

World History Center Annual Report for Academic Year 2020-2021

*For Submission to the Dietrich School
Dean's Office May 7, 2021*

Ruth Mostern: Director

Molly Warsh: Associate Director and Head of Educational Outreach

Alexandra Straub: Research Associate

Susan Grunewald: Postdoctoral Fellow



Message from the Director and Associate Director

The World History Center is proud to wrap up the academic year 2020-2021 having sponsored a robust program of activities despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. During a year in which global anti-Black racism has been at the forefront of University programming and all of our minds, we are pleased to have oriented our signature public events and annual teacher's workshop on the intersections of global Black and Indigenous liberation. We are delighted to have organized events and workshops that were so well attended. The virtual-meeting framework allowed for a sizable number of attendees from outside of the University of Pittsburgh at all of our events and our teacher's workshop, which demonstrate the national and global reach of the World History Center.

Throughout the year we have continued to support undergraduate and graduate students and faculty through scholarly collaborations and research sponsorship. We provided training and mentorship to fifteen undergraduate interns, a World History Graduate Student Fellow, and a Graduate Student Assistant in Public History. We have also made signature accomplishments as a publisher of world historical datasets and curriculum materials. We have launched the World Historical Gazetteer Project, a large and globally-visible initiative in digital infrastructure funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and we have begun collaborating with the National Humanities Center's Humanities in Class Digital Library to publish free open-access world historical resources for educators.

This year has also permitted us to begin and enrich many other collaborations. At Pitt, we work with numerous partners including UCIS Centers such as the Asian Studies Center, Global Studies Center, and African Studies Program, as well as the University Library, many departments within the Dietrich School, the School of Computing and Information, and the School of Education. We have begun working with the History Department on its review of its 2015-2020 strategic plan, in which a commitment to world history and to the World History Center features prominently.

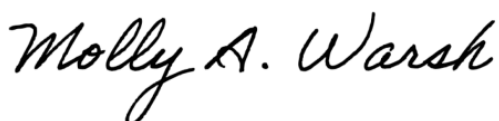
We have also strengthened ties to international partners such as the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). Our leadership actively participates in a variety of national world historically focused pedagogy projects, cementing our role as a leader in the field of world historical education. Moreover, this year, our Associate Director and Head of Educational Outreach, Dr. Molly Warsh, has been honored with the editorship of the *Journal of Early Modern History*, a leading journal in global early modern history. We have been joined this year by our new Research Associate, Dr. Alexandra Straub, who has supported our activities and programs in innumerable ways and has facilitated many of our accomplishments this year.

Through a series of discussions with the World History Association, the leading professional organization in the field of world history, we have finalized a plan to host the WHA annual meeting at the University of Pittsburgh in 2023. This is a testament to the World History Center's status as a leader among institutions involved in the field of world history. There are few centers in the world that are devoted to promoting teaching, research, and scholarly activities about the human past on a global scale.

The World History Center has flourished even during a year of historic difficulties. When we reflect upon the interlocking global catastrophes of pandemics, climate change disasters, and crises of authoritarianism, inequality, and racism, we redouble our commitment to the urgency of studying the human experience from the perspective of the global past.



Ruth Mostern
Director World History Center



Molly Warsh,
Associate Director and Head of Educational
Outreach, World History Center



University of
Pittsburgh
World History Center

Executive Summary

Partnerships Extending Impact Nationally and Worldwide

Active international partnerships include the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and Ch. Valikhanov Institute of History and Ethnology in Almaty, Kazakhstan. **(p. 11)**

The WHC regularly partners with departments and institutions within Pitt including UCIS Centers such as the Asian Studies Center, Global Studies Center, and African Studies Program **(p. 9)**; as well as the Departments of Sociology, Africana Studies, and History. **(p. 16)**

Personalized Educational Experiences

The WHC serves as a leader in offering personalized educational experiences through mentorship and support for undergraduate students in the Digital Atlas Design Internship **(p. 7)** and graduate students by offering a year-long Graduate Fellowship in World History, and a Graduate Student Assistantship in Public History. **(p. 10)**

The WHC also supports graduate students by offering the Teaching World History Credential and a Works in Progress Seminar. **(p. 7,8)**

The WHC promotes critical research and teaching about human communities in motion and the forces that have shaped our global past and present

Promote Access and Affordability

The Alliance for Learning in World History (ALWH), based at the WHC, promotes access to world historical open educational resources (OERs) through partnerships with the National Humanities Center in Class Digital Library, the World History Commons, the Gates Ventures-funded OER/Big History Project and the History for the 21st Century Project (H/21). **(p. 6)**

The ALWH promotes access to World History Education through its annual teacher's workshop, a free day-long workshop for teachers of all levels looking to improve their world historical teaching skills. **(p. 8,9)**

Commitment to Diversity

The WHC run World Historical Gazetteer project promotes diversity and inclusion by surfacing lost and suppressed place names that enhance belonging of groups that are often marginalized. **(p. 11)**

In a series about Global Indigeneities, the WHC offered programming that explored connections between past and present movements of resistance to settler colonialism and anti-Blackness reinforcing the values of diversity and inclusion across campus. **(p. 15)**

Executive Summary

Strengthen Communities

The WHC spring 2021 Graduate Student Assistant in Public History partnered with local advocacy groups including G.A.S.P. (the Group Against Smog and Pollution) and North Braddock Residents for our Future to present her research on the global and local impacts of steel production on air quality. Through these public partnerships, the GSA's research will be presented to environmentalists committed to making the air quality better in the region. **(p. 10)**

