



# DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

JUNE

2021

ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER

## Chair's Message

Wendy Gamber



*Wendy Gamber*

As the American Historical Association's motto says, "Everything has a history." What's true for the AHA is true for IU: we've got histories of everything.

Curious about histories of the human body and its place in our daily lives? Ben Irvin's "History of Disability in the United States" traces changing understandings of disability from the 18th century to the present.

His students learn, for example, that in the Gilded Age, industrial accidents, which often resulted in amputation, gave rise to the mass manufacture and marketing of prosthetic limbs. Birth, too, has a history. Sarah Knott's students investigate the American history of Indigenous, Black and white birth knowledge, the changing roles of midwives, obstetricians, and other health workers, and the various experiences of birth-givers past and present.

We can also introduce you to the histories of heroes who helped set the stage for the Justice League and the Avengers. Students in Leah Shopkow's "Medieval Heroes" course explore why some heroes are forever while other past heroes disappear into time's mists. The history of heroism isn't just about the label, though. Maria Bucur's "Century of Women" course introduces students to women whose low-key heroism made change for good and bad, and Pedro Machado and Ke Chin Hsia both take a look at the global phenomenon of sports heroes in soccer and baseball.

Popular music, pop culture, epidemics, war, law, the environment? We've got histories on those and more, and if you're one of our majors, you could add your own history to that list with a capstone project on any topic that interests you.

Discover the history of everything . . . at IU History.

# Historians at Work

If everything has a history, history is everywhere. So are historians. Here are three of our alumni, each of whom works at the intersection of history and place.



**Dawn Bilobran** is Principal of 313 Historic Preservation based in Detroit, Michigan. She has over a decade of experience collaborating with private, nonprofit, and government stakeholders seeking to rehabilitate historic assets and maximize development incentives. Her work involves creating project-specific rehabilitation and adaptive reuse strategies, administering federal and state historic tax credits and managing large-scale construction operations. Additionally, she provides comprehensive architectural history services including building research and National Register of Historic Places nominations.

Ms. Bilobran's projects consist of Michigan's most iconic buildings including the Detroit Masonic Temple, Michigan State Capitol, Fisher Building, Nickels Arcade and DTE Energy Conners Creek Power Plant as well as small-scale development and community partnerships. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Belle Isle Conservancy supporting the stewardship of the nation's largest urban island park. Previous board appointments include the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (2014-2020) and Preservation Detroit (2013-2020).

"My coursework at IU, particularly 'History of the American Home,' fed my thirst for knowledge about place and our built environment. We are immensely lucky to have such a visually stunning and architecturally inspiring campus in Bloomington. Indiana encouraged me to ask questions, which I continue to do in my career at 313 Historic Preservation. Why is this here? What is important to us to celebrate and preserve? Asking questions and solving problems centered around historic architecture, materials and neighborhood development is something I am lucky to continue to do each day."



**Nicholas Hunot**, Senior Real Estate Manager, Renew Indianapolis  
"Since graduating from IU with my Ph.D. in History, I have worked in the nonprofit sector. I first work as a writer and researcher for a bipartisan political research organization that helped to provide research for major news outlets. After several years, I switched industries and began working in community development as a program manager for Renew Indianapolis, the land bank for the City of Indianapolis. Since joining Renew, we have undergone a merger with an Indy-based Community Development Corp (a non-profit development organization) and a Community Development Financial Institution. Under the new organization, I act as the Senior Real Estate Manager, overseeing all city government land bank transactions, both residential and commercial. The goal is to return abandon and blighted structures and land in Indianapolis into livable and usable properties again, returning them to the tax rolls. Since 2017, we have sold and rehabilitated over 800 properties with \$71M in total investment in community redevelopment.

In my job, I oversee a lot of moving parts, coordinate multiple projects with multiple deadlines, as well as speak before city boards, commissions, and councils, making presentations and coordinating projects. I also do a lot of grant writing for both private and public funding. The skillsets that I learned and developed while earning my Ph.D. have been essential in my work. My ability to communicate effectively both in writing and speaking, doing in-depth research, crafting persuasive arguments, understanding complex issues and processes, as well as coordinating large-scale projects have helped me make the land bank what it is today, and I have my Ph.D. to thank for that."



