Penn History Review

Volume 19
Issue 2 *Spring 2012*

Article 5

9-6-2012

# Honors Thesis Abstracts

Rachel Baker
*University of Pennsylvania*, articlebaker@upenn.edu

Samuel Bieler
*University of Pennsylvania*, articlebieler@upenn.edu

Sara Ehsani-Nia
*University of Pennsylvania*, articleehsani@upenn.edu

John Gee
*University of Pennsylvania*, johngee@sas.upenn.edu

Oriane Hakkila
*University of Pennsylvania*, articlehakkila@upenn.edu

***See next page for additional authors***

This paper is posted at ScholarlyCommons. http://repository.upenn.edu/phr/vol19/iss2/5
For more information, please contact repository@pobox.upenn.edu.

# Honors Thesis Abstracts

**Authors**
Rachel Baker, Samuel Bieler, Sara Ehsani-Nia, John Gee, Oriane Hakkila, Emily Kern, Theodoros Koutsoubas, Flora Liu, Richard Lurito, Julie Lustbader, Michael Masciandaro, Ben McGuire, Jennifer Mindrum, Stephen Patrick Morrissey, Edward Murphy-Schwartz, Trishula Patel, Zoe Plantevin, Anthony Prinzivalli, Emily Rickard, Michael Roberts, Rachel Schonwetter, and Nicole Schwartz

This thesis or dissertation is available in Penn History Review: http://repository.upenn.edu/phr/vol19/iss2/5

# Senior Honors Theses:

**Rachel Baker**
*Teaching, Not Preaching: A Narrow Path to Self-Fulfillment for Devout British Missionary Women in Palestine*

Middle-class Protestant women in Victorian England lived sheltered lives, shielded and excluded from the public sphere by socially and religiously inspired gender roles. Few meaningful options existed for these women save the path of marriage. Career opportunities that were both salaried and professional were rare, as Victorian society considered women in the working world to be highly unacceptable. However, alongside the intensifying emphasis on Victorian values grew a devout missionary fervor, and devoted Christian English women created occupational opportunities for themselves in this sphere. These women found salaried and professional careers in the missionary field as teachers in missionary schools often founded and run by other missionary women. This thesis shows how pious and ambitious Victorian missionary women found a meaningful and distinctive role for themselves in the British civilizing mission, most especially in the mission to Palestine. Victorian women found their Godly calling, and their escape from Victorian domestic imprisonment, in the education of the Holy Land's "heathen" daughters.

**Sam Bieler**
*Trade By Revenue: The East India Company and Challenging Conceptions of 'East' versus 'West' in the Global Economy*

Economic histories often emphasize the early differences between the economic systems of the "East" and "West." Historians such as Marc Mancall have suggested that while the West used a trade model in its commerce, the East used a tribute model and further, that these systems were fundamentally incompatible. By creating a comparative history


Published by ScholarlyCommons, 2012

of early modern commercial expansion with a special focus on the activities of the British East India Company (EIC), this paper argues that the dichotomy of tribute versus trade in early modern empires is flawed and that economic expansion in the early modern era is better understood as a hybrid system integrating trade and tribute. Drawing from research into Company letter books of the period, I argue that the EIC was more interested in generating revenue through tribute derived from its colonial and eventually imperial activities in the early modern era than was previously thought. The Company's strong focus during the late 1600s on generating revenue from tributes levied on its possessions as well as their attempts to obstruct the trade of their competitors suggests that the Company was a strong proponent of the tribute system generally considered to be the "Eastern" model of commerce as well as the trade model that is generally associated with it. This paper further reinforces its case for a generalized tribute-trade hybrid system by noting Chinese participation in a variety of market based trade systems outside the tribute network, indicating that both Eastern and Western nation used hybrid trade-tribute systems.

