

FALL 2018

THE PACIFIC COAST CONFERENCE ON BRITISH STUDIES

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Susan Amussen (University of California, Merced)



Please come to our next meeting, to be held at UC Merced March 22-24. We will have plenary talks by Naomi Tadmor (University of Lancaster) and Priya Satia (Stanford). You will also have the opportunity to see the newest research university in the country: UC here definitely stands for “under construction.” You’ll find the CFP later in the newsletter and also on our website. Merced is about 120 miles east of San Francisco – depending on the time of day, a little more than a two hour drive from the bay area. It’s also 70 miles from Yosemite, so your visit can be combined with a visit to one of our great national parks.

Our meeting in March was a great success, thanks to the outstanding work of Erika Rappaport, Alister Chapman, and Sears McGee. At the business meeting, we decided that we should award both the book and article prizes annually instead of biennially. Please, submit books published in 2018 and articles from 2017-18 for the prize! Graduate students who presented at PCCBS, and those from the region who presented at other conferences, should submit their papers too. Full details are included below.

At the Santa Barbara meeting, the Graduate Student prize was awarded to Murphy Temple (Stanford), “Spiritualism, the Body, and ‘Good Death’ in the First World War,” which skillfully argues that the concept of a “good death” for Great War military victims cannot be so easily placed in the boxes of Jay Winter’s argument for a resurrection of the past, or Paul Fussell’s earlier notion of looking forward. The committee, impressed by the range of papers it received, gave an honorable mention to Elizabeth Schmidt (UC Santa Barbara), whose “Culinary Commonplacing: An Examination of Borders in 18th- and 19th-Century Personal Recipe Collections” delightfully blended together with clarity, suggestiveness and good taste,

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the historical ingredients of food, women's, and reading histories. The book prize for 2016-17 was awarded to Erika Rappaport for *A Thirst for Empire: How Tea Shaped the Modern World* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2017). In this sprawling global study that begins with Samuel Pepys and ends with Frank Sinatra, Rappaport savors the bittersweet relationship between the British Empire and the production, marketing and consumption of tea. Honorable mention was given to Susan D. Amussen & David E. Underdown, *Gender, Culture and Politics in England, 1560-1640: Turning the World Upside Down* (London: Bloomsbury, 2017), a lively book that seeks to bridge the gap between “structural models of social change, and the cultural history prevalent today” by analyzing various inversions associated with unruly women and failed patriarchs in both society and politics. Full citations for both prizes are included later in this letter.

I am grateful to those who served on committees. The Book Prize Committee was led by Thomas Cogswell, (UC Riverside) with Cyndia Clegg (Pepperdine) and Alister Chapman (Westmont). Peter Hoffenberg (University of Hawaii at Manoa) once again chaired the graduate prize committee, along with Kristen Lashua (Vanguard University) and Annie St. John-Stark (Thompson Rivers University).

In addition to our meeting this Spring, we will be the hosts for NACBS next fall. That meeting will be in Vancouver, and plans are well underway. I'm grateful to Simon Devereaux and all the others who are working on local arrangements.

Finally, this is an opportunity to thank the outgoing officers – Michelle Tusan, whose term as Past President ended when Simon Devereaux took up that role. Patty Seleski as Treasurer, David Clemis as Secretary. And gratitude to those who have joined me as officers: Kathleen Noonan as VP, Aaron Windel as Secretary, and Lisa Cody as Treasurer.



PCCBS ANNUAL MEETING, 22-24 MARCH 2019 Merced, CA

The Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies invites paper and panel proposals for its 46th Annual Meeting, to be held at UC Merced, March 22-24, 2019.

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 (including graduate students) 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 pedagogies and technologies.

The deadline for submission of proposals is DECEMBER 1st, 2018. Proposals should include a 200-word abstract for each paper plus a biography for each participant. Those submitting full or partial panel proposals should include a brief description of the panel plus a brief biography for the panel chair as well as for its



commentator (if any). Proposals will be submitted by google forms. As we will use the data entered for the program, please be careful with spelling of names, institutions and paper titles.

Individual paper proposals should be submitted [here](#).

