

Three New Faculty Members



Bouley



Chattopadhyaya

This year we are delighted to welcome three new members to our faculty: Brad Bouley (early modern Italy), Utathya Chattopadhyaya (South Asia) and Rudolph T. (Butch) Ware, III (West Africa).



Ware

Brad Bouley completed his BA at Cornell, MA at the University of Washington, and PhD at Stanford in 2012 where his mentor was Paula Findlen. From 2012 to 2016 he taught at Pennsylvania State University. He has received numerous important fellowships, including Fulbright, the American Academy in Rome, and the Villa I

Tatti Fellowship in Renaissance Studies. His specialty is Italian history from the 16th through the 18th centuries. Bouley studies the intersections of religious history, the history of science, and the history of food and urban provisioning. His first monograph, *Pious Postmortems*, is described in the section on new faculty books on page 6 below. Bouley has also begun work on his second major

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Reflections on Public History in Romania

Text and Pictures by Ann Marie Plane

As a historian of the colonial US, I often have to content myself with Toledo (Ohio) rather than enjoying Toledo (Spain). So imagine my delight when I was invited to offer the opening address for the Romanian American Studies Association meeting in Constanta, a center of trade on the Black Sea since the 5th century BCE. Here was a chance to engage with Americanists from an entirely different contest and to get to know Romania, a country famously isolated during much of my lifetime. What I did not anticipate was the ways that being a tourist there would open new perspectives on Public History and make me want to know much more. Romania's historic landscape is astonishing, but, as I discovered, conditions there now work against community investment in preserving its history.

In the 6th century, Constanta was known by Greek colonizers as Tomis, and for centuries thereafter it thrived as a port under the influence of successive outsiders: Roman, Byzantine, Genoese; Ottoman; and (by the nineteenth century), French or other western Europeans. Just to the north of the city, the Danube River broadens out into its ecologically sensitive delta; in the oldest portions of downtown, ruins of the Roman harborside market (3rd century CE) rest just inland of the modern port which bustles with international shipping. Ovidius University hosted the conference, and everywhere its namesake was proudly claimed. Ovid probably felt ambivalent about the connection because Tomis was the site of his late-in-life exile documented in his poetic *Lamentations*. Nearby, the city's ancient heritage appears in a statue of Romulus and Remus, nursing at the she-wolf's teat. The photograph I wished I'd snapped was this statue; on the day we drove past it, the she-wolf's base was draped with

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Recalling Carl Harris (1937-2018)

By Elliot Brownlee (September 3, 2018)

My friendship with Carl Harris went back to 1964 when we were graduate students at the University of Wisconsin. We met in the research seminar of Richard N. Current, shared an interest in the history of the American South, and later became the two TAs who staffed Current's Civil War and Reconstruction course. In 1968, he joined the UCSB history department; I had arrived the year before.

When we first met, I was impressed that Carl had been a conscientious objector, the only one at the time in Louisiana (much to the displeasure of the state's Governor). One thing I did not learn then about Carl's youth was that, despite his pacifism, he had been a standout quarterback for his high school team in Jennings, Louisiana. Not surprisingly, he was a brilliant strategist and master tactician on the field. But one afternoon a blitzing linebacker ended his football career. The collision left him with a serious spinal injury, lifelong pain, surgery, and challenging therapies. However, on at least one occasion in the 1980s Carl returned to the field and starred as the best faculty quarterback in the history of department picnics.

During his years in Santa Barbara, Carl's intellect, savvy, competitiveness, and flexibility—along with his integrity and social consciousness—had a major influence on our History department, our campus, and our university. Many examples come to mind. An important one was the establishment of the ethnicity requirement within UCSB's general education program. The catalog still has essentially the same language that Carl helped draft to describe the curricular objective. During a crisis in the process of winning faculty support for the requirement, Carl delivered an eloquent speech in the Faculty Legislature explaining how racism was the foremost social problem in the American historical experience. I was certain that his speech

made all the difference in the outcome. In 2002, Carl's commitment to racial equality also made a difference back in Jennings. In 2002 he and his sister Velma donated a major portion of the rice farm they had inherited to the local school board. The gift expedited passage of a bond issue for a new, and integrated, Junior/Senior high school on that land. The school opened in 2005 just in time for the arrival of Katrina. Undamaged, it served as a shelter for many area residents last September, during Rita.



