

Winter 2024

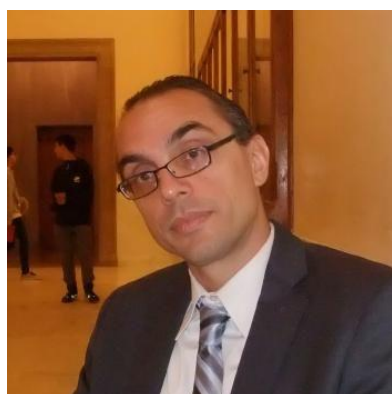
## The Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies

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### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

David Como (Stanford University)



2023-4 marked a major transition for PCCBS. Having taken stock after the 2023 Riverside conference, we surveyed our membership, and based on your feedback, decided to move to a biennial schedule for in-person conferences, with alternating years devoted to less extensive online programming. In March 2024, we gathered virtually for the first of these online mini-conferences, which included a graduate student workshop, as well as a lecture by our outgoing president, Erika Rappaport, who offered a fascinating presentation on Big Sugar and the marketing of free enterprise in postwar Britain. We also

conducted our annual business meeting, and very happily awarded our several prizes, including the second annual installment of the Lieberman Graduate Student Prize, named in honor of our longtime friend, colleague, and PCCBS stalwart, David Lieberman (for which we continue to seek donations, with a view towards a permanent endowment). The Prize winners and citations are given below, **as is the information for our 2025 prize competitions**. As always, many thanks to all of those who devoted time and energy to making that event a success. Special thanks are due to our immediate past president, Erika Rappaport, for rebuilding PCCBS and the conference in the wake of Covid.

I would also like to pay tribute to our other officers, who have done stellar work in keeping the organization afloat through turbulent times. Lisa Cody, of Claremont McKenna College, who served as Treasurer for a record five-year stint, has now assumed the Vice-Presidency. Jennifer Binczewski (Gonzaga University) and Mark Crowley (University of Utah) have both continued to serve tirelessly in their respective roles as Secretary and Treasurer. Tiffany Bragg (PhD candidate, UC-Riverside) has joined us as our new Graduate Student representative.

We are deeply indebted to all our officers - but also to our wonderful membership, who consistently join together to make PCCBS an extraordinarily welcoming and intellectually engaging conference. Your generous gift of time and energy continues to make PCCBS a great institution.

We are now excitedly anticipating our next in-person conference, **to be held on Stanford University's campus, March 28-30, 2025**. The event is being staged with ample and appreciated support from Stanford University's Department of History. Many thanks to the program committee for the event: Kathleen Noonan (Sonoma State), Rebecca Lemon (USC), and Jeffrey Auerbach (Cal State Northridge). We hope to see you all at Stanford for this milestone event: it represents the 50th annual meeting of PCCBS.

## **PCCBS, 2025 Call for Papers**

The Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies invites paper and panel proposals for its 50th Annual Meeting, March 28-30, 2025, hosted and held at Stanford University. We will be reserving a block of rooms at the Cardinal Hotel in Palo Alto.

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 graduate students\* in a wide range of disciplines across the humanities, social sciences, and the arts, including History, Literature, Political Science, Philosophy, Religion, Musicology, Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Theater Studies, and Art History. Proposals for roundtables, workshops, individual papers, partial panels, or complete panels are all welcome. We are especially interested in papers from graduate students and early career scholars. We also encourage the submission of proposals dealing with interdisciplinary topics, as well as panels on new pedagogies and technologies associated with British Studies.

The deadline for submission of proposals is December 20, 2024. 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 brief c.v. for the panel chair/commentator in addition to each presenter. Please place the panel proposal, its constituent paper proposals, and all vitae in a single PDF file, making certain that your contact information, especially e-mail addresses, are correct and current. Proposals should be emailed directly to [pccbsnews@gmail.com](mailto:pccbsnews@gmail.com). Please add PCCBS 2025 Conference to the subject line. Thank you.

