

HISTORY MATTERS

The Newsletter of the Department of History, York University

Department of History

1.2

Spring 2019



A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



(L) Professor and Chair Thabit A. J. Abdullah,
(R) Undergraduate Program Director and University Professor Adrian Shubert

Throughout North America, Liberal Arts departments, including History departments, have been suffering from declining enrolments. It is, therefore, quite pleasant to read the results of a recent survey of US and Canadian universities and colleges by the American Historical Association (AHA). In its January 2019 issue of *Perspectives on History*, the AHA notes a clear stabilization and an upward trend in enrolments during 2017/18. This trend is clearly visible in our department. The survey adds that this upward trend in enrolments is the result of a variety of factors, including: a better appreciation on the part of businesses and institutions of the skills (critical reading, clear and concise writing, and thorough research) that History departments teach; more innovative courses that relate to contemporary concerns; and better outreach and marketing. We at York University's History department have certainly done our part with new courses that address students' current interests, such as our first-year course 'Disasters in History' that uses historical perspectives to explore the reciprocal relationship between people and nature in the

production of disasters. More traditional courses like 'War Revolution and Society' have been updated to consider the events unleashed by the end of the Cold War and recent developments in the Middle East. We have also introduced new programmes like the Public History Certificate (featured on p. 4), as well as more flexible class formats like semester-long and online courses.

'WE AT YORK UNIVERSITY'S HISTORY DEPARTMENT HAVE CERTAINLY DONE OUR PART WITH NEW COURSES THAT ADDRESS STUDENTS' CURRENT INTERESTS.'

This second issue of *History Matters* continues to celebrate our accomplishments within a new, hopefully more appealing, look. I am particularly happy that it features one of our graduate students, Natasha Henry (pp. 4-5); graduate students form one of the main pillars of our department. I would like to call upon our alumni to please send us their news and help put us in touch with other York History graduates whom we might have missed.

Thabit A. J. Abdullah (Professor and Chair)

ALUMNI NEWS

George Hewson (BA 1972; MA 1975). Following some thirty years as a History teacher in secondary schools, Mr Hewson moved to the Royal Ontario Museum, where he is now a 'Bilingual Teacher' of 'World Cultures' in the Learning and Programmes Departments.

Andrew Holman (PhD 1995) co-authored (with Stephen Hardy) *Hockey: A Global History*. Urbana-Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2018. 600 pp. Holman is Professor of History and Director of the Canadian Studies Program at Bridgewater State University, Massachusetts.

Ernest Ialongo (BA 1992, MA 1996) has been promoted to Full Professor of History at Hostos Community College, City University of New York. His research concerns modern Italian history.

Wayne Kerr (MA 2001) is trained in engineering, law, and history, and is currently Vice President of Operations for fluidconcepts, a Canadian company specializing in contemporary office furniture. His passion for history continues: he is presently a McMurtry Circle member of the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History.

Jessica Martin (BA 2018) took up a position in spring 2018 as Historical Interpreter with the Scarborough Museum, after completing a placement there in 2018 as part of HIST 4840: *Public History*. In addition to leading guided tours, she is conducting research on a future exhibit at the museum.



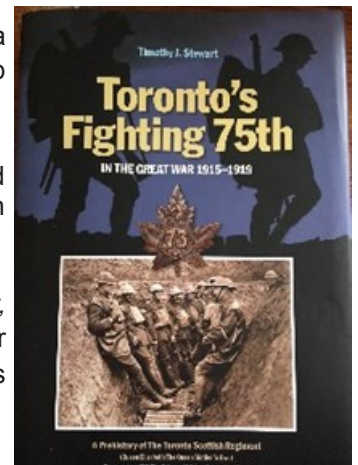
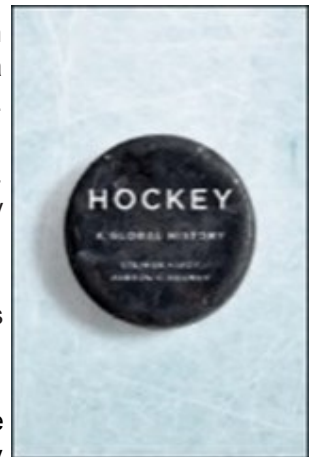
Colin McCullough (PhD 2013) was recently appointed to the position of Policy Analyst in the Ontario Government Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Hassam Munir (BA 2017) is pursuing a part-time MA in History at the University of Toronto while working full-time in public relations at Islamic Relief Canada, Canada's largest Muslim charity. He is also a Research Fellow at Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research, a think tank based in the U.S.