# Historians at Work



**Charlene J. Fletcher** is the Curatorial Director at Conner Prairie and the Emerging Voices Postdoctoral Research Associate in Slavery and Justice at Brown University. Prior to attending IU, Charlene led a domestic violence/sexual assault program as well as a large reentry initiative in New York City, assisting women and men in their transition from incarceration to society and also served as a lecturer of Criminal Justice at LaGuardia Community College and an adjunct lecturer in Global and Historical Studies at Butler University.

Charlene's research and forthcoming book explores the experiences of confined African-American women in Kentucky from Reconstruction to the Progressive Era, specifically illuminating the lives of confined Black women by examining places other than carceral locales as arenas of confinement, including mental health institutions and domestic spaces. She seeks to explore how these women both defied and defined confinement through their incarceration, interactions with public, social, and political entities of the period, as well as how they challenged ideas of race and femininity.

Charlene's work is motivated by her personal and professional experiences — particularly her work with individuals and families impacted by domestic violence and incarceration — and these experiences continue to fuel her passion for her work today.

"As Curatorial Director, I'm responsible for conducting all historical research for the museum. One of my central responsibilities is to curate *Promised Land as Proving Ground*, the museum's first exhibition that focuses on African American history. I also serve as the consulting historian for *The Oldest Profession Podcast*, sharing sex worker histories with a wider audience.

History should be accessible to everyone and I was afforded the opportunity to explore the ways to do that. Curating an exhibit requires creating digestible content for public audiences and my work at the *American Historical Review* gave me experience in copy editing, podcast production, and the digital humanities that have prepared me for my current role as curatorial director. Graduate school also helped me develop analytical skills and how to put them to use beyond primary source material. When I arrived at Conner Prairie I was the only historian on site, but my graduate training helped me to identify gaps in the institutional research process and I developed a work plan and entire department to ensure the museum has a solid research agenda.

It's important for emerging historians to follow their passions and use those analytical skills to find new and innovative ways to share their work with the world. I love research, sharing stories, and creating safe spaces for learning opportunities and my position makes it all possible!"

## Meet our next Department Chair

Please congratulate **Michael McGerr**, Paul V. McNutt Professor of History, who becomes the History department's next chair on July 1. Professor McGerr is an internationally renowned scholar who brings a wealth of administrative experience to his new position. His books include *The Decline of Popular Politics: The American North, 1865-1928* (Oxford University Press), *A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920* (The Free Press/Simon & Schuster), and *The Public Be Damned': The Vanderbilts and the Unmaking of the Ruling Class* (forthcoming, Farrar, Straus, & Giroux). He's also the lead author of a best-selling textbook, *Of the People: A History of the United States*. Professor McGerr has won several teaching awards, including most recently, the College of Arts and Sciences' 2020 James P. Holland and Morley Award for Exemplary Teaching and Service.



Michael McGerr





# Awards for Faculty

**Judith Allen**, Walter Professor of History, has been appointed a Distinguished Professor, the most prestigious academic appointment Indiana University can offer.

During the 2021-22 academic year, **Liza Black** will be a fellow at UCLA's American Indian Studies Center.

**Liza Black, Arlene Díaz, and Janine Giordano Drake** received Trustees Teaching Awards.

**Elizabeth Grennan Browning** is part of a team of interdisciplinary researchers from the Environmental Resilience Institute that received a \$1.4M grant from the National Science Foundation's Dynamics of Integrated Socio-Environmental Systems (CNH2) program to study drought, farmers' decision-making, and soil microbiology in the St. Joseph watershed. Her role in the project is conducting oral histories with farm families and translating the biologists' and social scientists' research within public history and science exhibitions.

**Kalani Craig** has been promoted to Clinical Associate Professor.

**Kalani Craig and Tina Irvine** are recipients of the 2021 Dr. James E. Mumford Excellence in Extraordinary Teaching Award, which recognizes "instructors who have demonstrated notably innovative, creative, and compassionate teaching in response to the past year's extraordinary events."