Panel proposals should be submitted [here](#).

Any questions should be addressed to pccbs2019@gmail.com

*Graduate students who have advanced to candidacy and 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 Prize Competitions:

PCCBS Book Prize, 2018

The annual prize for the best book published in 2018 by a member of the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies will be awarded at the Spring 2019 meeting in Merced, along with a cash award.

Book Prize Submission Deadline: December 15, 2018.

Copies of the book should be sent to all three committee members:

Thomas Cogswell, Chair
1145 Monte Vista Drive,
Riverside CA 92507

David A. Champion
Pamplin Associate Professor of History
Lewis & Clark College
0615 SW Palatine Hill Rd.
Portland, OR 97219

Dr. Joy Dixon
Associate Professor and Associate Head
Department of History
University of British Columbia
1297-1873 East Mall
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z1

PCCBS Article Prize, 2017-18

The biennial prize for the best article published by a member of the PCCBS in 2017-18 will be awarded at the Spring 2019 meeting in Merced.

Article Prize Submission deadline December 15, 2018.

Copies of the article should be sent to all three committee members:

Jordanna Bailkin, Chair, University of Washington
(bailkin@uw.edu)

Jennifer Andersen, California State University, San Bernardino (janderse@csusb.edu)

David Clemis, Mount Royal University (dclemis@mtroyal.ca)



PCCBS Graduate Student Prize, 2018

The PCCBS invites entries from PhD students for the annual graduate student prize. The prize will be awarded at the upcoming PCCBS conference this March. 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 2018, 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 meeting.

Graduate Prize Submission: December 15, 2018.

Electronic copies of papers **not already submitted** should be sent to the Chair of the Committee, along with a cover letter from the instructor or advisor:
Peter Hoffenberg, University of Hawaii at Manoa, peterh@hawaii.edu



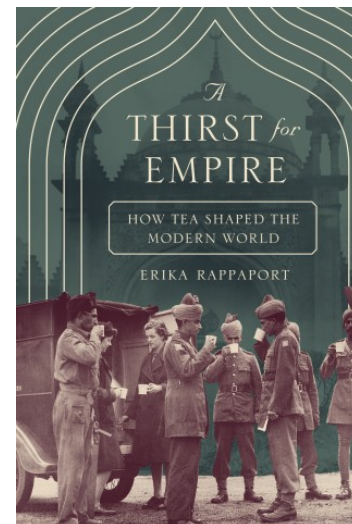
Prize Citations from 2018 Meeting

Book Prize:

Book Prize Winner: Erika Rappaport, *A Thirst for Empire: How Tea Shaped the Modern World* (Princeton, 2017)

In a sprawling global study that begins with Samuel Pepys and ends with Frank Sinatra, Erika Rappaport savors the bittersweet relationship between the British Empire and the production, marketing and consumption of tea.

After the elite acquired a taste for the beverage, the British developed the cultivation of tea first in Assam and then in Ceylon, Nyasaland, Kenya and Tanganyika. Next the goal was to expand the number of people drinking tea. Consumption steadily grew, tripling in Britain between 1871 and 1931, and by the 1920s, J. Lyons was marketing no less than seventy brands of tea. Much of the increase, as Rappaport makes clear, was due to repeated advertising campaigns by, among others, the Ceylon Tea Propaganda Board and the International Tea Market Expansion Board, which featured such characters like Mazawattee's Granny, Mr and Mrs



Tea-Drinker and Mr. T. Pott and the Cuplets. This inexorable logic, for example, convinced Lord Curzon that the labor problems of Indian tea producers would disappear once more Indians drank tea.