Ahmer Sherani (BA 2017) recently completed a limited-term contract as Programmes Assistant at Heritage Toronto, a position he took up after completing a placement there in Spring 2017 as part of HIST 4840: *Public History*.

Lee Slinger (PhD 2015) has recently been appointed to the position of Editorial and Proposal Development Officer at the University of Toronto, which involves her working with academic researchers to craft proposals for grant competitions.

Timothy J. Stewart (BA 1979) recently published *Toronto's Fighting 75th in the Great War, 1915–1919: A Pre-History of The Toronto Scottish Regiment*. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2017. He is presently a Department Head in Canadian and World Studies in the TCDSB.



Thank you to all the alumni who have contributed to our newsletter and supported the History Department through donations. Our departmental committee will ensure that your gift will be distributed toward a variety of activities and initiatives benefiting our teaching and students. You may make your donation here: giving.yorku.ca/laps.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018-19 WINNERS OF THE UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY ESSAY AWARDS

Best 1000-level essay:

Tamar Wise, 'Comparative Analysis of Melba Patillo Beals's *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High* and Bev Sellars's *They Called Me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School*,' for HIST 1080: *Growing Up in North America* (Prof. M. Ladd-Taylor; TA: Virginia Grimaldi).

Best 3000-level essay:

Ranfateh Chattha, 'State Management and Private Enterprise in the Grain Supply of Ancient Rome,' for HIST/CLST 3140: *The City in the Roman World* (Prof. B. Kelly).

Best 4000-level essays (two awards):

Sarah Polychronopoulos, 'An Analysis of the Intergenerational Trauma within Indo-Guyanese Families, from 1838 to Present,' for HIST 4850: *History of Me* (Prof. D. Koffman).

Mike Roberts, 'What's a good story anyway? Science-Fiction Fix-Ups and Story as Concept,' for HIST 4230: *Technologies of Communication* (Prof. M. Schotte).

HARRY S. CROWE PRIZE

Chris Paulin, 'Historiographic Review of *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* by Christopher R. Browning; *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust* by Daniel J. Goldhagen; and *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland* by Jan T. Gross,' for HIST 3843: *Occupation, Collaboration and Death* (Prof. D. Neill).

PETER KNIGHTS MEMORIAL PRIZE IN U.S.

HISTORY

Majd Obeid, 'The Mass Incarceration of African Americans in the United States of America,' for HIST 4061: *Race and Politics in America Since WWII* (Prof. K. Boyd).

BERNARD LUK ESSAY PRIZES IN EAST ASIAN HISTORY

Naomi Ridout, '“He has given up an immense amount for his wife”: The Impact of a Transgressive Relationship on the Social and Professional Life of an Englishman in Early Colonial Hong Kong,' for HIST 4850: *History of Me* (Prof. D. Koffman).

Beatrice Sohler, 'How Photographic Mediums Shaped and Challenged the Portrayals of Japanese Women in Late 19th and Early 20th Century Japan,' for HIST 4765: *Gender in East Asian History* (Prof. J. Kim).

Rebecca Giblon (BA 2019, History and BComm 2019, Finance) has been awarded a funded PhD position in economic history at Princeton University. She plans to study the intersection between broader economic conditions and social structures in nineteenth- and twentieth-century North America and Western Europe.