**Arlene Díaz** received the 2021 Senior Ford Foundation Fellowship for her book project "A War Beyond the Battlefield: Espionage, Information, and Representation in the Spanish-Cuban-American War." Arlene is also an inaugural recipient of the Inclusive Excellence Award sponsored by the Bloomington Faculty Council's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. The award "honors faculty who contribute to the continued enhancement of a diverse campus community in accord with IU Bloomington's Statement on Diversity."

**Michael Dodson** has received a Fulbright Senior Nehru Research Fellowship to India.

**Colin Elliott** has been promoted to Associate Professor and is the recipient of the 2021 David and Cheryl Morley Early Career Award for Outstanding Teaching.

**Jeff Gould** has been awarded a CAHI Research Fellowship for his film project, "From Dawn to Despair."

**Ke-chin Hsia** received an award from the Jack and Julia Wickes Fund for the Study of War and Society to support research for his second book project, "Who Is an Austrian? Refugees and the Austrian Identity in Post-WWII China and Austria."

**Tina Irvine** is the winner of the 2020 Melvin E. Bradford Dissertation Prize, which "recognizes the best dissertation written on any aspect of the American South."

**Sarah Knott** has been awarded a CAHI/Kinsey Research Fellowship for her project, "Sexed: How We Became Ourselves."

In conjunction with Phoebe Wolfskill (American Studies) and Rasul Mowatt (American Studies), **Alex Lichtenstein** has been awarded a \$25,000 IU Public Humanities Project grant for "Unmasked: The Antilynching Exhibits of 1935."

**Michelle Moyd** received a CAHI Research Fellowship for her book project, "Soldiering for Empire: Race, Labor, and Recruitment of Black Troops in Africa and the United States, 1865-1920." She is also the recipient of a 2021 Building Bridges Award, which recognizes recipients for their work in promoting equality, diversity, inclusion, and respect. Moyd's award cites her central role in creating the Bloomington Peoples Market and her work as Associate Director of the IU Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society.

**John Nieto-Phillips**, Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, is the recipient of a Bicentennial Medal.

**Eric Robinson** received an award from the Jack and Julia Wickes Fund for the Study of War and Society to support further enhancement and refinement of his custom-designed historical strategy game, "Cities on the Edge of War."

**Tatiana Saburova** is a recipient of a Collaborative Research Award from IU's Institute for Advanced Study.

**Carl Weinberg** received a \$15,000 Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem (TOME) grant from the IU Office of the Vice Provost for Research. It will enable Cornell University Press to publish his book *Red Dynamite: Creationism, Culture Wars, and Anticommunism in America* (pub date: Oct. 2021) as a free, open-access download and a relatively low-cost paperback. The Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning awarded Carl Weinberg a Summer Writing-Teaching Grant of \$1500 to develop his "Work in Progress" writing tool on Canvas.



# Awards for Alumni & Students

## Alumni:

**Dean Kotlowski** (M.A. '89, Ph.D. '98), Professor of History at Salisbury University, has been named the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at the Australian National University where he will be based for six months in 2022. This is his fourth Fulbright, following awards to the Philippines, Austria, and Australia.

**Devi Mays**, (2013 PhD in History and Jewish Studies), received the National Jewish Book Award for Sephardic Culture for her book, *Forging Ties, Forging Passports: Migration and the Modern Sephardi Diaspora* (Stanford University Press, 2020). She is Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Ph.D. alum **Paul Schadewald**, along with his co-authors Rebecca S. Wingo and Jason A. Heppler, is the recipient of the 2021 National Council on Public History Book Award for *Digital Community Engagement: Partnering Communities with the Academy* (University of Cincinnati Press, 2020). Paul is the Senior Program Director for the Civic Engagement Center at Macalester College.

## Students:

Ph.D. candidates Hannah Alms, Isabel Alvarez-Echandi, Gloria Lopez, Sydney-Paige Patterson, Tommy Stephens received CAHI Awards in Support of Research and Creative Activity.

Graduate student George Andrei was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to carry out dissertation research in Romania.

Rachel Aranyi's essay, "Politics Masquerading as Religiosity: A Look at Jerusalem Holy Sites," won the History department's World History Prize.