The WHC will host the World History Association's annual meeting in 2023. Hosting a large conference with local, national, and international attendees will foster discussions and collaborations between scholars at Pitt researching and teaching about world history and the wider world history scholarly community. **(p. 6)**

Engage in Research of Impact

The World Historical Gazetteer Project facilitates extensive research collaboration with scholars, teachers, and students. The project has positioned Pitt as a leader in the digital humanities and data management and encourages scholars to collaborate on an international level. **(p. 11)**

By supporting working groups, the WHC encourages faculty to engage in research of impact with collaborators beyond the University of Pittsburgh. **(p. 12)**

This year, the WHC sponsored five members of the Pitt community to help them conduct remote research. All of these projects engaged the global past in new and interesting ways. **(p. 12)**

Extend the Impact of our Research

Our publishing initiatives with *the Journal of World-Systems Research* and the World-Historical Dataverse extends the impact of world historical research and datasets. **(p. 13)**

Through events and programming, the WHC offers students and faculty a platform to present their research. This year faculty and graduate students presented their research during our Global Indigeneities Series and a roundtable titled "New Approaches to Political Ecology," a part of the American Society for Environmental History's Environmental History Week 2021, to audiences both within the Pitt community and beyond. **(p. 16)**

Institutional Partnerships

Education

In the 2020-2021 academic year the World History Center forged and strengthened partnerships that illustrate its prominence in the field of World History education. In the fall 2020, we partnered with the [Humanities in Class Digital Library](#), hosted by [the National Humanities Center](#), to publish free, open access world historical resources for educators, a partnership spearheaded by WHC Associate Director and Head of Educational Outreach, Molly Warsh. Molly and the WHC also participate in generative conversations with other partners that are dedicated to teaching and learning about world history including the **Gates Ventures-funded [OER/Big History Project](#)**, the **[H21 Project](#)**, and the **[World History Commons](#)**.

The WHC annual teacher's workshop will be co-sponsored by Pitt's [Asian Studies Center](#), [African Studies Program](#), and [Global Studies Center](#).

World History Association

The World History Center will host the 2023 annual meeting of [the World History Association](#) (WHA), the preeminent professional organization in the field of World History. The WHA's interest in hosting their annual meeting at the University of Pittsburgh **reflects the WHC's status as a national leader in teaching and world history research**. Hosting this conference will cement the of University of Pittsburgh and the World History Center as leaders in the field of World History **locally, nationally, and globally**.

Research

In January 2021, the World History Center formally partnered with the **Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW)** on the World Historical Gazetteer ([WHG](#)), an NEH funded project with WHC Director Ruth Mostern as PI. Additionally, the WHG partnered with the **Asian Studies Center** to create educational resources about the WHG. WHC Postdoctoral fellow Susan Grunewald spearheaded an effort to create a memorandum of understanding between the WHC/UCIS/University of Pittsburgh and the **Ch. Valikhanov Institute of History and Ethnology in Almaty, Kazakhstan**. We anticipate working together to help develop historical datasets for the WHG project.

Members of one WHC working group, whose project maps archives related to the Italian Diaspora, partnered with archivists at the [Heinz History Center](#) on their research project.

Education

Digital Atlas Design Internship

The [Digital Atlas Design Internship](#) has been a major success and has steadily grown in popularity each semester since its inception in 2017. **The course reached full enrollment in both Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.** The internship is taught by WHC Director Ruth Mostern and WHC Postdoctoral fellow Susan Grunewald. **The WHC trained 15 interns this year in doing historical research and using digital methods such as ArcGis and QGIS.** Additionally, 15 people applied for the Fall 2021 course, well over the enrollment cap.

In the Fall 2020, thanks to the efforts of Susan Grunewald, the **Atlas Internship became an approved elective course for the GIS certificate** administered by the Geology Department. Since then, the course has reached diverse majors outside of the history department to include students from pre-med, Geology, and Environmental Studies. This year, one of our interns, Lawson Pace, won the History Department Award for best Undergraduate Research.

The final projects, completed using Esri Story Maps, are publicly available on our website in our [gallery of student projects](#). In the spring of 2021, we made improvements to the gallery and added searchable filters so that users can efficiently explore the projects. **As of spring 2021, our gallery displays 50 projects.**

World History Teaching Credential

The World History Center supports the [Teaching World History Credential](#) that graduate students can pursue as part of their professional portfolio. This year, the WHC developed new requirements for the credential that made the process more transparent and procedural. WHC Research Associate Ali Straub also developed a [podcast](#) with history department graduate Dr. Bethany Wade about her experience with the credential. **For the 2020-2021 AY we are proud to have awarded the Credential to graduate student Aura Jirau- Arroyo.**

“After having done the WHC Teaching Credential, I now come to the job market as a more well-rounded candidate.”