'INHABITED PEDAGOGY': REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

On 14 March, the Department of History played host to a discussion of 'inhabited pedagogy', as it bears on history and other realms of study. We owed the term to Danielle Robinson (Associate Professor, Dance, AMPD), who spoke of her own research on Regency weekends. **Aaron Miedema** (PhD 6, History) taught a volunteer from the audience to lunge with a sword in Renaissance fashion. **Virginia Grimaldi** (PhD 3, History) drew lessons for university from teaching young children on four continents. **Victoria Jackson** (PhD 6, History) spoke about the ethical risks present when one presumes to inhabit other races. Sara Thompson (PhD 6, Humanities) explained her doctoral work on Renfaires. Sam McCready (PhD 3, Communication and Culture) explored Cold War computer games that can teach reflective history, and Cindy Jiang (PhD 1, Critical Disability Studies, School of Health Policy and Management) showed how film leads students toward mental illness felt from within. Ken Little (Associate Professor, Anthropology) asked us to think what a move 'inside' does and does not entail. In sum, games and simulations enliven classes. If done well, they also teach critical distance, attention to detail, and a wholesome integration of abstract thought and concrete experience. The room was packed; the participants want to pursue these matters further.

THE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HISTORY



Public History student Luiza Samoilescu puts the final touches on her case exhibition at the Archives of Ontario, March 2018

The History Department is celebrating the one-year anniversary of its Undergraduate Cross-Disciplinary Certificate in Public History, launched in May 2018.

A collaborative initiative with the History Department at Glendon College and the Visual Art/Art History programme in AMPD, the Certificate gives students the opportunity to bundle twenty-four credits from a wide range of courses in public history, curatorial practice, and other subjects related to historical memory, reconciliation, and the presentation of historical knowledge.

A capstone course in Public History incorporates a twelve-week part-time placement at a museum, archive, gallery, or historical organization in the Greater Toronto Area. Here students work on projects tailored for the certificate programme and the needs of the host institution, producing a range of public history products such as walking tours, small case exhibitions, documentary videos, audio tours, and research reports.

What is Public History? Public (or 'Applied') History encompasses the ways that history is produced for and understood by public audiences in a wide range of venues including museums and historical sites, public school classrooms, television documentaries, online venues, popular history books, and family history albums.

How to Apply. Students can apply for admission to the Certificate at the end of their second year (after completing 54 credits) or in their third or fourth years, incorporating completed credits in eligible courses. We are currently accepting applications for the 2019-20 year. See the History Department website for more information.

GRADUATE PROGRAMME NEWS

Paul Aikenhead (PhD 2018) completed his PhD, having successfully defended his dissertation 'Real Rock: Authenticity and Popular Music in Canada, 1984-1994', supervised by Prof. M. Shore, in September 2018.

Patrice Allen (PhD 4) won the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching. The nomination for the award praised her 'commitment to transforming the classroom into a site of social justice and change while maintaining the highest academic standards' and her 'dedication to positive and engaged learning'. Ms Allen was honoured at the Faculty's annual awards ceremony in January 2019.

GRADUATE STUDENT INTERVIEW: NATASHA HENRY (PHD 3)

1. What is the focus of your PhD research and why did you choose York History as the place to pursue it?

My dissertation research focuses on the enslavement of African men, women, and children in Upper Canada (present-day Ontario) between 1760 and 1834. I chose York History to complete my PhD because it is one of Canada's most diverse History programmes, with a range of areas of specialization. Also, the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and its Diasporas at York University is a trailblazing research institute. Tubman was the lead organization in the international collaborative SSHRC-funded project, *Slavery, Memory, Citizenship*, and played a role in the UNESCO *Slave Route Project*. Tubman's immediate past director, Prof. Michele Johnson, and its Senior Fellow, Prof. Paul Lovejoy, have a strong research background in the history of African Diasporic communities, including those in Canada. These pros made York my ideal choice.



2. What sources and archives have you been using, and how does the nature of these resources determine what can be known about Black slavery in Ontario?

Some of the archives that I have been and will be using include: the Archives of Ontario; the Library and Archives Canada; church and city archives; the smaller archives of historical societies; and archives in Canada and New York with United Empire Loyalists record holdings. I am using these to undertake a statistical and textual analysis of a range of primary records, including military returns, legislature journals, court and notarial documents, wills, town censuses, church registers, bills of slave sales, sale advertisements, hire-out contracts, and slave advertisements.