History majors Samuel Bowden, Stephen Henderson, and Sydney Tomlinson were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most prestigious academic honor society in the United States.

Doctoral student Kelly Bosworth received a College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship.

History and AAADS double major AJ Boyd was one of ten rising seniors across the US who were awarded a prestigious Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute Fellowship.

Ph.D. candidate Katy Doll has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Humanities and Politics at Nova Southeastern University.

Ph.D. candidates Chris Jillson and Amanda Waterhouse received Future Faculty Teaching Fellowships to teach at Butler University.

Ph.D. candidate Szabolcs László was awarded the 2021 Mildred Throne-Charles Aldrich Award by the State Historical Society of Iowa Board of Trustees, which selected his paper, "The Shock of Seeing the Freedom of American Life: The Iowa International Writing Program as Cultural Diplomacy during the Cold War" (*The Annals of Iowa*, spring 2020).

Ph.D. candidate Gloria Lopez received the Latino Studies Dissertation Fellowship for 2021-2022.

Doctoral candidate Asher Lubotzky has won the Gerda Henkel Stiftung Ph.D. Fellowship for years 2021-2023.

Ph.D. candidate Meghan Paradis received Fulbright fellowship and a German Academic Exchange Service One Year Grant for dissertation research in Europe.

Savannah Price's "Influence Beyond Death: Martyrdom in the Murder of Marat" was awarded the European History Prize.

Ph.D. candidate Julia Riegel has accepted the position of Visiting Assistant Professor of Modern European History at Hollins University.

Lauren Schumacher received the M. Jeanne Peterson Prize for the best essay in women's history or the history of gender and sexuality for "Through His Stomach: Men's Cooking in the 20th Century."

Sydney Seigel is the winner of the William M. Locke Essay Prize for a paper on a topic related to the American Civil War. The title of her paper is "A Moment for Education: The Confederate Veteran's Response to The Birth of a Nation."

Ph.D. candidate Nico Sillitti has accepted the position of Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Holy Cross College

Cara Sullivan was awarded the John W. Foster Prize for best essay in United States political and diplomatic history for "The Legacies of Native American Removal in Indiana during the 1830s."

Ph.D. candidate Jazma Sutton was selected as a winner of the 2021-22 President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship and was also awarded the 2020 Indiana Society of Pioneers Fellowship for doctoral dissertation research.

Graduate student Quentin Swaryczewski has received the Balassi Institute Graduate Fellowship in Hungarian Studies.

Graduate student Shouyue Zhang has received the Jerome M. Clubb Scholarship, awarded to graduate students interested in quantitative history, to participate in the 2021 Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program.





# Alumni Updates

Brian Blankenship (BA, 2012) is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Miami. During the 2020-2021 academic year, he was a Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Stephen Buono (Ph.D. 2020) published an op-ed in The Hill on NASA's newly minted Artemis Accords. You can read it [here](#).

Henry Chambers (Ph.D., 1968), Emeritus Professor, California State University, Sacramento, taught two courses in spring 2020, one on Babylonians and one on Ancient Sumer.

Kevin Coleman (Ph.D., 2012) and Danny James have published an edited collection, *Capitalism and the Camera: Essays on Photography and Extraction*, Verso Books (2021). The issue also contains an article by Jennifer Boles (Ph.D. 2015) on her new documentary film, "The Reversal". The online version is now available.

Ross Dealy (Ph.D., 1975) who retired from St John's University (NY), *Before Utopia: The Making of Thomas More's Mind* (University of Toronto Press, 2020).

Doug Dixon's "Indiana University and Cold War-Era Genealogy," was published in the Fall 2020 issue of the *Journal for the Liberal Arts and Sciences*.

Karen Dunak (Ph.D., 2010) and Shannon Smith (Ph.D, 2013) published "'We Made the Best Out of a Situation That Was Bad': School Closings in Modern American Education" in the December 2020 issue of *The American Historian*.

Xin Fan (Ph.D., 2013) published *World History and National Identity in China: The Twentieth Century* in Cambridge University Press. This book examines Chinese nationalism and identity in world historiography.

Charlene Fletcher (Ph.D., 2020) has signed a contract with UNC Press to publish *Confined Femininity: Race, Gender, and Incarceration in Kentucky, 1865-1920*.

Cody Foster (BA, 2012) successfully defended his doctoral dissertation "To 'Reawaken the Conscience of Mankind': The International War Crimes Tribunal and Transnational Human Rights During the Vietnam War, 1966-1967" at the University of Kentucky (under Hang Nguyen and George Herring). He teaches at IU Southeast and has also started working at Bellarmine University as a part-time faculty member.

Wayne D. Fowler (BA, 1980) published *Tales of the Talented Tenth*, a historical novel about Black soldiers during World War I and its aftermath.

Lawrence Hogan (Ph.D., 1978), Professor Emeritus from Union County College in New Jersey, is the author of *The Forgotten History of African American Baseball*, as well as several other books on the history of Blacks in America, and Executive Director of the documentary *Before You Can Say Jackie Robinson: Black Baseball in America in the Era of the Color Line*. He has under consideration for publication at Syracuse University Press his manuscript *Harlem's First Citizen: John Howard Johnson, A Priest, His People, and their Community*.

Morgan Mohr (BA, History, Political Science, and Feminist Policy, 2017) is Associate Director for Strategic Planning, Office of Political Strategy & Outreach at The White House.

Ruth Reichard (Ph.D., 2015) published *Blood and Steel: Ryan White, the AIDS Crisis and Deindustrialization in Kokomo, Indiana* (McFarland, 2021).

MacKenzie Johnson Sestak (BA 2001) is the Director of GSA Consulting at Centre Law & Consulting, LLC.

Jill Semko Underly (BA History, 1999; Ph.D., Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, University of Wisconsin, 2012) is the newly elected Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Jeremy Ward (MA, 1967) published *On A Wing and A Prayer: The Manchester Grammar School and the Royal Air Force in 2021*.

# Faculty News

Cynthia Bannon's *Casebook on Roman Water Law* was published by the University of Michigan Press in 2020.

Elizabeth Grennan Browning published "Sanitary Homesteads and Maternal Responsibility" in the *Indiana Magazine of History*. Browning also co-curated, with Eric Sandweiss, the exhibition *Hoosier Lifelines: Environmental and Social Change along the Monon, 1847-2020*, which debuted at the IU Grunwald Gallery of Art.

Maria Bucur co-edited a special issue of *Feminist Encounters*, "East European Feminisms," available here through open access.

Kalani Craig served as Communications Chair for the Medieval Academy of America conference.

Nick Cullather published "The Architecture of Fear Has Already Made Congress Worse" in *The Atlantic* on February 10, 2021.

Deborah Deliyannis's chapter "Bishops, Cities, and Historical Memory" appeared in *A Companion to Byzantine Italy*. She also co-chaired the program committee for the Medieval Academy of America conference.

Janine Giordano Drake's book, *War for the Soul of the Christian Nation*, will be published by Oxford University Press

Susan Ferentinos, the History Department's Graduate Career Advisor, completed an LGBTQ Historic Context Study for the state of Maryland. Historic context studies are historic preservation documents designed to assist preservationists in identifying, evaluating, and preserving properties significant to an underrepresented aspect of history. Maryland is only the second state in the U.S. to complete a context study for LGBTQ history; the first was Kentucky. Susan also has been selected to serve on the national committee developing themes to guide museums and historic sites as they plan events to mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States in 2026.

Jeff Gould's film, *Port Triumph*, was selected for the Reel Work Film Festival in Santa Cruz, California. His book, *Entre el Bosque y los Arboles: Utopías Menores en El Salvador, Nicaragua y Uruguay [Between the Forest and the Trees: Minor Utopias in ...]* has been published by the Editorial Universidad de Guadalajara. He was interviewed about his book *Solidarity Under Siege*, in two hour-long radio programs in Costa Rica, as part of a series, *El Hilo de la Historia* and on the radio program, Heartland Labor Forum, on KKFI 90.1, community radio, Kansas City, Missouri. He was also interviewed about his career on a Facebook Livestream, as part of a series called *Conversaciones con La Historia*.

The IU History department welcomes Associate Professor Sara Gregg, a specialist in American environmental history, this coming fall.

Provost Professor Peter Guardino has given several virtual talks based on his prize-winning book, *The Dead March*, including one at Oxford University's Latin American Centre.

Sarah Knott published, with co-editor Emma Griffin, *Mothering's Many Labours* (Past & Present, Oxford University Press, 2020). The volume includes contributions in Caribbean, North American, West African and European histories.

Lara Kriegel's *The Crimean War and its Afterlife* is in production with Cambridge University Press. The College of Arts and Sciences website features an interview with Kriegel, who discusses the challenges of directing the Collins LLC during a pandemic.



## Faculty News, continued

Alex Lichtenstein's essay, "Apartheid's Paper Trail," appeared in Public Books on April 22, 2021. Alex also spoke on "From Convict Leasing to Mass Incarceration" in the Convict Leasing and Labor Project's video podcast "History Exposed."

Stephen Macekura, Associate Professor of International Studies and Adjunct Associate Professor of History, published a book, *The Mismeasure of Progress: Economic Growth and its Critics*, with the University of Chicago Press.

Mark Roseman was interviewed for the German broadcasting service, Deutschlandfunk about the new Jerusalem Declaration on antisemitism, in which he was involved as an advisor and as a signatory. Mark was also interviewed for the German magazine Konkret about his recent book "*Dus bist nicht ganz verlassen.*"

Rob Schneider's opinion piece, "January 6: A Day of Populist Transgression," was published by the *History News Network*.

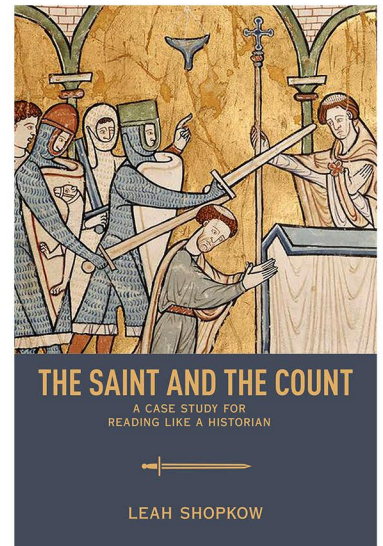
Leah Shopkow's book, *The Saint and the Count: A Case Study For Reading Like a Historian* was recently published by the University of Toronto Press.

Rebecca Spang published two widely-read essays in *The Atlantic*, "The Revolution Is Under Way Already" and "How Revolutions Happen."

An in-depth interview (in Chinese) with Fei-Hsien Wang on her book *Pirates and Publishers* was published in Shanghai Review of Books on February 7th, 2021.

Jakobi Williams gave numerous interviews and talks on race, politics, violence, voting rights, and the history of the Black Panthers at a wide variety of venues including NBC News, the University of Florida, Duke University, UCLA, the Minority Health Film Festival, in Milwaukee and the Second Baptist Church, Bloomington, Indiana. In January he was interviewed on FOX 59 News on the inauguration's impact on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

After the March 16 Atlanta shootings, Ellen Wu was interviewed or cited in local, statewide, national, and international media. Her mentions include Los Angeles Times, IDS, GQ, Politico, BuzzFeed, La Presse (Montreal), Indiana Public Media, New York Times (x2), AP, NBC News (x 2), BBC (x2), WTHR TV Indianapolis, WTHI TV Terre Haute, Bustle, KCRW (Santa Monica), KNX (Los Angeles), Vox, Straits Times (Singapore), Business Insider, Boston Globe, Today.com, WISH TV (Indianapolis), Deutsche Welle (Germany). She provided consultation to producers of CBS Sunday Morning and Last Week Tonight with John Oliver. *Mother Jones* ran an interview with Ellen Wu about her research ("A California Proposition Could Reinstate Affirmative Action. Why Are Some Asian Americans Against It?"). Back in July 2020, *goop* (Gwyneth Paltrow's modern lifestyle brand) also featured Wu's research ("The Complex History -- and Ongoing Realities -- of the Model Minority Stereotype").



Leah Shopkow's  
*The Saint and the Count:  
A Case Study for Reading  
like a Historian*



**HISTORY**

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