- Dr. Bethany Wade, credential awardee spring 2020

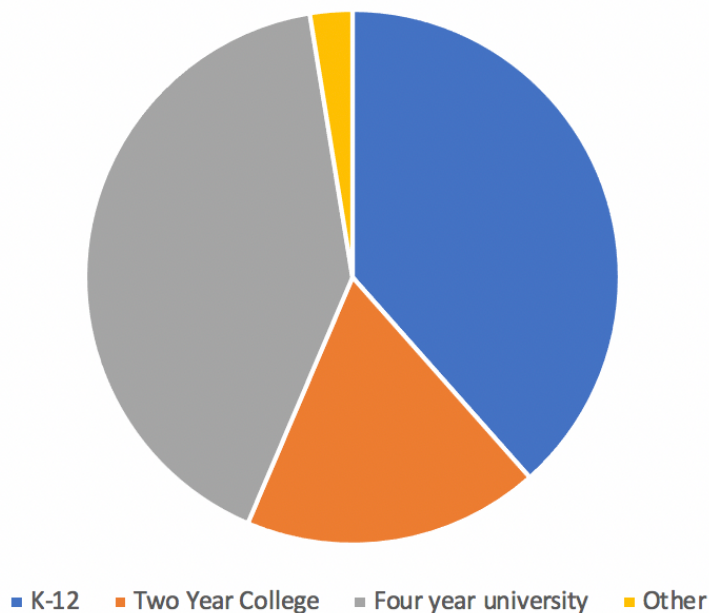
Education

Teaching the Global African Diaspora Teacher's Workshop

The [Alliance for Learning in World History](#) 's (ALWH) second professional development workshop for teachers was a great success. Based out of the WHC, the ALWH held "Teaching the Global African Diaspora," in June of 2020, a day-long virtual professional development workshop for teachers. After having nearly **80 applications, we were able to accept 40 teacher participants** for the workshop. We are proud that the event attracted a variety of diverse teachers including: 15 K-12 educators, 7 community college or other two-year granting degree program educators, 16 educators from 4-year Universities, 1 librarian and 1 museum educator. We found that hosting the event on Zoom was a strength and allowed educators from other states and some international educators to join. The event had three keynote speakers: Professors Audra Diptée (Carleton University), Yolanda Covington-Ward (University of Pittsburgh) and Mari Webel (University of Pittsburgh).

The ALWH is committed to recognizing and rewarding teachers for their expertise and commitment to learning. We are thus proud to be able to offer each accepted participant an honorarium in recognition of the work and time they devote to expanding their classroom skills. By **promoting access and affordability of our teacher's workshops, we contribute to advancing the educational excellence of world history teachers.**

Attendee breakdown by teaching category



Education

Teaching Indigenous History as World History Teacher's Workshop

On June 12, 2021 the [Alliance for Learning in World History](#) (ALWH) will host our third annual professional development workshop for teachers titled "Teaching Indigenous History as World History." The day-long virtual event will feature presentations from three experts in the field (listed below) followed by discussions in breakout groups about an assignment each teacher participant submitted. We will accept **27 participants this year and have had applications from K-12 teachers, graduate student teachers, and instructors at community and four-year universities.** The event is co-sponsored by Pitt's Asian Studies Center, African Studies Program, and Global Studies Center. There will be an optional screening and discussion of the film *Kano* hosted by the Asian Studies Center the evening before the event.

Keynote Speakers

- Dr. Bonita Lawrence, York University, "Writing Diasporic Indigenous Identities: Connections, Disjunctions and Disavowels"
- Dr. Kyle T. Mays, "Building Anti-Colonial and Anti-Racist Pedagogy: Thoughts on Our Freedom"
- Dr. Alaina E. Roberts, University of Pittsburgh, "Who is Indigenous?: Defining Migration and Identity"

Publishing Workshop Material

Teaching resources that we collect from the workshop will be added (with the permission of the participants) to the ALWH site on the [Humanities in Class Digital Library \(HICDL\)](#) hosted by the [National Humanities Center](#). Since partnering with the HICDL, a free and open access digital library of resources and material for educators, **we have published 70 world historical resources** ranging from syllabi to assignments about using comics in the classroom, including 43 from last year's workshop. For the June workshop, we will use a private group on the HICDL to share resources and also encourage communication and collaboration before the event among teachers.

Education

Graduate Student Assistant in Public History

In the Spring 2021 semester, we supported one [Graduate Student Assistant in Public History](#), **Chie Togami** from the department of

Sociology. Chie developed a public-facing project which culminated in a **three-part podcast and accompanying Esri Story Maps** which will be published in May on a local environmental group's website. The podcast draws **world-historical connections between Pittsburgh, the U.S. Steel Corporation**, and people and places around the world which have figured deeply into the legacy of this transnational

corporation. Through the GSAsip, Chie developed connections with local advocacy groups including G.A.S.P. (the Group Against Smog and Pollution) and North Braddock Residents for our Future. In the summer, Chie will present her project in an event hosted by G.A.S.P.

"One of the people I met while conducting interviews for the podcast is now a co-applicant with me for Pitt's Engaged Scholarship Development Initiative (ESDI) Summer Design Intensive. I credit the GSA position for helping me to make this connection with a local artist that, realistically, would not have occurred otherwise."

- Chie Togami

WHC Works in Progress Seminar

This spring, the WHC started this new initiative for graduate students in the history department. The **WHC Works in Progress Seminar** met four times in the semester with **four graduate students presenting a piece of writing** to the group they wanted to get feedback on. WHC Research Associate Ali Straub moderated the seminars with a **group of 5-7 participants at each meeting**. The group read three dissertation chapter and one article manuscript in revision. Feedback was positive and we plan to offer the seminar again in the Fall.

Research

The World Historical Gazetteer

Version 1 of the **NEH-funded World Historical Gazetteer** was launched in June 2020. This version includes a fully functional interface and software platform for ingesting, reconciling, visualizing and linking historical place names, populated with a core index of approximately **1.8 million modern place names and approximately 60,000 temporally scope records.**

The WHG Team held **four focus groups in the Fall 2020** semester bringing together experts in the field of the Digital Humanities. The focus groups had a total of 26 attendees from the US, UK, and Netherlands with people who gave valuable feedback on work to date and suggestions looking forward. Over the past year the WHG team has presented our work in virtual conferences, workshops, and collaborative meetings.