The enslaved did not create their own records, therefore I have to extract information from the colonial archives – from the records that were produced by white men for white men, who held Blacks in bondage and maintained the institution of slavery. So the identities of the producers and audiences of these archival documents have implications for what can be gleaned about Black enslavement in early Ontario. Further, some records are not easily accessible because many archives with holdings on the early history of Ontario do not have a system specific to locating the enslaved and enslavement in their collections. As a consequence, part of my research examines how these factors interact to create different levels of silencing pertaining to the history of slavery in Canada.

3. Have you yet been able to reconstruct any microhistories of Black individuals who were enslaved in Ontario?

It is part of my ongoing research to include some biographical narratives of a few people who were enslaved, while enumerating how many Black people were held in slavery in early Ontario. I want to honour the humanity, contributions, and memory of these women, men, and children to whom this basic dignity was denied. One person whose story I have been able to piece together in a cursory manner using ‘archival fragments’ is a Black woman named Bet. Her life in enslavement as well as my research methodology for excavating her narrative are the subjects of my chapter, ‘Bet?: Locating Enslaved Black Women on the Ontario Landscape,’ in the forthcoming edited collection, *Unsettling the Great White North*. Bet’s story encapsulates the multiple layers of oppression that enslaved Black women faced based on their race, gender, and social status as chattels and non-persons.

4. In what ways were the lives of the people you are studying shaped by the large-scale historical processes of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century North America and the Atlantic World?

While I am examining the scale and scope of a specific regional form of domestic slavery, the forced migration and enslavement of Black people in early Ontario and in eastern Canada needs to be understood as having been shaped by a number of large-scale historical processes: the global phenomenon of the Transatlantic slave trade; the French and British colonization of Canada and the ‘New World’; and the conflict between Britain and the American Rebels – the American Revolution – that resulted in a British loss and subsequent Loyalist exile that included the relocation of the Blacks they enslaved.

In situating Black enslavement in early Ontario within these large-scale historical processes, we develop a clearer picture of the operationalization of slavery in the colonies that made up what we now call Canada. We can also see how these colonies were inextricably linked to worldwide phenomena, including the commodification of Black people, the importation of slave-produced goods from the Caribbean, and the exportation of salted cod and timber to Caribbean slave colonies. Canada therefore cannot be disentangled from the broader scheme of race-based chattel slavery created to fuel European imperialism and colonization.

5. You have a parallel career as an elementary school teacher and curriculum consultant. How do you think your research will lead to curriculum development at the elementary school level?

I am completing a hybrid dissertation, with the traditional written submission and a digital humanities component in the form of a web-based database that provides a comprehensive census of slave ownership in Ontario. I intend for it to be a research and educational tool.

In 2013, slavery in Canada was included for the first time in the learning expectations of the Ontario Social Studies, History, and Geography curriculums. To encourage the use of my research in classrooms, I will draw on my curricular development expertise to create teaching units to support elementary and secondary educators’ teaching about slavery in Canada. My goal is for my research to contribute substantially to historical scholarship on Canadian slavery, to public knowledge, and to the teaching of slavery in Canada.

FACULTY NEWS

Edward Jones-Imhotep (Associate Professor) and **Joan Judge** (Professor) were named 2018 York Research Leaders. Prof. Jones-Imhotep was honoured because he won the 2017 Abbot Payson Usher Prize from the Society for the History of Technology, and Prof. Judge because she was elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Mark Jurdjevic (Professor, Glendon History and Graduate Programme in History) has won a John Simon Guggenheim fellowship, to be held in 2019–20. He will be researching the friendship between Machiavelli and Guicciardini, the correspondence between them and their patronage network, and its impact upon late Renaissance developments in historical and political realism.

Carolyn Podruchny (Professor) won the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching (Full Time Faculty). In the nomination for the award, she was praised for an approach to teaching that 'encourages broad, critical and deep thinking about both past and present'.