Carl played a crucial leadership role in improving academic planning. He served, often as chair, on committees dealing with budgets, educational policy, admissions, and shared governance. He earned great respect around the campuses of the University, and his memos became legendary for their thoroughness, incisiveness, and the careful drawing of distinctions. In the History

department, Carl was Vice Chair during a long stretch during the late 1970s and 1980s. He became concerned about the shrinkage of our FTE and space allocations in the wake of the campus enrollment crisis that followed the Isla Vista riots and the rising aspirations of departments that were less well established than History. Our department had become identified as a valuable mine for the extraction of FTE and "space." Campus administrations often supported that strategy. In response, Carl worked successfully to make the department's personnel and planning procedures models for other departments and to win allies beyond the department for what became a successful reversal of the outward flow of resources.

Carl was a brilliant, inspiring teacher of colleagues and students alike. Many readers of *Historia* will no doubt remember his incisive and meticulous readings of their writing, his judicious

project in which he intends to examine the intersection of urban provisioning, meat consumption, and papal politics in what he calls Counter-Reformation Rome's "meat moment." It analyzes the papal politics of food, land, resource control, charity and social welfare and will make a major contribution to the burgeoning field of early modern environmental history. He will enhance existing departmental strengths in religious history, the history of science and the environment, food studies, and gender studies, and he will help to rebuild our early modern European field. A talented teacher, Bouley has won three teaching awards at earlier stages of his career.

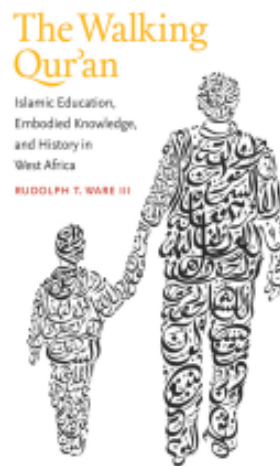
Utathya Chattopadhyaya received his BA in economics at the University of Delhi, an MA in modern history from Jawaharlal Nehru University, and a PhD from the University of Illinois, Champaign Urbana, in July 2018 (where his work was directed by Antoinette Burton). He specializes in peasant labor and social organization and the intersections of local peasant economies with global markets and exchanges of ideas. His dissertation, titled "Naogaon and the World: Intoxication and Imperialism in South Asia and the Indian Ocean, 1840-1940, examines cannabis cultivation in 19th and 20th-century Bengal.

A talented linguist, Chattopadhyaya, did extensive archival research in documents in Bengali, Hindi, Sanskrit, Assamese and Gujarati to produce his commodity study. It situates Bengal as a global center and chronicles the political, economic, religious, and medical factors that shaped the cannabis industry. He has published one-peer-reviewed article, three book chapters, and two book reviews as well as web-based items — an unusually prolific record for a scholar so early in his career. His chapter in the *Cultural History of Western Empires in the Age of Empire* (2017) is a tour de force that displays a vast knowledge of labor and imperial history and demonstrates the shifts from social to cultural approaches to colonial labor history. He will teach undergraduate surveys of modern South Asian and World History and more specialized upper division courses.

Butch Ware comes to UCSB as associate professor of history, having taught at Northwestern from 2004-2008 and at the University of Michigan from 2008-2018. His BA is from the University of Minnesota and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania,

and he is a historian of West Africa (especially the Senegambia region) with additional research interests in the Atlantic world, the African Diaspora, slavery, race, the body, and Islamic beliefs, practices, and institutions. The courses he will teach in these fields will further enrich our curriculum and connect with considerable strengths already well established.

Ware is fluent in Arabic, Wolof and French, and his first book, *The Walking Qur'an: Islamic Education, Embodied Knowledge, and History in West Africa* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014) drew upon extensive fieldwork in West Africa and archival sources in Senegal, France, and the UK. One important measure of the interest it generated is that a roundtable with articles by six scholars about the book was published by *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* (2015). Very few historians can claim that their first book inspired a discussion that filled an entire issue of a scholarly journal.



The Walking Qur'an repositions Africans at the center of discourses about Islamic knowledge. Ware's book connects Islamic studies with African studies and unpacks the colonial racist notion of an "African Islam" — an understanding that has relegated the history of Muslim religious culture in West Africa into the periphery of the Islamic world. By considering the long period spanning the divide between pre-colonial and (post)colonial Africa, Ware provides a macrohistorical account that reunites a recently contentious past. One reviewer praised the "originality and depth of his contribution to the understanding of Islamic education" and added that "no historian of Africa has done more to rehabilitate" perceptions of Islamic education and to correct "negative portrayals" of it "in the European colonial literature and by film-makers." Ware has also published numerous articles, review essays, translations, and other pieces and is now at work on his next major project which has the working title of "The First Atlantic Revolution: Islam, Abolition, and Republic in Senegambia, c. 1776."