**Sara Ehsani-Nia**

*Go Forth and Do Good: US-Iranian Relations During the Cold War, through the Lens of Public Diplomacy*

Due to its considerable oil resources and close proximity to the Soviet Union, Iran featured prominently in the U.S. government's post-WWII plans. From 1951 to 1976, the United States dispatched public diplomacy programs to Iran—particularly Point Four, USAID, and the Peace Corps—to promote American-prescribed modernity, and keep a stronghold on capitalism in the region. In many ways, Iran served as a test case in foreign policy and international aid, as the United States assumed a more influential presence worldwide. Over the course of the 25-year public diplomacy period, the U.S. and Iran became exceedingly close and interdependent, during which time CIA coercion and benevolent aid programs came as an American export package. The results were noteworthy; corruption, misuse, and waste of multi-

millions in American aid dollars to Iran were rampant paralleled with poorly planned and implemented aid works during the Cold War. Ultimately, American aid programs significantly contributed to anti-Shah, anti-American sentiment in Iran, leading up to the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

**John Gee**
*The Origins of Rawlsian Metaethics*

This thesis examines several key developments in John Rawls's thought between the end of WWII and the publication of his seminal book, *A Theory of Justice*. On the basis of unpublished drafts, notes, and lectures, together with the published record, I find two key transitions in Rawls's understanding of the relationship between the philosophy of science and moral and political philosophy. The first, in which Rawls began to analogize moral philosophy to the experimental natural sciences such as physics, resulted in his dissertation and some of his early work, and became the basis for his concept of reflective equilibrium. The second, an analogy between political philosophy and formal social sciences such as economics, began in the early 1950s and became the basis of the Original Position, his version of the social contract. Both of these analogies had aspirations that came out of broader cultural moments as well as particular research agendas. Thus, I demonstrate the profound influence of contemporary sources on Rawls's understanding of philosophy and its purposes, in contrast with the dominant focus on its Enlightenment roots and its independence from non-political branches of philosophy.

**Oriane Hakkila**
*Girls' Books: Resolving Tensions in Turn of the Twentieth Century Britain and America*
(No abstract available)

**Emily Kern**
*Revision, Reform and Regeneration: Missionary Portraits of Late Qing China*


Published by ScholarlyCommons, 2012

In 1848, American missionary Samuel Wells Williams wrote *The Middle Kingdom*, a 1,200-page behemoth meant to introduce American readers to Chinese history and culture, with the hope that it would "increase an interest among Christians in the welfare of [the Chinese], and show how well worthy they are of all the evangelizing efforts that could be put forth…" Williams, a veteran missionary based in Canton, went on to serve in China for the next thirty years as a Protestant missionary and American diplomat. After returning permanently to the US in the late 1870s, Williams emerged as a proponent of the rights of Chinese migrants in the United States, and also began to revise his earlier masterwork. In this paper, I compare the 1848 edition of *The Middle Kingdom* to the revised 1883 edition, and argue that Williams' changes were profoundly influenced by his advocacy for Chinese migrants, and were meant to advance a message that ran counter to the dominant anti-Chinese immigration and anti-Chinese rights political and social narratives that prevailed in the early 1880s.

**Theodoros Koutsoubas**

*Perceptions of Difference: The Good Offices of Diplomacy, East Asia, and the Rise of the United States, 1894-1895*

*Perceptions of Difference* offers a vision of the critical role of the United States during the age of imperialism, facilitated predominately by the system of informal empire in East Asia, and presents the early stages of the global rise of the United States through a study of perceptions. In contending that the timeline of American ascendancy should be pushed back to the period surrounding the First Sino-Japanese War of 1894 to 1895 through the prism of perceptions, this thesis analyzes the insights and observations of the longest serving United States Minister to China, Charles Denby. From the prospective of American contemporaries like Denby, East Asia was a critical arena for the display and growth of American power.

Denby, throughout his thirteen years as the chief American diplomat in China, worked to increase the standing of the United States vis-à-

vis the European powers, to project American power and influence regionally and globally, and to distance the American cause in East Asia as a relevant and different raison d'être in comparison to the European imperialist powers.

One display of American power, often overlooked, was the United States' exercise of good offices, or, the beneficial acts it performed for both Japan and China during the First Sino-Japanese War of 1894 to 1895, led by Minister Denby. This project displays the centrality of this diplomatic tactic in the rise of the United States, focusing first on American custodial good office, or the protection of Japanese residents, property, and interests in China by the
United States, and secondly, on American communication-based good offices, both a formal and an informal passing of messages between the combatants by the United States designed to end hostilities. *Perceptions of Difference* therefore attempts to enrich and to broaden our understanding of Charles Denby and in so doing, to deepen our understanding of the age of empire generally—of America's progress within that era and of the nature and importance of East Asia for the age of empire and for American development in particular.

