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies will be awarded at the Spring 2017 meeting in Victoria along with a cash award.

Article Prize Submission Deadline:
December 1, 2016

Copies of articles should be sent to all three committee members:

Paul E.J. Hammer (Chair)
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Mariel Grant
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Janet Winston
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Humboldt State University
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**Call for Submissions:
PCCBS Annual Graduate Prize, 2017**

The PCCBS invites entries from PhD students for the annual graduate student prize. The prize will be awarded at the upcoming PCCBS conference this April at the Huntington. The student and the advisor, or instructor must be current members of PCCBS. The submitted entry will have been presented at the PCCBS meeting in March 2016 at the Huntington, or, in the case of a graduate student studying at a university within the PCCBS region, at any other conference during 2016, as long as the paper concerns a topic within the scope of British Studies.

The submission should be the paper as delivered with the addition of necessary notes and citations, the total to not exceed 18 pages double spaced. The winner(s) will receive a monetary prize and be recognized at the annual PCCBS meetings.

Graduate Prize Submission: December 1, 2016

Please send electronic or hard copies with cover letter from advisor or instructor to each member of the prize committee:

Peter Hoffenberg (Chair)
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CO-WINNERS OF THE BIENNIAL BOOK PRIZE (FOR 2014-15)

Thomas Cogswell and Alistair Bellany, *The Murder of King James I* (Yale UP, 2015)

This vividly written and compelling account traces allegations that King James I had been murdered through the 1620s and beyond. In doing so Bellany and Cogswell follow the allegations through a network of clandestine publishing in England and on the continent, and demonstrate the ways in which English (and British) politics was tied to continental debates and conflicts. At the same time, they remind us of the ways in which scandals and libels shaped politics as much as did facts and rational calculation. Tracing the long trail of the allegations through the next forty years also provides a salutary reminder of the role of memory in politics. Bringing together the histories of politics, pamphleteering, and publishing, this is a virtuoso performance that transforms our understanding of the politics of the seventeenth century.

Marc Matera, *Black London: The Imperial Metropolis and Decolonization in the Twentieth Century* (University of California Press, 2015)

This impressive book reshapes our understandings of London in the interwar period by focusing on the ways it shaped anti-colonial and Black nationalist movements. Matera traces the multiple networks of men and women from the colonies who studied and worked in London and, while there, built connections that fostered cooperation and collaboration in the struggles for independence in British colonies around the world. These networks shaped politics, scholarship and music. As radicals and activists travelled between London and the colonies, ideas, sounds and friendships shaped the way they approached independence, and the connected intellectual and cultural worlds that accompanied it.

WINNER OF THE ANNUAL GRADUATE PRIZE 2016

Sofia Zepeda (University of Arizona), "'She has got a husband at sea': Seamen, Women, and the State, 1792-1815."

Ms. Zepeda's effective use of primary and secondary sources, clear writing and balancing of several different questions of gender, war and statehood met her bold effort to "argue that cultural constructions of gender surrounding seamen, women, and the British navy shaped national policies that maintained the patriarchy of both the family and the state." Broadsheet ballads, court records, correspondence and other sources from the time enhance our understanding of both seamen and the women remaining on shore as their husbands went to sea to fight more often than not the French. Women not surprisingly assumed many roles as the war and other changes dramatically affected British society during those pivotal years, and Ms. Zepeda's work suggests that there is much to study about men and women, rich and poor when a polity is fighting a full-scale war. Strengthening the navy, defending the Kingdom and keeping both women and 'the lower orders' in place were parts of this complex war-time society. One's husband on a frigate fighting Napoleon turned out to be no justification for a woman who stole bread to feed their four children. Women might be even more dangerous when their husbands were on the front lines. Court records suggest that. This is a fine example of applying the cultural history lens to questions of law, gender and war, particularly because our studies of twentieth-century wars often highlight the advance of women in society during and after conflicts. This paper It is a worthy marker for the bicentennial of the Battle of Waterloo.

News from Members

Tammy M. Proctor (Dept. Head, the History Department at Utah State University) writes that the Utah State welcomes two new tenure-track or tenured British history specialists:

Dr. Susan Cogan begins her position as a tenure-track assistant professor in August 2016; Susan's specialty is early modern social and cultural history in England.