Recalling Harold Kirker (1921-2018)

by Rick Kennedy

Harold Kirker taught us, his students, that the academic life should be genteel, broadening, and gracious. He promoted the arts of going slow, reading widely, and keeping history humane. He liked to walk with a single student around the lagoon while talking about people, architecture, literature, and birds. He told me that once when he was hiking in the Sierra Nevada with Henry May, his great friend in the Berkeley history department, the two sat down for a rest under a tree, pulled novels out of their rucksacks, and both, unbeknownst to the other, had brought Henry James's *Portrait of a Lady*. To him, this exemplified the highest level of scholar-friendship.



Kirker hiking in the Dolomites, 1949

Kirker often recommended to his American history students that they read the Roman stoics. He cultivated the demeanor of a stoic uncle. Invited to meet my new wife in married student housing, she greeted him at the door as Professor Kirker. He bowed, took her hand, and said, "Susan. Your husband must call me Professor Kirker. You must call me Harold."

His father was a quiet man, a merchant seaman with little education who was often away at sea. For a couple years in the late 1920s, his father tried to run

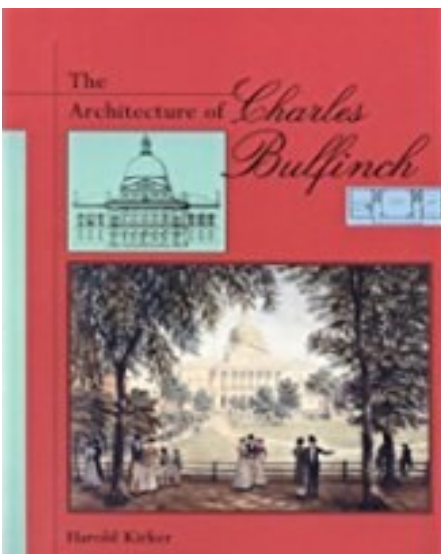
a garage near the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco, but the business failed in the Depression. Growing up, Harold and his twin brother were most influenced by their grandmother. She taught them to appreciate art, literature, and education. In Boy Scouts young Harold learned to love birds and the outdoors. As a teenager, he joined the Sierra Club, helping with club outings on which Ansel Adams would play the violin at evening campfires.

World War II came when he was a 19 year old undergraduate at Berkeley. In April 1941, nine months before the attack on Pearl Harbor, he was recruited by David Brower, a man who would become one of the most famous environmentalists of the 1960s and 70s, to join twenty other Sierra Club men to test Army mountain gear up in the Sierra Nevada. The next year Kirker was asked to join the Tenth Mountain Division that was being gathered in Colorado. He served first in Alaska and then in Italy. His brother fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Neither wanted to talk about the war when decades later I asked them questions. They remained bachelors and were extremely close. We students suspected that there was much in the Depression and then the war that informed his stoic nature and desire for personal freedom. Once, while he was rummaging in his desk for something, with his head still down, he plopped a case in front of me and asked: "Have you ever seen a bronze star?" I opened it while he continued to rummage in his desk. I asked how he got the star. He said it was political. He was just a quartermaster. He did not fight. He said a lot of people in the Tenth Mountain Division got these. He took the case from me, closed it, and put it back in his desk.

The only war story he liked to tell began: "On the last day of my leave, I determined to seek out George Santayana, who was reported to be in seclusion somewhere in Rome. Inquiry at the American embassy led me to a convent hospital on a bluff overlooking the city." This account of his war-time conversation was later published in the *Bulletin of the Santayana Society* (Fall 1990, 35-37). As an undergraduate at Berkeley, Kirker had learned about Santayana, the reclusive bachelor philosopher, and he recommended Santayana's books to all his students. Santayana was a life-model for him.