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

For details on reservations at the Cardinal Hotel, see the PCCBS website or go directly to:

[Cardinal Hotel Direct Booking Link – Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies](#)

The URL of the Booking Link:

<https://api.mews.com/distributor/fc785943-b0ec-4ced-8a56-ab68014841aa?mewsAvailabilityBlockId=54bde415-a1dc-4774-9bdf-b1e8005e0691>

## Prize Citations from the 2024 PCCBS Meeting

### David Lieberman Presidential Doctoral Student Fellowship

The 2024 Lieberman Fellowship is awarded to Tiffany Bragg of UC-Riverside for her dissertation project, “An ‘Unhappy Accident’ in Madrid: English Republicans, Exiled Royalists, Spain the Assassination of Anthony Ascham.” The dissertation, which combines intensive archival research in England and Spain, promises to reshape our understanding of the continental response to the execution of Charles I, in the process shedding light on the outbreak of trans-Atlantic war between Spain and the new English republic, a conflict that would help shape the dynamics of England’s empire at a formative moment. The PCCBS is delighted to be able to support Tiffany Bragg as she brings this ambitious and significant study to its conclusion.

### 2024 PCCBS Book Prize (co-winners)

**Simon Devereux, *Execution, State and Society in England, 1660–1900* (Cambridge University Press, 2023)**

The Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies is pleased to honor Simon Devereaux with its 2023-24 Book Prize for his *Execution, State and Society in England, 1660–1900* (Cambridge University Press, 2023). Devereaux has given us the first complete overview of execution in England from the Restoration to the twentieth century. The ground feels familiar because of the work of Michel Foucault and Vic Gatrell, who recounted how England and Europe moved from agonizing, public executions to somber, swift, and secluded ones, but Devereaux shows us that the story is richer and stranger than we might have imagined. It is one in which executioners became less tired, because the infliction of pain was no longer core to their job, and less busy, as England reduced the number of capital crimes from more than two hundred to a handful. Along the way, Devereaux makes use not only of social but also of political, religious, and medical histories to explain the change. His careful scholarship uncovers intriguing dynamics, such as how changes in Christian belief, the expansion of urban and urbane Britain at the expense of the landed elites, and alternative forms of punishment such as transportation to colonies, affected attitudes to execution in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Perhaps most curious of all, he explains how the 1752 Murder Act, which decreed that the bodies of executed murderers should be dissected or hung in gibbets, led to grave robberies and serial killing in the interests of the advancement of medicine. Devereaux also helps us understand why the abolition of execution occurred later in Britain than elsewhere in Europe, despite its increasingly limited application and seclusion behind closed doors, and argues that anxieties over execution crowds, not a nascent abolitionism, drove the reforms of the nineteenth century. *Execution, State, and Society* makes an impressive contribution to the growing scholarship on the social and cultural history of emotions. It will become required reading for anyone interested in the penal history of Britain.

**Michelle Tusan, *The Last Treaty: Lausanne and the End of the First World War in the Middle East* (Cambridge University Press, 2023).**

The Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies is pleased to honor Michelle Tusan with its 2023-24 Book Prize for her *The Last Treaty: Lausanne and the End of the First World War in the Middle East* (Cambridge University Press, 2023). The book is the latest product of Tusan's ongoing research agenda on Britain, the people and politics of the Ottoman Empire and the Middle East, and the history of humanitarianism in the early decades of the twentieth century. It ranges impressively over the military, political, geopolitical, and cultural histories of the region, which make very clear the outsized role played by Britain's imperial interests in the war and its outcomes. Tusan's book shows us that the First World War continued unabated until the signing of the Lausanne treaty, five years after when we are accustomed to date the end of the war.

Tusan succinctly explains the wartime imperial schemes of the British and the French, while also drawing upon the specialist secondary literature to give equal attention to Ottoman and Middle Eastern actors just as keen to control the lands of the Middle East. A third group never far from the surface in Tusan's story are minorities in the Middle East who suffered, often horrifically, because they didn't fit with the national or imperial aspirations of more powerful actors.

Stitching together the humanitarian efforts of non-governmental actors and the prosecution of the war on the Middle Eastern Front, *The Last Treaty* demonstrates how the management of civilian populations became an integral part of military strategy as the concentration camp became the refugee camp. From 1917, the Allies, especially Britain, presented the war on the Middle Eastern Front as a righteous crusade in defense of religious and ethnic minorities in the Ottoman Empire—Jews, Kurds, Assyrians, and, above all, Armenians—while pursuing their imperial and resource-related ambitions. They encouraged separatist nation-state ambitions as the normative vehicle for protection and self-determination in the Balfour Declaration and numerous other agreements. This timely book provides new lessons on the war's end and ongoing aftermath and important context for contemporary conflicts in the region.

**Special Recognition:**

The Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies is pleased to honor Radhika Natarajan with special recognition for her book *Hear Our Voices: A Powerful Retelling of the British Empire Through 20 True Stories*, co-authored with Chao Tayiana, illustrated by Alexander Mostov (Wide Eyed Editions, 2023). This book introduces children and other readers to the history of the British Empire and its colonial legacy. It does so through twenty first-person narratives, each approximately 500 words and backed by pictorial representations of the people and places concerned. The narratives feature an impressive range of historical figures, from Lakshmibai to Kwame Nkrumah, who experienced and resisted colonization, and they place each person's story within broader stories of imperial encounter. The book opens and closes with brief, synthetic essays on the nature, scope, ends, and end of the British Empire. The indigenous voices it shares make the cruelty and costs of empire very clear, while also recognizing some of the opportunities it provided, and the disappointments associated with decolonization. Natarajan helps to remind us of all that public history is a lifelong pursuit. We salute her achievement, and hope that her book introduces many to the fascinating history of the British Empire.

## **2024 PCCBS Article Prize**

**Radhika Natarajan, “The ‘Bogus Child’ and the ‘Big Uncle’: The Impossible South Asian Family in Post-Imperial Britain,” *Modern British History*, 34 (Sept. 2023): 440-466.**

The PCCBS Article Prize committee is pleased to award this year’s prize to Radhika Natarajan of Reed College for her article, “The ‘Bogus Child’ and the ‘Big Uncle’: The Impossible South Asian Family in Post-Imperial Britain.” In well-written, closely argued prose, Natarajan considers the role of the South Asian family in the racialization of Britain’s immigration laws. She focuses on the crucial period between 1962 and 1965, a window she maintains broadly defined Britain’s subsequent immigration laws, especially the 1968 Immigration Act that required a British-born parent or grandparent for immigration, thus privileging white migrants. Natarajan argues that British officials found the South Asian family, particularly its male members, lacking. Struggles over the definition of family became the site of the racialization of Britain’s immigration laws. This allowed the UK to discriminate against Commonwealth migrants while privileging Dominion migrants and European aliens. The larger discussion concerns the “bogus child”: male children under the age of 16 whose qualifications were rejected due to assumptions about the unreliability of Pakistani documents and the general mendacity of South Asians. Immigration officials maintained these individuals tried to use family ties to enter the UK when in fact they were entering for purposes of work. These dependent youths were seen as posing a problem for the control of the border and preservation of full employment for white Britons.

The power of Natarajan’s study lies with her close examination of individuals, something that is obscured in protected state files. In particular, her use of records of the Commission for Commonwealth Immigrants (NCCI) provides important insights into the lengths families went to in trying to reunite with their male relatives in the UK and the arbitrariness and latitude of the immigration officers interacting with them.

## **2024 PCCBS Graduate Student Prize**

**Elizabeth Hines, “Anglo Dutch Imperial Experiments”**

Elizabeth Hines’s paper, presented at the 2023 NACBS, asks important and long unanswered questions about trans-imperial projects in the early modern Anglo-Dutch world. Why did these two rival powers collaborate on so many ventures? Efficiently exploring six different cases, she offers a compelling explanation: that their goals were profit and the Protestant cause, rather than national aggrandizement. The paper is based on original and sophisticated research and analysis. It is well-organized and well-structured for presentation at a conference, carefully considers limits to its claims, and offers a substantive and memorable takeaway. The paper provides an important picture of transnational merchant interactions and emerging understandings of empire in the early modern period.

## PCCBS Call for Prizes

### **PCCBS David Lieberman Presidential Doctoral Student Fellowship**

The PCCBS has established a doctoral fellowship for ABD students in honor and memory of David Liberman, former President of the PCCBS and a dear friend, colleague, and mentor for several decades. David was a renowned scholar of eighteenth-century law and society at UC Berkeley School of Law, as well as a specialist in the works and ideas of Jeremy Bentham. The fellowship is intended to provide one-time financial support to students who have reached the ABD stage in their graduate programs and who demonstrate both merit and need. The funds are designed to help support an outstanding doctoral student with living and/or research expenses in the coming year. It is open to students working in British Studies defined broadly, who are enrolled in doctoral programs in the Pacific Coast region, and who are members of PCCBS at the time of application.