The WHG received funding from partners at the **Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW)** and applied for two internal Pitt grants for further funding. The WHG also partnered with the Asian Studies Center to create educational content to ensure the long-term impact of the WHG in the classroom setting.

The screenshot displays the World Historical Gazetteer v1.2 interface. The top navigation bar includes the site logo, version number (v1.2), and links for 'guide', 'contact us', 'Search', 'API', 'Tutorials', 'About', 'Register', and 'Login'. The main interface is divided into a left sidebar and a main content area.

Left Sidebar (Filters):

- Search: with a search icon and a 'filters' dropdown.
- Feature classes: Places (selected), Traces. Check all: A, H, L, P, S, T.
- Temporal: start year, end year, (default - all).
- Spatial: Region, country, study area.
- SEARCH RESULTS (7): filter by type.
 - Babylon (inhabited places) [NZI]
 - Babylon (inhabited places) [US]
 - Babylon (inhabited places) [I]
 - Babylon (deserted settlements, inhabited places) [US]
 - Babylon (deserted settlements, inhabited places, archaeological sites) [IQ]
 - var: As Sawrah; Bab-el-Un; Bab-ili; Babel; Babelon; Babhel; Babil; Babilonia;
 - North Babylon (inhabited places) [US]
 - West Babylon (inhabited places) [US]

Main Content Area:

- Map: A world map with a yellow circle over the Middle East region.
- Search Results for 'Babylon':
 - Babylon** | pid: 4448660; src_id: 7002626; dataset: tgn_filtered_01
 - Variants: Bab-ili; Babel; Babhel; Babil; Babilonia; Babilu; Babylone; Babylonia; Babylonian; Bâbil; Bâbilî; Din-tir; Ka-Dingir-Ra; Kading'ira; Su-anna; Tell Babil; Uru-azagga; BoBûkâiv; 𒂗𒍪
 - Types: archaeological site; inhabited place; deserted settlement
 - Links: none
 - Related: within Bâbil, Al-'Irâq, Asia, World
 - As Sawrah** | pid: 6358962; src_id: 1097; dataset: eurattias_cities
 - Variants: As Sawrah; Bab-el-Un; Babelon; Babilu; Babylonia
 - Types: city
 - Links: gn98228; locsh86001922; tgn7002626; viaf146198874; wdQ5684
 - When: 1700, 700; 1800, 800; 11700, 2000; 10, 0; 100, 600
 - Babylon** | pid: 81744; src_id: 10777; dataset: black
 - Variants: Babylon
 - Types: settlement
 - Links: dbp:Babylon; gn98228; locsh86001922; tgn7002626; viaf146198874; wdQ5684
 - When: 1-550, -331; 1226, 642; 1-53, 217; 166, 135; 1150, 1501; 1-200, 400; 100, 100; 1350, 1501; 1500, 500; 1300, 550; 1-3250, -500; 1, 100; 1-500, 200; 11325, 13481; 1-2300, -1750; 1-1650, -1200; 1-950, -539; 1-350, -320; 1-1350, -100
- TEMPORAL ATTESTATIONS: A horizontal bar chart showing attestations from 3250 to 2000.
- GEOGRAPHY: A map of the Middle East region with a green circle over the location of Babylon. Includes a 'nearby places (300 max)' list.
- TRACES (related persons, events, works, objects):
 - work:ceramics [created_at (-0562/-0604)]
 - Panel with Striding Lion
 - empire [waypoint (-0324/-0331)] show trace places
 - The Empire of Alexander
 - structure [location of (0200/0200)]

World Historical Gazetteer: Advanced search, with spatial, temporal and place type filters. Presents multiple candidate matches, leading to individual "place portal" pages

Research

Remote Research Funding

The World History Center regularly offers [research and travel funding support](#). This year we sponsored five projects by funding expenses related to remote research for individuals working on projects having to do with the global or transnational past:

- **Dr. Robin Brooks**, Africana Studies, for costs related to her book project about African Diasporic Women's Fiction.
- **Dr. Lawrence Glasco**, History, to produce an annotated, multi-volume collection of the writings of Cuba's most prominent Afro-Cuban scholars.
- **Dr. Sahar Hosseini**, History of Art and Architecture, for georeferenced scans of photographs for a book project about the Zayandehrud River system.
- **Kanoko Kamata**, Sociology, for transcription services for a project about the Flower Demo movement, a local movement in Japan with transnational influence.
- **Dr. Maureen Porter**, Administrative and Policy Studies in the School of Education, for transcription service for a project that traces the transregional issues of Indigenous identity, arts, and material culture.

The Italian Diaspora Archive Resource Map Working Group

The World History Center hosted this working group in the Fall 2020 semester. The Working Group's aim is to explore collaborative networks around—and innovative digital approaches to—cataloguing the wealth of archival materials relating to the Italian diasporic experience.

During the Fall 2020 semester, the Italian Diaspora Working Group was able to hold a total of **two full-group meetings (11 attendees each) and 4 additional meetings of the convening group**. The group was able to leverage their virtual reality by creating regionally-based (Mahoning Valley, West Virginia, and Southwestern PA) sub-groups that proceeded with their work through the Fall semester.

The conveners expect that the Working Group will be able to achieve enough demonstrable progress in their work to **form a roundtable or even a workshop at the Italian American Studies Association's Pittsburgh conference**, now postponed to October 2022.

"The World History Center's Working Group framework has really given us the necessary structure to maintain momentum in this project, despite the considerable challenges to participants regardless of their institutional affiliation—museums, academia, archives and libraries."

-Lina Insana, Convening member, University of Pittsburgh

Research

JWSR and the World Historical Dataverse

The World History Center is involved in two publication platforms that promote research and publishing the [Journal of World-Systems Research \(JWSR\)](#) and [World Historical Dataverse](#). The JWSR is a peer reviewed, open access journal published by the University of Pittsburgh's Library System. In 2018, the World History Center based [Journal of World Historical Information \(JWHI\)](#), which published articles and reviews of datasets between 2013 and 2017, merged with the larger and more established JWSR. Former Center Director Patrick Manning and current WHC Director Ruth Mostern both sit on the editorial board of the JWSR. The **World-Historical Dataverse** is a public archive for the publication of world historical datasets operated by the World History Center. This year the WHC reorganized the Dataverse to create multiple Dataverses, making the site better organized for users. WHC Postdoc, Susan Grunewald, regularly published datasets in the Dataveres as they related to the World Historical Gazetteer.

"How Maps Work" A Research Guide for Teachers

WHC Director Ruth Mostern and WHC Research Affiliate Katherine Hart conducted **research on global maps including indigenous maps and indigenous knowledge in map making, and intended to share their research with a larger audience of K-12 teachers**. In order to do so, they distilled their research into a 30 minute podcast hosted by WHC Associate Director, Molly Warsh, called "[How Maps Work](#)," a guide for using maps in the classroom for teachers. Ruth and Katherine also selected a variety of thematic maps to illustrate the concepts which were then added to a [Digital Exhibit](#) that accompanied the project. Selected curricula and other resources were included in the podcast's bibliography. **Ruth, Katherine, and Molly will present the project to the Virginia Inquiry Collective's teacher's workshop on May 10.**



Image of a Marshall Island Navigation Chart, discussed in the podcast. Source: Library of Congress.

Research

GIS Day Hackathon

Susan Grunewald, WHC Digital History Postdoctoral Associate, worked in conjunction with Dr. Susan Lucas of Urban Studies to lead a public hackathon on November 18, 2020 as part of a [university-wide series of events](#) for World GIS Day. The online hackathon introduced participants to a variety of **digital research skills related to geography and mapping**. Specifically, the groups examined geographic information pertaining to the search term "retirement community" in American newspapers from 1962-1964. The groups manually identified 58 locations of importance to the phenomena of the historical spread of retirement communities and acquired coordinates for those locations as well as coordinates for the publication location of the corresponding newspaper. **This served as a successful proof of concept for an anticipated larger research study between Susan Grunewald and Susan Lucas on the same topic.** At the end of the two-hour long hackathon, participants expressed satisfaction in having learned how to perform this basic historical text research and core GIS mapping skills. Twenty eight people participated in the event.

WHC Research Affiliates

In 2020-2021 the WHC hosted two courtesy Research Affiliations for Dr. Artan Hoxha and Katherine Hart. Recent Ph.D. graduate from the University of Pittsburgh, [Dr. Artan Hoxha](#) spent 2020-2021 working on **three manuscripts related to his research**, including a manuscript based on his dissertation research as well as two others: "Orthodox Church Under Communism: The Albanian Orthodox Church and the Albanian Communist Regime, 1945-1967" under contract with Routledge, and "The Reclamation of the Swamp of Maliq and the building of communism in Albania," under consideration at the Albanian publishing house "Onufri." Artan also **presented his research at a conference in Kosovo.**

This year [Katherine Hart](#), an expert in library and information science and former Section Head of the Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, collaborated with WHC Director Ruth Mostern **to research and create a podcast and digital exhibit about using maps** in the classroom for K-12 teachers. Katherine also gave an invited lecture at the University of Tennessee iSchool, for a course on Geospatial Technologies. As a member of the **World-Historical Gazetteer Advisory Board**, Katherine participated in the WHG Focus Group meetings in September 2020.