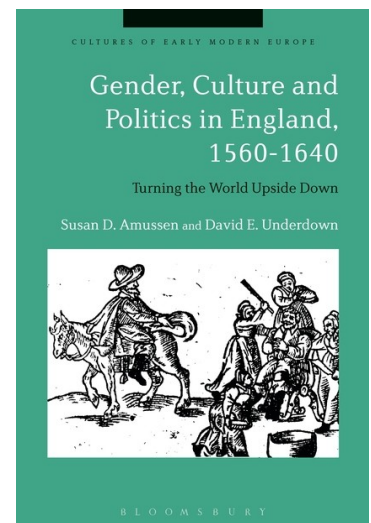
Problems nonetheless dogged these efforts. Mahatma Gandhi campaigned against the evils of “strong tea,” and rising tariffs threatened to curtail the practice and led to the formation of the Anti-Tea-Duty League. More importantly, consumers proved fickle, first in the United States and then in Britain itself, as Victorian tea rooms gave way to modern coffee bars, a transition fostered by the “Juke-Box Boys” of the early 1960s -- Cliff Richards, the Beatles and [improbably] Screaming Lord Sutch.

Rappaport deserves high praise for exploiting the hitherto little-used archives of producers and retailers and for writing such wide ranging cultural study outlining “how tea shaped the modern world” – or at least the British part of it.

HONORABLE MENTION – Susan D. Amussen & David E. Underdown, *Gender, Culture and Politics in England, 1560-1640: Turning the World Upside Down* (Bloomsbury, 2017)

For well over thirty years, David Underdown and Susan Amussen have on their own conducted pioneering studies of the social and gender history of early modern England. Here for the first time, they have co-written *Gender, Culture and Politics in England 1560-1640: Turning the World Upside Down*. Their lively book seeks to bridge the gap between “structural models of social change, and the cultural history prevalent today” by analyzing various inversions associated with unruly women and failed patriarchs in both society and politics.

The result is a scholarly triumph. They have presented their case with characteristic ease by weaving together wide-ranging materials involving, for example, everything from episodes from the London stage and actual scandals at Court to tumultuous incidents like the 1607 Well May Games and the 1612 Lancashire witch trials. In the process, they make a persuasive, and well written, case for the closer integration of political, social and cultural history.



Graduate Student Prize:

The winner is Murphy Temple for "Spiritualism, the Body, and 'Good Death' in the First World War." Murphy is a PhD student at Stanford University, where she works with Prof. Priya Satia. The paper skillfully argues that the concept of a "good death" for Great War military victims cannot be so easily placed in the boxes of Jay Winter's argument for a resurrection of the past, or Paul Fussell's earlier notion of looking forward. Responses to the death of relatives in particular, and particularly those for whom no body could be recovered, built upon Victorian practices and views in addition to some of the more contemporary developments. The mechanized destruction and death of 1916 met and converged with the seemingly anti-material spiritualism of the later Victorians. Seances among other rituals made missing and eviscerated bodies whole again, ensuring what

Murphy calls "the traditional Victorian 'good death'" without the overly pious and mind-numbing deathbed scenes and mourning periods. Specific historical examples are well documented and the paper provides a way to transcend the iron cage limitations of rational and irrational, Victorian and post-War.



Among the many excellent submissions, the committee also awarded an honorable mention to Elizabeth Schmidt, a student UC Santa Barbara. Ms. Schmidt was sponsored by Prof. Erika Rappaport. Her delightful paper on "Culinary Commonplacings: An Examination of Borders in 18th and 19th-Century Personal Recipe Collections," blended together with clarity, suggestiveness and good taste, the historical ingredients of food, women's and reading histories. One might also add: the history of privacy. What can recipes and comments about recipes tell us? Schmidt successfully concludes: a lot. A further strong point of this

paper was the recognition of the complications resulting from using her sources within existing categories of analysis. This was, then, both a historical and historiographical essay.

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 payable **in US dollars** to "PCCBS."

Please send your membership dues to:

Prof. Lisa Cody
Claremont McKenna College
History Department
888 Columbia Ave.
Claremont, CA 91711

We forgot to send out a request for member news, but send us your news, and we'll include it in the winter issue! Send news to Aaron Windel, awindel@sfu.ca.

PCCBS OFFICERS, 2018-2019

President: Susan Amussen, University Of California, Merced, CA

Vice President: Kathleen Noonan, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA

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Chair, Graduate Prize Committee, 2018: Peter Hoffenberg, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Graduate Student Rep.: Stephanie Seketa, UC Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA