



SSU —
HISTORY
S O C I E T Y

NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 1 | APRIL 2020

Welcome, to the first ever Sonoma State University History Society Newsletter. We would like to start by saying we miss seeing our peers, the faculty, and staff of the History Department. We hope that you are all safe and healthy. As we are nearing the end of the Spring semester and our stress levels are skyrocketing, we want to share updates, an interview with Dr. Cohen, virtual tours, and a little levity to brighten your day.

With kindness,
Joelynn Lee, Tyler Rupipert, Rowan Graening, Eli Fresquez

The Sonoma State History Society is a student-run organization, which promotes and celebrates the study of history and its related fields. Our members organize and participate in various on- and off-campus activities, including presentations and lectures, field trips, historical movie nights, study groups, and other social events intended to bring together anyone interested in the study of the past. Membership in the History Society is not limited to Sonoma State History majors, minors, or graduate students. Sonoma State students of whatever major or stage - undergraduate, graduate, extended, or alumni - are all welcome to participate and join!

Any questions feel free to contact us at sonomastatehistorysociety@gmail.com.

To join the History Society or for information on our upcoming meetings and events, please visit us at:



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

❖ 2020-2021 Officers:

- Rowan Graening, President
- Joelynn Lee, Vice President
- Eli Fresquez, Secretary and Social Media Guru

We are still looking for a Treasurer and Event Planner! If interested see below for email. Continue to page 3 for a list of next year's events.

Also, as many may know, our advisor, Dr. Samuel Cohen, will be on sabbatical for 2020-2021. We have asked what his plans will be during that time. Here is the interview.

History Society: Hello Professor Cohen, first we shall miss your presence next year but are excited to hear about your plans. Could you please tell us what historians typically do when on sabbatical?

Dr. Cohen: (Jokingly) I have no idea because I've never had a sabbatical! Ha-ha. But really, sabbaticals are typically intended for research.

History Society: What is your latest research project about?

Dr. Cohen: My research project is my book project, which will offer the first systematic overview of the role that heresy played in the development of the authority of the papacy during the final years of the Western Roman Empire and in the first generations after its collapse, from roughly the late fourth to sixth centuries CE. This period was characterized by widespread political change and bitter divisions amongst Christians over interpretations of doctrine and the proper structure of the church. These disputes concerned more than arcane points of theology; they were part of the process that defined late Roman society, delineated the relationship between secular and ecclesiastical power, and determined who had the right – indeed the duty – to decide the correct form of the faith. In the fifth and sixth centuries, Roman bishops emerged for the first time as protagonists in these controversies. However, lacking coercive power and facing political uncertainty and schisms in Italy and between Rome and the East, popes could not simply proclaim their authority; they had to argue for it. One way they did this was to oppose – and to be seen to oppose – heresy.

History Society: The last bit about Popes opposing and being seen to oppose heresy was some of the early discussions in your Tolerance and Intolerance class. Since your topic's scope is situated during the final years of the Roman Empire, we imagine you would want to visit archives in Italy. Do you plan to travel for your research?

Dr. Cohen: Travel is...unknown at this point. I will likely spend time in Toronto, using their library system. They have the third largest university library system in North America (44 libraries total, including a specialized late antique/medieval library at PIMS and Fisher Rare Books Library). To give you some idea: University of Toronto has more than 12 million print books, almost 1.5 million digital books, over 150,000 journals, etc. Compare that to SSU (400k books). I also had intended to spend time in Germany, the UK, and Italy. But...who knows now.

VIRTUAL TOURS

During the Shelter-in-Place due to COVID-19 mandated protocols, we would like to share some FREE virtual tours offered by various museums, libraries, and historical sites.

Jefferson's Monticello House & Gardens Tour:

<https://www.monticello.org/house-gardens/virtual-tours-of-monticello/>

In addition, each day at 1:00pm EST, Monticello will be livestreaming with focus on the Declaration of Independence.

Colonial Williamsburg:

<https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/learn/explore-from-home/?from=homecarousel>

Were you thinking of travelling this summer and now stuck at home? Check out this awesome VR channel of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6AXBF-78lNa3_TjAIWZWmQ

For more museums:

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=museum%20virtual%20tours&f>

History Society: Yes, these are uncertain times. What do you expect or hope to encounter in your research?

Dr. Cohen: My plan during sabbatical is to complete (or get as close as I can) to a full draft of the book, which I am currently in negotiation with Oxford UP and UCP. I am also currently guest editing two volumes of *Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum* and one volume of *Studies in Late Antiquity*, so this will also be part of my sabbatical work. I had also organized several panels at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds, UK, the North American Patristics Society, and elsewhere...all canceled alas. But assuming the pandemic ends, I hope to organize other conference panels in the UK, Italy, Germany, and the US. again...who knows...

History Society: Dr. Cohen thank you for taking the time to answer some of our questions. We shall miss you this next school year. We all very much look forward to hearing your adventures in research and wish you well!

❖ **Events being planned for next school year:**

- Big Night – catch us at our table – Sunday, August 16
- LOBO’s Trivia and Fundraiser Night – August 26
- Meetings – 1st Wednesday of every month
- Mediocre Movie Nights – 3rd Wednesday of every month
- Career Night – December – more info to come
- Student Forum – May 2021 – more info to come
- Field Trips – Haunted History Walking Tour (October), Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery Ghost Tour (October), Sonoma Plaza Historic Tour (April 2021), Overnight to Fort Ross (TBA), and more!

**RUNNING OUT OF THINGS TO WATCH ON NETFLIX?
MISSING MEDIOCRE MOVIE NIGHT?**

Look no further, we have some solutions.

**Join us on Netflix Party to watch *The Death of Stalin*,
Monday, May 4, 7:00pm.**

Listed as absurd and cynical, the death of Russian dictator Joseph Stalin throws the Soviet Union into comic chaos as his ambitious but addled ministers maneuver to succeed him. [Click here to join](#). If you have problems joining text: 707-304-9136.

For further viewing options:

PBS has 179 History Documentaries You Can [Watch](#)



Look for our next issue the end of May for summer reading suggestions, another Netflix Party, and to hear about Dr. Noonan’s recent sabbatical. If you have anything you would like to share with the department please email: sonomastatehistorysociety@gmail.com.