Carolyn Podruchny (Professor), **Alan Corbiere** (PhD 2), and **Anong Beam** (MA 2) won a Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Excellence in Conservation for their work organizing the Manitoulin Island Summer Historical Institute (MISHI). The Institute is designed to nurture, promote and disseminate Anishinaabe knowledge held by Elders and knowledge-carriers in Anishinaabe spaces and to reach out to university-based scholars and students to transform academic knowledge. The seven-day 2018 MISHI explored Anishinaabe world-views through clans, generations, and interconnectedness from a multi-disciplinary perspective. Co-sponsored by the History of Indigenous Peoples (HIP) Network, a research cluster embedded within the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies at York University, and the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation (OCF), an organization devoted to Anishinaabe culture, the summer institute brought together thirty-two established and emerging professors, graduate and undergraduate students, administrators, archivists, Elders, and knowledge-keepers to explore the history through site visits, lectures, stories, and activities on the island. MISHI 2018 had two Anishinaabe instructors and nineteen guest speakers, and also visited the Wikwemikong Heritage Organization, dedicated to preserving and enhancing Anishinaabe culture through education and participatory cultural opportunities with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.



From left: Gilberto Fernandes, Carolyn Podruchny, and Thabit Abdullah (Professor and Chair) at the Ontario Heritage Award presentation ceremony.

Gilberto Fernandes (PhD 2014, History and Post-Doctoral Visitor at the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies) won a Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Excellence in Conservation for the City Builders project. This is a public history project aimed at recording, examining, and divulging the history of Toronto's immigrant construction workers and their labour organization after the Second World War. Since November 2017, Dr Fernandes has led a team of experiential education students, research and digitization assistants, filmmakers, designers, and other professionals towards delivering a digital humanities website packed with interactive maps,

timelines, biographies, photos, and audio recordings; nineteen short oral history videos featuring retired construction workers and labour organizers; a two-part documentary totalling ninety minutes; and a multimedia travelling exhibition. You can find all its digital contents on its website: <https://toronto-city-builders.org/>. The City Builders exhibition also took place at the Columbus Centre from 19 to 31 March 2019, as part of the Myseum Intersections festival.



'THAN LONGEN FOLK TO GOON ON PILGRIMAGES...': RACHEL KOOPMANS AT CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

After close to a decade working on the history of the medieval stained glass of Canterbury Cathedral, this past summer **Rachel Koopmans** (Associate Professor) had the remarkable opportunity to team up with the cathedral's conservation experts to examine some of the glass out of the windows. This examination was stimulated by Koopmans' discovery of archival materials (photographs, notebooks, and other documentation) that suggested that two panels that had been long dismissed as late Victorian creations were in fact made by medieval glaziers in the late twelfth century. Canterbury Cathedral's medieval glass is a Scheduled Monument, the highest heritage category in Britain, and so permission had to be sought for the removal of the glass and promises had to be made that the glass would not be altered in any way. The cost of the project, some £25,000, was generously supplied by the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral, while Koopmans' own expenses were met by a British Academy Visiting fellowship.

In July 2018, ten figural panels, including the two queried panels, were removed from one window. Koopmans and Leonie Seliger, the head of the conservation studio at Canterbury, spent eight weeks analyzing every piece of glass to determine whether it was a medieval original or a modern replacement. This painstaking analysis of thousands of individual pieces of glass was well worth the effort, as the two queried panels were indeed proved to be medieval creations, and overall the work resulted in a greatly improved understanding of the window's iconography, purpose, and dating. One of the queried panels was proved to be the earliest known depiction of pilgrims on the road to Canterbury (image on p. 1), a discovery that attracted international media interest, including television coverage from the BBC and ITV Meridian news. This remarkable panel will also feature in a documentary to be aired on Britain's Channel 4. A video of Prof. Koopmans discussing the discovery can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GrWXDEeEzg>.

Buoyed by the success of the project, Koopmans and Seliger are now seeking funding for the examination of the remaining seven windows in the sequence. While Koopmans must keep mum about the details, she can say that there is good reason to hope that the glass in the next window will come out in 2020, and that it promises to be an even more exciting project than the last.



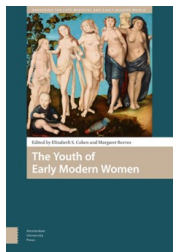
RESEARCH BY FACULTY IN PROGRESS

Stephen Brooke (Professor) is presently completing a book entitled *London 1984*, which is a study of a variety of events and spaces which illustrate a moment of political and social change in the history of London and the history of twentieth-century Britain.