**Flora Liu**
*Simon N. Patten's Wharton School: The Forgotten Twenty-Nine Years*

Having started my Penn education at the Wharton School, I have always felt that the overly pre-professional curriculum limited my intellectual curiosity. After studying early American economic history, I decided to explore the origins of Wharton—the first collegiate "business" school in the world. The early Wharton leaders invariably intrigued me with their diverse academic backgrounds and visions for the school, and I was surprised to learn that the original Wharton was home to all social sciences (including history and political science). The school was also a center for political and social activism, which focused on improving social justice and equality nationwide and especially around the Philadelphia area. My fascination with the first three decades


Published by ScholarlyCommons, 2012

of Wharton led me to the tremendous intellectual and pedagogical contributions of one man—Simon Nelson Patten, without whom Wharton would never have been the center of economic and political academia.

**Richard Lurito**
*Say: It Isn't So – A Vindication of the Misinterpreted Jean-Baptiste Say*

This thesis shows that the French classical economist commonly considered the creator and exponent of Say's Law, the principle that "supply creates its own demand", a now discredited concept of general equilibrium (due greatly to the work of Keynes), never espoused his eponymous Law. This project strongly suggests that a foundational aspect of the history of economic thought must be reconsidered in its entirety, with significant implications for how modern economic thought evolved into its present state. For nearly two hundred years, economists and historians have not only misinterpreted and mischaracterized Say's thought, but also failed to acknowledge Say's revolutionary contributions to economic thought that have been lost in the sands of time.

This project identifies, explains and contextualizes Say's three critical contributions to
economics, contributions that have been overlooked for hundreds of years. The exposition and analysis of Say's economic thought is historically contextualized throughout the project vis-à-vis constant juxtaposition with the economic thought of prominent contemporaries such as David Ricardo, Thomas Malthus and James Mill. It then proceeds to discuss issues regarding Say's Law.

**Julie Lustbader**
*The Cold War, the Women's Liberation Movement, and the Olympics: How Internal and External Pressures Led to the Rise of Women's Sports in the United States*

By looking at the Olympics in the context of the Cold War competition between the Soviet Union and United States, I attempted to demonstrate that the intersection of athletics and politics had a positive impact on female athletes in the United States. It was at the peak of Olympic discontent that a unique moment occurred in the United States when significant changes for women in sports were possible. Dissatisfaction regarding America's Olympic performance among government leaders, the public, and those involved with athletics combined with the women's liberation movement in the 1970s to produce important legislation that forever altered the landscape of women's sports in America.

America's struggles in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games and President Gerald Ford's interest in athletics meant that, for the first time in history, the American government was willing to intervene in amateur athletics. This, combined with the women's liberation movement in the United States in the 1970s, produced a unique moment where changes to the status quo for women's sports were possible. Although the government and women's liberation movement were motivated by different factors, they needed each other to accomplish their goals. Together, they allowed the late 1970s to become a time when females gained increased acceptance and opportunities in athletics.

**Michael Masciandaro**

*Re-Weaving the Rainbow: Poetry and Philosophy in Eighteenth-Century Great Britain*

I get my title from a John Keats poem, which famously presents philosophy as a destructive activity: one that unweaves the rainbow. As I attempt to show in my thesis, however, the relation between poetry and philosophy in eighteenth-century Britain was not absolutely antithetical. Indeed, by the end of the century, poetry had become an important means for the diffusion of philosophical ideas, and in particular a way of responding to philosophical skepticism in the empiricist tradition. This skepticism was most fully articulated by David Hume in


Published by ScholarlyCommons, 2012

his *Treatise of Human Nature* and subsequent writings. Hume called into question the ability of reason and the senses to attain certainty in the acquisition of knowledge. Instead, he elevated the imagination as the principal faculty by which human beings comprehend the world and form our notions of belief.

