

Winter 2025-2026

The Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies

CHARIVARI



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

David Como (Stanford University)



2025 was a big year for PCCBS. Following our decision, taken in 2023, to transition to a biennial in-person conference, we held our first subsequent in-person conference, staged at Stanford from 28-30 March 2025. Our fiftieth in-person meeting, this milestone conference brought together scholars from all over the world. We had 22 panels and approximately 80 attendees (a modest uptick from our last conference at Riverside), addressing a hugely varied range of topics and periods. We hosted plenary talks by Michael Questier (Durham University) on “Godly Life-Writing in Post-Reformation England” and Susan Zieger (UC

Riverside) on “Crimea: The First Logistical Nightmare.” Special thanks are due to the Program Committee for putting together such an outstanding roster of panels: Kathleen Noonan (Sonoma State), Rebecca Lemon (USC), and Jeffrey Auerbach (Cal State Northridge).

The conference received very generous support, both financial and logistical, from Stanford’s History Department, backed by a grant from the Sidney Stern Memorial Trust. This allowed us to fund numerous graduate students’ attendance at the conference. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the contribution of Courtney MacPhee, a graduate student in Stanford’s History Department, who served as the organizer and coordinator of the conference – her stellar work ensured that we had a successful and hugely enjoyable event.

We awarded several prizes, including the third annual installment of the Lieberman Graduate Student Grant, 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 2026 prize competitions**. As always, many thanks to all those who devoted time and energy to making the event a success. We are truly grateful to the members of the Prize Committees (named below) for their generous service to the organization and the field.

I would also like to celebrate our other officers, who have worked tirelessly to keep our enterprise running smoothly. Lisa Cody, of Claremont McKenna College, is completing her

second year as Vice President, and will soon take over the reins of the Presidency. Jennifer Binczewski (Gonzaga University) and Mark Crowley (University of Utah) have both continued to serve indefatigably in their roles as Secretary and Treasurer. Those of you who would be interested in serving as officers in the future are encouraged to reach out to us: without dedicated colleagues, devoting their time and service as officers, the organization would cease to exist.

We are grateful to all our officers and committee members - but also to our extraordinary members, who regularly converge to make PCCBS a welcoming and intellectually engaging conference. Your generous gift of time and energy continues to make PCCBS a great institution.

As 2026 is our “off” year, without an in-person conference, we will **be staging our annual business meeting remotely, via Zoom, on April 18, 2026, at 11AM Pacific**. We hope that all PCCBS Members, affiliates, and well-wishers will attend. Whether or not you can attend, **I would like to urge you all to renew your membership for 2026**. PCCBS relies on membership dues to keep the organization afloat. It is easy, when the conference is not being held in person, to forget this, so please take a moment to send us your annual dues (see the payment details supplied below).

NACBS, 2026, Pasadena

While PCCBS is not meeting as a standalone conference in person this year, we have been involved in planning the 2026 North American Conference on British Studies, which we are co-hosting with the national organization in beautiful Pasadena, CA, 12-15 Nov. 2026, at the Westin Pasadena. We are all looking forward to helping to host this event on our home turf. Many thanks to NACBS executive director Amanda Perry and to the officers of NACBS for making the planning and execution of the conference so smooth. It should be a wonderful event (and will perhaps offer solace to those feeling the absence of PCCBS this spring). For further details, see:

<https://www.nacbs.org/conference>

Prize Citations from the 2025 PCCBS Meeting

2025 David Lieberman Presidential Doctoral Student Grant

The winner of the David Lieberman Presidential Doctoral Student Grant is Calvin Paulson, of the Department of History, UC-Berkeley for his dissertation, “The Imperial Lightning Rod: Competing Visions of Race and Labor Among Colonial Kenya’s Settlement Schemes.” Calvin’s dissertation will make a very timely and useful contribution to the historiography of Britain and the empire. The approach to the white community in Kenya, its unstable nature and its struggle to define itself in the face of mounting resistance to British colonialism will usefully illustrate the experience of white communities in colonial Kenya. It is a complex and nuanced dissertation project, which embodies the legacy and spirit of David Lieberman, our cherished colleague and past president of the PCCBS, in whose memory the grant has been founded.

2025 PCCBS Book Prize

Samuel Fullerton, *Sexual Politics in Revolutionary England* (Manchester University Press, 2024)

Samuel Fullerton’s powerfully argued, subtly theorized, and deeply researched first book, *Sexual Politics in Revolutionary England*, innovatively blends the political and the deeply personal, showing how sexual polemic was deployed as a vital political weapon during the civil wars and beyond. Vividly illustrated, fluently written, and artfully constructed, the book explores an impressively broad variety of religio-political discourses and genres, revealing the remarkable extent to which the public political discourse of the 1640s and 1650s was saturated with sexualized language, imagery, and polemic. Fullerton’s bravura close readings of hitherto neglected printed and manuscript sources make for a gripping and original account of a rapidly transforming and ultimately transformative political culture. By putting sex and gender at the heart of historical analysis, Fullerton’s book offers a provocative new way to appreciate the significance of a much-studied—and much-debated—period of English political history. (Prize Committee: Alastair Bellany, Micah Alpaugh, Jordanna Bailkin)

2025 PCCBS Article Prize

Joel Hebert, “Dirty Documents and Illegible Signatures: Doctoring the Archive of British Imperialism and Decolonization,” *Modern British History*, 35 (2024)

Joel Hebert’s “Dirty Documents and Illegible Signatures” makes an important contribution to a larger discussion of the Operation Legacy policy for archival documents at the end of the empire by showing how it operated across the world, as opposed to in one or two colonies and regions. This global approach is ambitious in scope and significance. The article tracks colonial officials in Malaya, Africa, and the Caribbean as they destroyed, preserved, and modified government records based on local circumstances, and often based on individual whims. Hebert argues that regardless of different local approaches, officers shared an over-riding goal to obscure the empire’s violence, racism, and “inconvenient truths” from future historians. (Prize Committee: Jennifer Anderson, Jonathan Eacott, Mariel Grant).

PCCBS Call for Prize Submissions

As discussed at the 2025 business meeting, PCCBS made the decision this year to return to its earlier prize format, in which the Book Prize and Article Prize will be awarded biennially in the years that we meet in-person. Books and articles published in the previous two years will be eligible (i.e., for the 2027 prize, books published in 2025 and 2026 will be eligible). As a way of supporting our graduate student community, our plan for now is to continue to award the two graduate prizes on a yearly basis. To that end, we are now issuing a call for submissions for the following two prize competitions:

2026 PCCBS David Lieberman Presidential Doctoral Student Grant

The PCCBS has established a doctoral grant for ABD students in honor and memory of David Lieberman, 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 grant 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 (May 1, 2026-April 30, 2027). 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. Please send all materials to pccbsnews@gmail.com by **April 5, 2026**.

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 Jennifer Binczewski, PCCBS Secretary, who will distribute materials to the grant committee. Please send letters to pccbsnews@gmail.com by **April 5, 2026**. The letters 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.

2026 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 2025, 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: Electronic copies of papers should be sent to all three members of the committee, along with a cover letter from the instructor or advisor by **April 5, 2026**.

Susan Amussen (UC-Merced): samussen@ucmerced.edu

Robin Ganev (University of Regina): Robin.Ganev@uregina.ca

Muriel McClendon (UCLA): 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

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**

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