After the war, still without an undergrad degree, he

entered Harvard business school, but soon returned to Europe to serve as a civilian working for the army during the rebuilding process. He loved the Alps and had many climbing stories from that period. After five years in Europe, he decided to go back to Berkeley for a Ph.D. I asked how that worked since he did not yet have a BA degree. He vaguely told me that such things were easily worked out for returning soldiers. At Berkeley he studied under Carl Bridenbaugh, later a president of the AHA. Kirker's Ph.D. dissertation, "California's Architectural Frontier" became a Western classic and is considered foundational for students of the cultural history of California. Bridenbaugh, back in the era of the Old Boy's Network, sent Kirker to a cushy, non-tenured, position at MIT, a position that Bridenbaugh himself had used to launch his career. There Kirker, always a supporter of local history, decided to study Charles Bulfinch, Boston's most important architect during the Early National period. In conjunction with his twin brother, he produced *Bulfinch's Boston*, published by Oxford in 1964, a classic in New England studies. It is a beautiful book about post-revolutionary



civic pride, cultural hopes, the transition of architecture transition from genteel amateurism to professional standing. Kirker followed it a book that Harvard University Press still sells (now in a paperback edition) — *The Architecture of Charles Bulfinch*.

Kirker came to UCSB in 1967. He told me that Warren Hollister offered him the job while the two of them sat at a hotel bar, late in the day, during an AHA convention. When I was struggling to find an academic job in 1986, he apologized to me for his lack of experience in this matter. He said that he had never actually applied for any job. Whether in Boston or Santa Barbara or, after retirement, in San Francisco, Kirker promoted local history and historic preservation. For his long service, he was named an "Honorary Life Trustee" of the Santa Barbara Trust for

Historic Preservation. His student Jarrell Jackman became the long-time director of the organization while other students such as Patrick O'Dowd and Cathy Rudolph were central to its work. Chris Nelson, another student, co-authored Santa Barbara's best architectural tour book and later became a historian for San Francisco's architectural Heritage Foundation. Cleaning out some boxes, Kirker gave me a picture of the mayor of San Francisco giving him an award for work in that city's historic preservation.

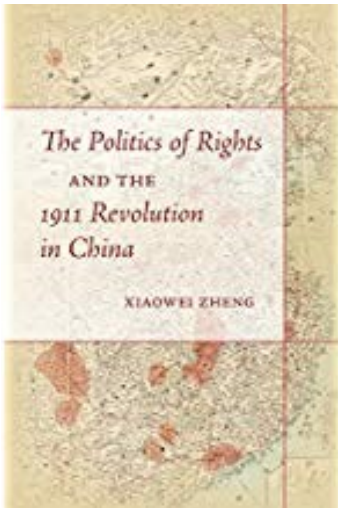
Kirker's students have many stories of his wisdom and kindness. I was working in the Harvard archives one summer when a librarian leaned over my shoulder and said: "The director would like to see you." She walked me back to an office where the director looked up from his work and said he would like to take me to lunch at the Harvard Faculty Club. He had seen my entry card stating that I was working for a Ph.D. under Harold Kirker who had taken him to lunch in the Harvard Faculty Club when he was a young librarian. He wanted now to take me in order to pass on the kindness.

For us who were his students, Kirker modeled the life of genteel scholarship, an uplifting life focused on the creativity of humans. He believed in beauty, simplicity, and the good life. We, his students, all remember how adamantly he would quote the decree of Henry David Thoreau: "Simplify, Simplify, Simplify." I was with him for a long lunch in San Francisco a few months before he died. The hostess seated us at his regular table. The waiter greeted him by name and asked if he wanted to start with his usual Manhattan. We talked about T. S. Eliot because Harold—he now insisted I call him Harold—at our previous lunch earlier in the year had told me that I needed to read Eliot's books. For forty years, Harold had been guiding my reading. At one point, Harold, ninety-six years old, leaned back in his chair and, from memory, recited several verses from Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock." History, for Harold, was not a narrow academic discipline. He taught us that it is a way of engaging with all that is human.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU: Send letters to: Editor, Historia, Dept. of History, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9410 (or e-mail to: jsmcgee@history.ucsb.edu).

New Faculty Books

On December 21, 1911, the famous revolutionary leader Sun Yat-sen came back to China after long periods of exile and found the country in the throes of the sweeping transformation. It is the subject of **Xiaowei Zheng's** first book. In *The Politics of Rights and the 1911 Revolution in China* (Stanford University Press, 2018), she argues that



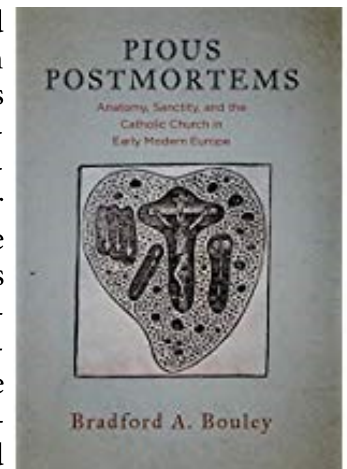
the central tensions in Chinese politics today first took shape in the 1911 Revolution which led to the overthrow of the Qing/Manchu dynasty. Between October 10 and November 22, fourteen provinces had broken their ties to the imperial government, and members of the political elite were abandoning their loyalty to the Qing court. Based on previously

untapped Qing and Republican sources, Zheng offers a nuanced and colorful chronicle of the revolution as it unfolded at the local level. Rather than the success or failure of the revolution, her focus is on the transformative consequences that revolution has on people and what they learn from it. Professor Matthew Sommer, chair of Stanford's history department, writes that "in this powerful, original analysis, Xiaowei Zheng traces the genealogy of 'constitutionalism,' and the transformation of elite consciousness in the last decades of the Qing dynasty. She analyzes both political culture and electoral politics and skillfully tacks between local and national levels. This is the best book on the 1911 Revolution to appear in many years, and it will be the point of departure for all future research on the subject."

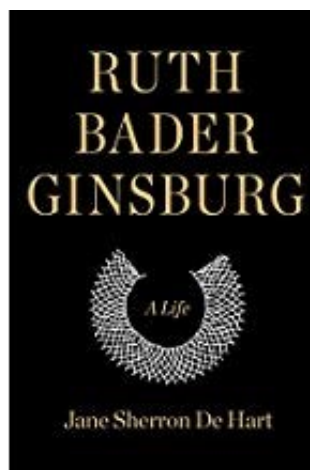
Brad Bouley, in his *Pious Postmortems: Anatomy, Sanctity and the Catholic Church in Early Modern Europe* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017), considers dozens of autopsy reports in the Vatican archives to tell a surprising story about how, beginning late in the 16th century, the Roman Catholic Church recruited university-trained physicians to provide expert testimony about the reputedly holy corpses in order to determine whether the individuals proposed for sainthood should be so proclaimed. For example, when Filippo Neri, the

"apostle of Rome," died in 1595, his autopsy revealed that he had possessed an unusually large and muscular heart — anatomical proof that he had been touched by God.

The practitioners and physicians engaged in such postmortem examinations furthered their study of human anatomy and irregularity in nature, even if their judgments regarding the viability of the miraculous may have been compromised by political expediency. After examining the complex relationship between the Roman curia and medicine, Bouley concludes



that neither religious nor scientific truths were self-evident but rather negotiated through a complicated array of local and broader interests. According to one scholarly reviewer, this topic "has hitherto been largely ignored in the history of sixteenth and seventeenth-century anatomy . . . In Bouley's hands, the subject proves to cross through more than one key domain in the history of medicine—the role of learned medicine, questions of gender, the process by which medical figures began to establish standards for knowledge based on practical experience, and the role of medicine in the Church."



Jane DeHart, professor emerita, has published the first full-length biography of Ruth Bader Ginsburg (Penguin/Random House). The book began as an examination of Ginsburg's litigation strategy for pursuing gender equality in the late 1960s. Ginsburg gave DeHart access to her litigation archives and also a series of interviews which led De Hart to turn the project into

this 700 page biography of the 107th justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. DeHart describes "RBG" from her days as a baton twirler at Brooklyn's James Madison High School, to Cornell University, Harvard and Columbia Law Schools (first in her class; to being a law professor at Rutgers (one of the few women in the field and fighting pay discrimination); hiding her second pregnancy to avoid losing her job; founding the *Women's Rights Law Reporter*; composing the brief for the

several of Romania's ubiquitous stray dogs. Such are the high-flown aspirations and gritty realities that link present to past in this nation's struggles.

Turn-of-the-century patrons carefully selected Ovid, Romulus and Remus from antiquity in order to accomplish specific cultural work, especially in the wake of independence in 1878 from Ottoman rule and the need to reintegrate this region with other areas, including Romania's more famous Transylvanian parts in the Carpathians. Some of this cultural work fell to the various folk-art museums I saw, both in Constanța and in Bucharest, and the rest was carried by countless statues, plaques, memorial parks and plazas honoring 19th and 20th-century Romanian artists, heroes and royalty who represented Romania as a modern and refined nation.

Still sharply separate, but awaiting integration, are histories of the communist regime, and the deployment of historical narratives by Ceausescu's state. Several Romanian sites have been assimilated into the emergent transnational narrative of the fall of Communism, including the gigantic Parliament of the People (the third largest building, by volume, in the world) and Ceausescu's private residence (decorated with elements copied from the homes of other communist dictators to make a sort of iconographic echo-chamber). Both are in Bucharest. Perhaps the abandoned grain elevators dotting the countryside would serve just as well as monuments to communism's failures. They are somewhat harder to sell tickets to, however.