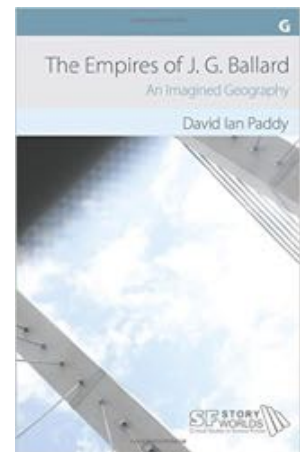
Dr. Joseph P. Ward was named Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in summer 2016, and he will also be a tenured member of the History Department. Joe's most recent book is *Culture, Faith and Philanthropy: Londoners and Provincial Reform in Early-Modern England*.

Welcome to both!

Jennifer L. Andersen, (California State University, San Bernardino) has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for her project "From Ancient Greece to the Contemporary Middle East: Dialogues on the Experience of War." The project is part of the NEH's program of fostering veterans and community members' collaborative explorations of "the experiences of war using humanities texts as the means of deeper understanding."

David Ian Paddy, (Whittier College) recently published *The Empires of J. G. Ballard: An Imagined Geography* (Canterbury: Gylphi, 2015)

Michelle Tusan (UNLV) was a Polonsky Academy Fellow in Jerusalem this summer and published "War and the Victorians" in *Victorian Studies* (Winter 2016); "Empire and the Media," in the *Routledge Handbook to Nineteenth-Century British Periodicals and Newspapers* (2016); "At Home in the Ottoman Empire: Humanitarians and the Victorian Diplomat" in *The Cultural Construction of the British World* (Manchester UP, 2015) and "James Bryce's Blue Book as Evidence," in the *Journal of Levantine Studies* (Winter 2015). Her book, *Britain and the Armenian Genocide* is due out this fall.



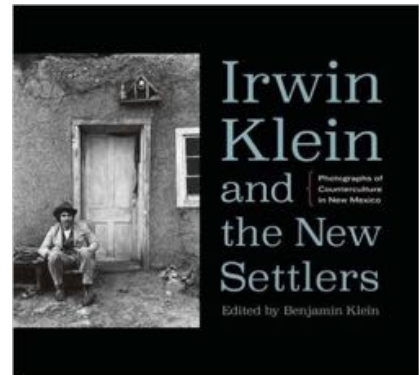
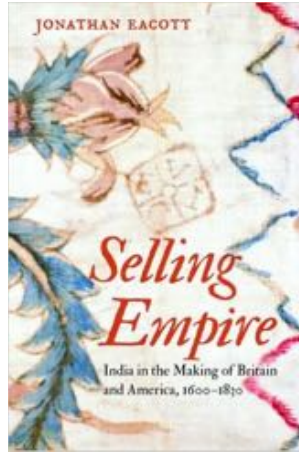
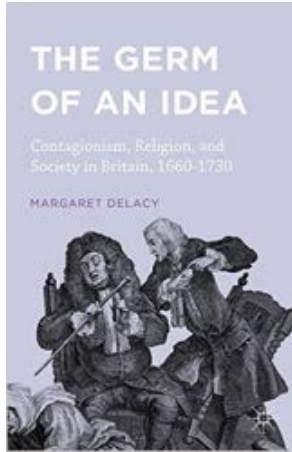
Alister Chapman, (Westmont College) recently published "Civil Religions in Derby, 1930-2000," in the *Historical Journal*.

Molly McClain (University of San Diego) wrote "Gardens" for the Oxford Bibliographies - *Atlantic History*. Her biography, *Ellen Browning Scripps: New Money and American Philanthropy* will be published by University of Nebraska Press in Spring 2017.

Margaret DeLacy (Independent Scholar), has recently published *Germ of an Idea: Contagionism, Religion and Society in Britain, 1660-1730* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016) <http://www.palgrave.com/gb/book/9781137575272>. She is presently completing work on another book which will be entitled *Contagionism Catches On: Medical Ideology in Britain 1730-1800*.

Jonathan Eacott (University of California, Riverside), recently published *Selling Empire India in the Making of Britain and America, 1600-1830* (University of North Carolina Press, 2016)

Benjamin Klein (Cal State East Bay), recently published *Irwin Klein and the New Settlers: Photographs of Counterculture in New Mexico* (Bison Books, 2016)



Membership in the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies (PCCBS) supports the activities of the organization, in particular, its annual meeting.

Full membership (professional historians and independent scholars) is \$20 annually. Graduate student membership is \$10 annually.

All members are reminded that their PCCBS membership dues are not covered by contributions to the national organization, North American Conference on British Studies (NACBS).

Please make your check in US dollars payable to "PCCBS." Please send your membership dues to:

Professor Patty Seleski (CSU San Marcos), pseleski@csusm.edu

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