Applications should include a c.v., a two-page description of the doctoral project, and plans for the next year (April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026). The description should focus on the applicant's scholarly interests, dissertation project, and budget, which may include living as well as travel and/or other research-related expenses.

In addition, two confidential letters of support, including one from the applicant's primary adviser and/or members of the doctoral committee should be submitted under separate cover to David Como, PCCBS President, who will distribute materials to the Fellowship committee. Please send letters to [pccbsnews@gmail.com](mailto:pccbsnews@gmail.com) by **February 7, 2025**. The letter should describe the applicant's academic and intellectual qualities and specific financial needs.

The recipient does not need to be present for their announcement, but they will be expected to participate at the following year's panel for PCCBS award winners to discuss their dissertation project. That participation can be by Zoom if necessary.

The complete application is due by **February 7, 2025**. Please send all materials to [pccbsnews@gmail.com](mailto:pccbsnews@gmail.com)

## **PCCBS Book Prize**

The prize for the best book published in 2024 by a member of the PCCBS will be awarded at the Meeting in 2025. The Book Prize submission deadline is **February 15, 2025**. Copies of the book, in hard copy or PDF, should be sent to all three committee members:

### **Alastair Bellany, Chair**

Department of History

Rutgers University

16 Seminary Place

New Brunswick NJ 08901

(Professor Bellany requests hard copies rather than PDFs if possible)

### **Micah Alpaugh**

Department of History

136 Wood Hall

University of Central Missouri

Warrensburg, MO 64093

### **Jordanna Bailkin**

UW Department of History

318 Smith, Box 353560

Seattle, WA 98195-3560

## **PCCBS Annual Article Prize**

The prize for the best article published by a member of PCCBS in 2024 will be awarded at the Spring 2025 Meeting. The Article Prize submission deadline is **February 7, 2025**. Copies of the article should be sent to all three committee members:

**Jennifer Andersen, Chair** (CS-San Bernardino): [janderse@csusb.edu](mailto:janderse@csusb.edu)

**Jonathan Eacott** (UC Riverside): [jeacott@ucr.edu](mailto:jeacott@ucr.edu)

**Mariel Grant** (University of Victoria): [mlgrant@uvic.ca](mailto:mlgrant@uvic.ca)

## **PCCBS Graduate Student Prize**

The PCCBS invites entries from PhD students for the annual graduate student prize. The student and the advisor, or instructor, must be current members of PCCBS. The submitted entry will have been presented at any conference in 2024, if 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. Graduate Prize Submission: **February 7, 2025**. Electronic copies of papers not already submitted should be sent to all three members of the committee, along with a cover letter from the instructor or advisor:

**Susan Amussen** (UC-Merced): [samussen@ucmerced.edu](mailto:samussen@ucmerced.edu)

**Robin Ganev** (University of Regina): [Robin.Ganev@uregina.ca](mailto:Robin.Ganev@uregina.ca)

**Muriel McClendon** (UCLA): [mcclendo@history.ucla.edu](mailto:mcclendo@history.ucla.edu)

## **Join or Renew your Membership**

**MEMBERSHIP IN THE PACIFIC COAST CONFERENCE ON BRITISH STUDIES SUPPORTS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION, IN PARTICULAR ITS ANNUAL MEETING.**

**FULL MEMBERSHIP (PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS AND INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS) IS \$30 ANNUALLY. GRADUATE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP IS \$15 ANNUALLY.**

**ALL MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEIR PCCBS MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOT COVERED BY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION (NACBS).**

**MEMBERSHIP DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DAVID LIEBERMAN FUND MAY BE MADE IN THE FOLLOWING MANNERS (PLEASE SPECIFY IF YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS TO THE LIEBERMAN FUND):**

**ZELLE:** PLEASE SEND MEMBERSHIP DUES AT ZELLE TO [PCCBSNEWS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PCCBSNEWS@GMAIL.COM)

**CHECK:** MADE OUT TO PCCBS, AND MAILED TO

**MARK CROWLEY  
DAVID ECCLES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
1655 EAST CAMPUS CENTER DRIVE  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84112**



## PCCBS OFFICERS

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