This emphasis on imagination coincided with a changing notion of poetry in mid-century. The poet Edward Young asserted the ability of modern poets, in the face of the overwhelming burden of the past, to create original works of art and to advance knowledge through their work. He emphasized the necessity of imagination in the production of these poetical works above reason and judgment, which are in a sense oppressed by the great works of the past. This ideal theory of poetry was especially suited to provide a response to Hume's skepticism because it elevated and celebrated the productions of the very faculty that Hume found to be most important in the development of knowledge and the formation of belief. I then assess this confluence of poetry and philosophy in the works of several later figures: the philosopher Alexander Gerard, and the poets William Collins, Thomas Gray, William Blake, and William Wordsworth. An overarching element of my argument is that we can understand the origins of the various ideas and works that we call Romanticism in the skepticism inherent in the empiricist tradition. We can see in some of the great literary works of the British eighteenth century the response to the skeptical doubt.

**Ben McGuire**

*The Sources of Development: Merchant Capital and Manufacturing in Philadelphia*

There is a large body of historical research on the mid-eighteenth century mercantile economy in Philadelphia, and a large but separate scholarship on the city's nineteenth century industry. The relevant scholarship tends to take the merchant investments in banking, infrastructure, and education as exogenous factors that forced industry to

adapt to a small-scale model. However, it can be more instructive to explore the ways in which merchant decisions were guided by the same economic factors that made specialized industry and high quality products a winning combination. This thesis explores the ways in which merchant investment decisions were influenced by Philadelphia's labor and industrial contexts, how merchants became interested and involved in industry, and how their alternative investments were related to the city's manufacturing base.

Philadelphia's merchant community was very involved in planning and executing the financial and physical infrastructures of the city's manufacturing base. The fact that the wealthiest people in a city would have an interest in its future is not, in itself, surprising. However, the merchant role in Philadelphia's industrialization can be very instructive for the ways in which historians think about development. Merchants reacted by building up infrastructure, capital institutions, and local housing as indirect paths to reaching industrial potential, helping Philadelphia to become the Workshop of the World. The words and deeds of the Quaker City's elite class demonstrate interest and commitment to the manufacturing economy. By acknowledging the historical importance of their indirect role in fostering industry, we can reinvigorate the ways we examine modern development problems, and try to understand the ways in which particular economic situations might generate particular solutions.

**Jennifer Mindrum**
*The Founding of the Free University of Berlin*
(No abstract available)

**Stephen Patrick Morrissey**
*Revolution, Confiscation, and the Move Toward Reconciliation: The Spirit of Seizing Land, the Development and Execution of Confiscation Laws, and the Distribution of Confiscated Loyalist Property in Massachusetts and South Carolina During the American Revolution, 1760-1785*
(No abstract available)


Published by ScholarlyCommons, 2012

**Edward Murphy-Schwartz**
*Auctoritas Clementinae: Authorship, Authority, and Revision in the Clementine Constitutions*

My thesis looks at the *Constitutiones Clementinae*, or Clementine Constitutions, a fourteenth-century collection of canon law that emerged during the early Avignon Papacy. Originally assembled by Pope Clement V in 1314, the Clementines were not promulgated until 1318, after Clement's predecessor, John XXII, edited the collection. Using published collections of papal letters as well as manuscript sources, this thesis looks at how certain constitutions changed over time, looking at issues facing the Council of Vienne and contemporary political conflicts in an attempt to determine the influences behind both the original and final versions of a given law. I conclude that the Clementines as published in 1318 differed considerably from Clement's initial vision, requiring new approaches to legal study during the period.

**Trishula Patel**
*War on Communism: From Paris to the Empire*

While the United States and the USSR were the main players in the world after 1945, the role of the now smaller powers that once dominated the multi-polar balance of power system in Europe cannot be ignored. France was one such nation. The main question this thesis examined was: How did France end up aligned with the Western powers in the origins of the Cold War? I looked specifically at the connection drawn by Washington between communism in France, and communist nationalist movements in French colonies – and how this connection was used by the American State Department in allocating Marshall Plan aid to France and drawing France into the western camp of the Cold War by 1950.

Key decision makers in the U.S. believed they had to support French aims in the colonies in order to maintain stability in the French metropole. However, that does not mean there was not also a reverse dynamic: a

belief in the need to sustain the metropole in order to keep control on the periphery due to its strategic value in the battles against the USSR and the spread of communism. By using the two case studies of Indochina and French North Africa, my thesis aimed at examining the connections, real and perceived, between events in France, happenings in her colonies, and American policy – all within the wider context of the Cold War. While North Africa was strategically far more important for the U.S. than Vietnam, communism was more of a threat in the latter, and this eventually led to total American military involvement in what had originally begun as a local civil war in Indochina. Ultimately, I argue that the Cold War did not originate solely on the European continent, but had much broader roots that would set the basis for the globalization of the Cold War over the latter half of the twentieth century.