Events/Outreach

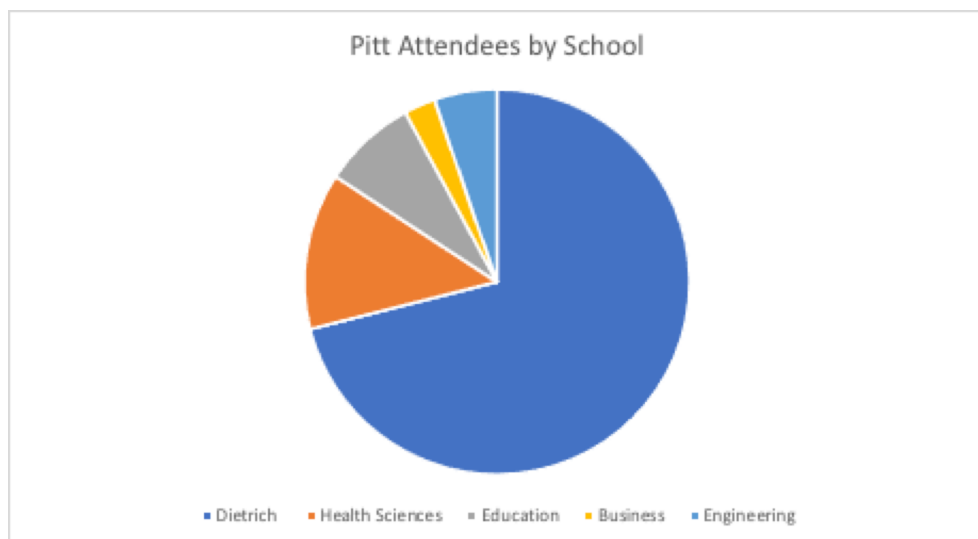
Global Indigeneities Series

This series of working group sessions, events, and speakers aimed to define and explore connections between past and present movements of **resistance to settler colonialism and anti-Blackness**. Black and Indigenous liberation movements have often taken different trajectories, even when they are in coalition with one another. However, during the Summer of 2020, one multicultural movement for social justice brought unprecedented attention to racialized economic inequality and police violence against both Black and Indigenous peoples. The Global Indigeneities series seeks to explore the connected and global histories of these two movements. Throughout the year, **the WHC hosted three virtual events, including a very well-attended webinar featuring [Dr. Tiffany King](#), Georgia State University.**

October 22, 2020, **"Making Indigeneity in Twentieth Century Japan,"** led by WHC graduate fellow, Vicky Shen, 22 participants

November 12, 2020, **"Read & Discuss: The Black Shoals"** hosted by Dr. Alaina Roberts, University of Pittsburgh, 25 participants

February 11, 2021, **"Red and Black Alchemies of Flesh: Off the Shores of Work,"** Dr. Tiffany King, Georgia State University, 84 participants



Breakdown of attendees at Dr. Tiffany King's lecture by School at Pitt. The event garnered participation from the Pitt community beyond the Dietrich School.

Events/Outreach

New Approaches to Political Ecology Roundtable

On April 26, 2021, the WHC sponsored this lightning-roundtable that explored new scholarship in environmental history using the framework of political ecology. It brought together **five graduate students** from the University of Pittsburgh, University of Chicago, UC Santa Cruz, Brown University, and the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Mary Draper, Midwestern State University, served as commentator on the panel and it was **moderated by WHC Fellow, Vicky Shen**. **This event was part of Environmental History Week 2021**, organized by the American Society for Environmental History (aseh.org). **The event was well-attended with 34 participants.**

Mapping Loss in the Anthropocene

The WHC continued its collaboration with the Global Studies Center on the Epoch of Loss initiative to explore environmental ethics in the age of the Anthropocene. It offered an asynchronous workshop titled "Mapping Loss in the Anthropocene" in which participants could create an art project or digital map with guidance from local artist [Katy Dement](#) and Pitt's GIS librarian [Boris Michev](#). WHC Director Ruth Mostern, GSC Director [Michael Goodhart](#), and Assistant Curator of Anthropocene Studies at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, [Nicole Heller](#), recorded a [podcast](#) together about loss and the Anthropocene. **This initiative is supported by the Provost's Year of Creativity funding.**

Cosponsored Events

- October 9, 2020, **Jon Shefner**, University of Tennessee, cosponsored with the Department of Sociology and the Global Studies Center, 31 participants
- October 15, 2020, **Jeffrey Wasserstrom**, UC Irvine, cosponsored with the Asian Studies Center and the Humanities Center, 80 participants
- October 16, **Fran Shor**, Wayne State University, cosponsored with the Department of Sociology and Global Studies Center, 32 participants
- October 31, **Joyce Hope Scott**, Boston University, cosponsored with Dept. of Sociology, Global Studies Center, Dept. of Africana Studies, 30 participants

Advance Educational Excellence

Although the WHC is not a degree or certificate granting center, it offers co-curricular research opportunities, supports the educational mission of the history department, and provides resources and opportunities for educators to engage in learning of impact. In the coming year, we will advance educational excellence by building programming and partnerships that **personalize educational experiences** of students at all levels, **promote access and affordability**, and **enhance curriculum** through innovative research and digital humanities projects.

The WHC will continue to offer **personalized educational experiences** in the upcoming year by mentoring and training undergraduate interns, two history department WHC fellows, and one Graduate Student Assistant. We will continue to offer graduate students training through the Teaching World History Credential and Works in Progress Seminar. We have two new initiatives planned to personalize educational experience: teacher training for first time instructors of HIST 700 World History and training about how to write for a public audience with partners at the Gates Ventures-funded OER/Big History Project.

The WHC is dedicated to **promoting access and affordability in education**. The WHC will strengthen partnerships with the [National Humanities Center in Class Digital Library](#), the Gates Ventures-funded [OER/Big History Project](#), and the [World History Commons](#) all organizations that provide free World History resources to students and teachers. As of now, the WHC has 70 free, open access world history resources published on the HICDL, a repository we plan to continue to grow in the coming year. The WHC will also continue to offers stipends for professional development workshops and extend this practice to our new programs for educators.

In the coming year through a partnership with Pitt's Asian Studies Center, the World History Center will **enhance world history curriculum** by building, and testing curriculum and assignments related to world historical place names and the World Historical Gazetteer with the goal of delivering K-12 and university curriculum based on WHG content. The ALWH will continue to develop programs for educators working in the field of world history and we look forward to hosting our fourth annual professional development workshop for teachers.

Engage in Research of Impact

A core mission of the World History Center is to **conduct and support research** that advances our mission of “promoting critical research and teaching about human communities in motion and the forces that have shaped our global past and present.” In the coming year we will **engage and support research of impact** through collaborative and multidisciplinary approaches to research including a focus on digital publication content and platforms for data and by supporting scholars doing world historical research.