Carl Ehrlich (Professor) is presently editing Volume 2 of his parents' magnum opus: Leonard H. Ehrlich and Edith Ehrlich, *Choices under Duress of the Holocaust: Benjamin Murelstein and the Fate of Viennese Jewry*. Volume 1 of the work, also edited by Prof. Ehrlich, appeared in 2018 with Texas Tech University Press.

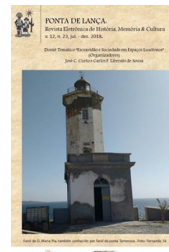
Gregory Mixon (Visiting Professor from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte) holds a four-month research chair in North American Studies awarded by Fulbright Canada and the Fulbright Foundation in the United States. He is researching his third book project: *Carolina's Militiamen, 1865-1898*. The research project is a comparative study of African American militiamen in North Carolina and South Carolina from the end of the U.S. Civil War in 1865 to the Spanish American War of 1898. Professor Mixon wishes to thank the all the members of the History Department and the Harriet Tubman Institute for their warm welcome.

NEW BOOKS BY FACULTY AND EMERITI



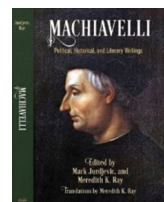
Elizabeth S. Cohen and Margaret Reeves (eds.) 2018. *The Youth of Early Modern Women*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. 344 pp. Open Access through the The OAPEN Foundation.

José C. Curto and **Carlos Liberato** (eds.) 2018. *Ponta de Lança: Revista Eletrônica de História, Memória & Cultura*, 12.23. Journal special issue: 'Escravidão e Sociedade em Espaços Lusófonos'.

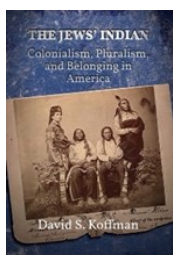


Leonard H. Ehrlich and Edith Ehrlich. 2018. *Choices under Duress of the Holocaust: Benjamin Murmelstein and the Fate of Viennese Jewry*. Volume I: Vienna. Edited by **Carl S. Ehrlich**; Lubbock, Tex.: Texas Tech University Press. 651 pp.

Mark Jurdjevic, Natasha Piano, and John McCormick (eds. and trans.). 2019. *Florentine Political Writings from Petrarch to Machiavelli*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 352 pp.

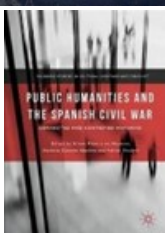


Mark Jurdjevic and Meredith Ray (eds. and trans.). 2019. *Machiavelli: Political, Literary, and Historical Writings*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. 368 pp.



David S. Koffman. 2019. *The Jews' Indian: Colonialism, Pluralism, and Belonging in America*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. 286 pp.

Paul E. Lovejoy. 2019. *Slavery in the Global Diaspora of Africa*. London: Routledge. 312 pp.



Alison Ribeiro de Menezes, Antonio Cazorla-Sanchez, and **Adrian Shubert** (eds.) 2018. *Public Humanities and the Spanish Civil War: Connected and Contested Histories*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan

Bob Tadashi Wakabayashi. (ed. and trans.) *Nisshinkan Dojikun*. Berkeley, Calif.: Japanese Historical Text Initiative. Online: <https://jhti.berkeley.edu/texts25.htm>.

SAVE THE DATE!

The York University History Department in collaboration with the Archives of Ontario will host the annual Provincial History fair organized by the Ontario Heritage Fairs Association at Founders College on Saturday, 8 June 2019 from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

The 2019 Avie Bennett conference will take place on 7-8 November 2019. The title of the conference will be 'Traces of the Animal Past: Methodological Challenges in Animal History'. George Colpitts (University of Calgary) will also deliver the Avie Bennett public lecture on 7 November. Participants will have an opportunity to discover the Archives of Ontario's new exhibit entitled *Animalia: Animals in the Archives-Animaux dans les archives*.

You can learn more about this initiative at <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/explore/gallery/gallery.aspx>.

Further information about these and other departmental events can be found at <http://history.laps.yorku.ca/about/>