**Zoe Plantevin**
*Carpentras and the Vaucluse 1940-1944: An Experience of Occupations*

This project was inspired by the stories my French grandfather told about his childhood in Carpentras (a small town in southern France) during the Second World War. It analyzes the three waves of authority that took control of Carpentras between 1940 and 1944. The first was the Vichy government from the summer of 1940 until November 1942. Then came the Italian occupation from November 1942 to July 1943, and finally, in July of 1943 until August 1944 Carpentras was occupied by German forces. From changes in their local government to the persecution of their neighbours and the arrival of foreign enemies, Carpentrassiens were forced to make impossible choices in order to survive. This thesis compares the reactions of Carpentras to different phases of power and reveals how one community dealt with overwhelming change.

**Anthony Prinzivalli**
*The American Media Coverage of the Nanking Massacre of 1937-1938*
(No abstract available)


Published by ScholarlyCommons, 2012

**Emily Rickard**
*If You Tell a Fool a Proverb, He Will Ask You its Meaning: The Life and Legacy of Captain R.S. Rattray as Seen Through His Works*
(No abstract available)

**Michael Roberts**
*The Resettlement Era: Japanese American Internment and America's Ideological War*
(No abstract available)

**Rachel Schonwetter**
*Samuel S Mayerberg: The Religious Road to Social Justice*

I studied Samuel S. Mayerberg, a Reform rabbi who used his rabbinic position as a
stepping-stone to affect the larger Kansas City community. During the Classical Reform period in Reform Judaism, social justice emerged as an issue that preoccupied an overwhelming number of Reform rabbis. They saw it as their responsibility, and part of their rabbinical function, to help their local communities develop to their fullest potential. The specific social justice campaign considered in this thesis was Mayerberg's 1932 to 1933 battle against the Democratic political machine controlling politics in Kansas City. This episode in Mayerberg's career was interpreted as a case study in the larger trend of outspoken rabbis who emphasized civic engagement in their rabbinic careers.

Since Reform rabbis were often involved in civic issues, Mayerberg's work in Kansas City was not unusual. However, the extent to which Mayerberg committed his time to the general community relative to the time spent on his congregation was considerable. Although Mayerberg's efforts against Pendergast are interesting in their own right, his fight was a much richer story when considered within the context of his religious associations and rabbinic peers. Mayerberg, like many other Reform rabbis of the period, embraced civic issues because he believed he was responsible for achieving social justice in

his community. In fact, he was unable to motivate one of the more powerful groups at the congregation – the temple's Board of Trustees and official lay leaders – to join him and speak out against the unjust government in their city. Eventually, the Board proved to be the more powerful authority at B'nai Jehudah, and it forced Mayerberg to curtail his efforts against the machine. Ultimately, rather than continue wholeheartedly in his fight for clean government after they imposed restrictions on him, Mayerberg allowed the politics at his congregation to impede his efforts.

**Nicole Schwartz**
*The Normality of the United States: American Perceptions of the Occupation of Japan 1945-1952*

This thesis analyzes the United States through the lens of American perceptions of the occupation of Japan. Instead of focusing on policy arguments or actual policies, this thesis uses American perceptions of the occupation of Japan, which can be grouped into four categories to show various features of the U.S. Firstly, American attitudes were paternalistic toward the occupation of Japan. The role of the United States was often compared to that of a father teaching his children. In this way, it was believed the United States was to instruct occupied Japan about how to become a peaceful society. Secondly, the occupation of Japan was commonly portrayed as successful in its goals of changing Japan's militaristic ways. Thirdly, Americans perceived the nature of the Japanese as docile and receptive toward the American occupation. Lastly, the occupation was perceived as an opportunity for the United States S to bolster its new sense of global power. These four perception patterns reveal four defining characteristics of the United States in the twentieth century. These characteristics suggest that the United States was hierarchical, reformist, confident in the morality of its national ideals, and insecure about its global status as a world leader with communism on the rise. These four patterns of perception underline the absolute normality, rather than exceptionalism, of the U.S. as a world power.


Published by ScholarlyCommons, 2012