In the next year, the World Historical Gazetteer team is planning new tools, content, and software that will make sharing and extending research easier for scholars working on historic place name datasets. The project is also a powerful tool for scholarly **research collaboration**, something we will focus on next year by convening an international group of content experts to discuss a collection of early modern content and its relationship to research and teaching interests. The WHG team also plans to establish clear roles for authors, a managing editor, and peer reviewers, to become a publisher of research datasets. In the digital humanities, there is a need for established procedures in the publication of research datasets. In doing so, this new focus will position the WHG as a leader in standards of research publication.

Through our GSAship the WHC helps scholars **identify and engage in strategic research opportunities.** As our GSA does a public history project, they have historically done research in which an event in the global past is communicated to the public. We see this continuing with our GSA in AY 2021-2022. In the next year, we plan to expand the visibility of our working groups by making changes to how we publicize and support them. In the past, working groups have been very successful and have been a venue to bring together scholars interested in incubating research projects. We hope to continue this template, but accept larger and more interdisciplinary groups with strategic research and publication goals.

Engage in Research of Impact

In the 2021-2022 AY year we will welcome a new Research Affiliate to the World History Center, Dr. Ari Sekeryan. Dr. Sekeryan's experience and research concerning the Ottoman empire relates to a wide range of World History Center interests and activities. His work largely reflects the lives of communities and people in motion within the Ottoman Empire, coinciding with our planned programming on empire. Dr. Sekeryan's research bridges several disciplines including history, international relations, and area studies, and coincides with our commitment to interdisciplinary research.

Promoting World Historical Research

The World History Center is committed to promoting World Historical Research in the form of sponsorship. In the past, we had offered sponsorship largely for conference travel. As Covid-19 changed our approach to sponsorship, we pivoted to offering remote research funding. In doing so, we were able to fund faculty and graduate students at the University who are engaging in research of impact in the field of World History. In the coming year, we will continue this model in some way in order to more directly support our colleagues in world history to engage in research of impact.

In the next year, the WHC will be thinking about its involvement in two major national conferences: the June 2023 [World History Association](#)'s annual conference, that we are hosting, and the January 2023 annual meeting of [the American Historical Association](#), for which WHC Associate Director Molly Warsh has been asked to serve as Program Co-Chair. In AY 2021-2022 we will lay the groundwork plans for a robust presence at both conferences. In both of these events, the WHC will be integral in promoting world history research and teaching. Through these research conferences, we will promote world history as a global venture in which the Pitt World History Center is central to promoting world history research and teaching.

Promote Diversity and Inclusion

The World History Center is dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion in all of the programming, research, and educational activities that we do by situating multilingual and intercultural transregional and global connections in time and space. In the coming year, we will reinforce these values at the University by making them essential to our programming, mentorship, and teaching in an effort to **transform the campus climate** and **enrich our student's experiences**.

In the 2021-2022 AY, the WHC will seek to **transform the campus climate** to reinforce the value of diversity and inclusion through planned programming and partnerships. We are in the early stages of planning programming (which may take the form of in-person events, virtual events, outdoor events or hybrid events) that continue our theme of Global Indigeneity. We are also planning new programming around the theme of empire and imperial peripheries. In particular, we are interested in using our platform of events to showcase the diverse and often marginalized people and cultures that were a part of and engaged with empires throughout global history. We are also planning a collaboration with faculty in the Department of Theater Arts to create a public exhibition that uses historical placards to explore Pitt's Black history from a global and transregional perspective. As a public exhibit, this project will illustrate to the wider Pittsburgh community that the University values diversity and inclusion.

The World Historical Gazetteer Project speaks to core goals of the Center to enrich diversity and inclusion at Pitt by cataloguing suppressed and informal place names throughout World History. In the next year, we plan to develop new tools, curriculum, workshops, and mapathons using the World Historical Gazetteer, that will **enrich student's experiences** by enabling them to tell historical stories about how diverse groups of people have organized, controlled, and moved through space. Our mentorship programs, including the Digital Atlas Design Internship and GSA in public history, will continue to help students to integrate diverse perspectives from the global past into their research. Additionally, a main goal of our growing programs, workshops, and mentorship opportunities for graduate students in the history department is to help graduate student teaching assistants and instructors integrate diverse cultures and perspectives into their teaching and research.

Recognition & Other Activities

World History Center Director Ruth Mostern has a new book – Yale University Press will publish *The Yellow River: A Natural and Unnatural History* this summer. The book situates the Yellow River in the transregional context of Asian and Pacific monsoon systems and empires that span the Asian continent. Ruth continues as Project Director of the World-Historical Gazetteer, which went live last year and is discussed more fully elsewhere in this report. Ruth also has three articles forthcoming or under review on a range of world historical themes: one on research data management for the World Historical Gazetteer, one on global commodity frontiers, and one on global and interdisciplinary themes in the study of water and the humanities. She has participated in two podcasts: one, hosted by the World History Center and discussed more fully elsewhere in this report, about working with historical maps; and one, hosted by the Global Studies Center, about the concept of the Anthropocene. Ruth is extremely active in global communities for world history and affiliated fields. She has become Associate Editor of *IJHAC: A Journal of the Digital Humanities* with a mandate to orient it to global, multilingual, and diverse authors. She sits on several other editorial boards and prize committees as well: *Nature and Culture* (an interdisciplinary publication about global historical and contemporary relationships between people and nature), *The Journal of World History*, and the dissertation prize committee of the World History Association. She also serves as an Expert Contributor for the Seshat Global History Databank.