Could these apparently distinct threads be darned back together into a continuous whole. Local controversy surrounds the "Casino," a 1910 Beaux Arts building at Constanța's waterfront that had been bombed in WWI, but was later restored and used as an elegant event center throughout the twentieth century. Several individuals told me how distressed they are about the open looting of this building since 2000. It was, after all, a survivor of both World Wars I and II as well as the darkest years of Ceausescu's regime; it is the site of many fond memories of weddings and birthday celebrations. These people expressed anger that beautiful stained glass window and elegant fixtures were stolen from the building. It remains to be seen whether that outrage will evolve into some sort of communal action. Similarly, a remarkable 600 square meters of



Roman mosaic floor from a 5th century market was discovered during a construction project in 1959. Although an elaborate concrete and glass wall was placed around the mosaic, it now looks like a ruin because many the glass panels are shattered and the mosaic is threatened by water damage. The docent explained that these and other historic sites are endangered because there are no resources for preservation or maintenance.

And herein lies a present-day Public History tragedy: my guides (professors and graduate students from Ovidius) often remarked that there was little public-minded volunteerism, no tradition of private philanthropy, and very little state funding to save these places from destruction. While the European Union is providing grants for some cooperative regional projects, the intellectual capital to execute such projects seems hard to come by. A brain drain out of the country makes it difficult to promote investment in cultural heritage at home. Indeed, many, if not most, of the American Studies majors at the conference were using their English-language as a springboard to foreign opportunities.

It would seem a hopeless situation. But one aspect of the mosaic was stressed to visitors again and again: there is a hidden message embedded in a corner of the design, which, once traced out, is clearly a dove, worked in stone. The dove has been interpreted as a secret signature from a 5th century Christian craftsman. This seemed a small sign of hope that somehow, the important places—such as the mosaics, the Casino, and —might endure until the day when history itself will be able to return from exile to sit again, with pride, in the public square.

and patient counsel, and his inspiring and crystal-clear lectures. Research was the bulwark of his success in the classroom. While he was often categorized as a historian of the American South, a more important theme throughout his scholarship was the study of the distribution of political power in American society and its influence on economic and social development. His book, *Political Power in Birmingham, 1871-1921*, provided an intricate examination of the political economy of a city that in important ways was both similar to, and different from, other rapidly industrializing cities during the period. And his monographic essay, "Right Fork or Left Fork? The Section-Party Alignments of Southern Democrats in Congress, 1873-1897," upended the prevailing view of the political strategies and outcomes associated with the return of the former Confederate states to the Union. In his later scholarship he returned to the urban South and to Birmingham as a case study of the intersection of the issues of race and class. He left a massive manuscript entitled "The Social Core of Jim Crow," which David and Susan Harris have asked me to help bring into publication. Carl and I did not leave too much unsaid. But I am grateful to have a way of continuing our conversation.

Cont. from p. 6—De Hart

first case that persuaded the Supreme Court to strike down a sex-discriminatory state law; becoming the first tenured female professor at the Columbia Law School; convincing the Supreme Court in a series of decisions to reject laws that denied women full citizenship status with men. The book also treats Ginsburg's years on the U.S. Court of Appeals and on the Supreme Court, during which she decided cases the way she played golf, as she, left-handed, played with right-handed clubs—aiming left, swinging right, hitting down the middle. Jeffrey Rosen, professor of law at George Mason University, reviewed the book in the *Washington Post* and praised it as "a vivid account of a remarkable life" which is admirable for its "comprehensiveness, range and attention to detail."

Kudos to Faculty

The Jerry Bentley Prize of the American Historical Association for the best book published in World History in 2018 has been awarded to **Erika Rappaport** for *A Thirst for Empire: How Tea Shaped the Modern World* (Princeton University Press).

Anita Guerrini, Horning Professor of the Humanities and Professor of History at Oregon State University and an adjunct professor at UCSB, has won the 2018 Pfizer Award, [*The Courtiers' Anatomists: Animals and Humans in Louis XIV's Paris*](#) (University of Chicago Press, 2015). The Pfizer Book Prize awarded in recognition of an outstanding book in the history of science.

Cecilia Mendez-Gastelumendi has been appointed the Director of the Program in Latin American and Iberian Studies (the oldest interdisciplinary program on the campus).

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