World History Center Associate Director and Head of Educational Outreach Molly Warsh is currently working on her book project, *Servants of the Seasons: Itinerant Labor and the Making of the Modern World*. In March 2021 she published an op-ed in The Washington Post offering a world historical perspective on the ways in which the Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated the gig economy and made visible long-standing patterns of temporary and seasonal labor. In July 2021, she take over as editor of the prominent *Journal of Early Modern History*, a leading publication in the field of global scholarship on the period c. 1300-1800. Molly also serves on numerous world history-focused boards across the country, include the Gates-Ventures-funded OER Project, the H/21 Project, and the World History Commons project. She is currently half way through a three-year term on the Jerry W. Bentley prize committee, an award given yearly to the best English-language book in world history, administered by the American Historical Association. In Fall 2020, she was invited to serve as Program Co-Chair for the 2023 annual conference of the American Historical Association, to be held in Philadelphia, PA. In addition to these world history-focused activities, Molly remains an active scholar in the fields of early modern Atlantic, Caribbean, environmental, and American history. In addition to her conference attendance and publications in these fields, Molly is serving a three year term on the American Society of Environmental History's Alice W. Hamilton Prize Committee, an award granted to the best article in environmental history outside of the Society's flagship journal of *Environmental History*.

Recognition & Other Activities

WHC Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital History Susan Grunewald presented research at the German Studies Association (GSA) Conference (9/20) and the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Conference (ASEEES) (11/20). Susan submitted a manuscript that was accepted for publication in the journal *German History* which will be published in 2022. Susan has a book proposal and manuscript under consideration at the Cornell University Press. Susan is active in the programming of the university library and co-taught five workshops in GIS at the library with Boris Michev, the GIS Liaison Librarian, three in the fall, two in the spring. Susan also regularly assists faculty and graduate students in their own mapping projects and research. This year she helped three faculty members (one in History, one in Urban Studies, and one in Musicology) and one undergraduate (Art History) with mapping projects.

WHC Research Associate Alexandra Straub was asked to submit a revised manuscript for review in the journal *Environmental History*, a prestigious journal in the field of global environmental history, which she did in April 2021. In March of 2021, Alexandra was invited to give a guest lecture to the NEH-funded Water in Central Asia course Strategic Management of Critical Water Resources. Alexandra is currently working on a book proposal based on her dissertation research. In February 2021, Alexandra was invited to be a speaker at a mini course sponsored by the Global Studies Center and Asian Studies Center titled "Teaching the Global Water Crisis."

Karl Grossner, World Historical Gazetteer Project Technical Director, served as member of the steering committee for the well-attended Linked Pasts 6 symposium. He also made multiple presentations on the WHG (12/20) and serves as the WHG project representative to the Pelagios Network, and as co-coordinator of its Gazetteer Activity working group (2020-2021). Karl was contracted for software development working towards a Version 2 launch of WHG in July funded by the Royal Dutch Academy's Humanities Cluster group (01/21-06/21).

Challenges/Concerns

Relative to its modest budget and staff size, the World History Center has sponsored a very active agenda. Over the past year the Center has maintained locally and globally-visible programming including diverse workshops, innovative research initiatives, and collaborations. With only one full-time staff person and one postdoctoral fellow, the Center is able to support this programming in addition to mentoring and training a large number of students at the University of Pittsburgh. Our work is recognized at Pitt and around the world: we can measure that through the invitations we receive for collaborations and other opportunities. While the WHC enthusiastically embraces the opportunities that come our way, we have been constrained by our limited funding and staff support, especially during the 2020-2021 AY. Most urgently, one of our signature projects, the World Historical Gazetteer, is presently funded grant to grant despite being a high profile and highly visible digital humanities venture. The Gazetteer has no guaranteed staff or budget. While the project team is persevering, it has been difficult for the Gazetteer to thrive between grant cycles and without sustained institutional support. This signature research initiative of the Center cannot continue to exist in this precarious state forever.

Appendices

Appendix A: Images of the World Historical Gazetteer Project

The screenshot shows the 'Create dataset' interface. On the left is a form with fields for Title, Label, Description, Creator(s), URI base, Web page, and Public? (checkbox). Below these are File upload options (Choose File, No file chosen), Format selection (Delimited/Spreadsheet, Linked Places v1.1), and License (CC BY 4.0). At the bottom are Upload and Cancel buttons. On the right, there are informational sections: 'Sample data' (linking to GitHub and TGN/Wikidata), 'Data formats' (describing JSON-LD, GeoJSON, CSV, TSV, XLSX, ODS), 'Validation Errors' (explaining error handling), and 'Consultations welcome!' (encouraging user feedback).

Fig. 1 - Registered users create datasets in a personal workspace by uploading files, optionally tagged public

The screenshot displays the dataset view for 'Utrecht Chronicle of the Teutonic Order'. It features a map of the Baltic region with orange location markers. A table lists dataset entries with columns for pid, src_id, title, ccodes, and geom?. The first entry is highlighted in yellow.

pid	src_id	title	ccodes	geom?
6522385	717_1	Marienborch	PL	☑
6522386	717_2	Eluinghen	PL	☑
6522387	717_3	Lossen	PL	☑
6522388	717_4	Grundens	PL	☑
6522389	717_5	Thoren	PL	☑
6522390	717_6	Tauchet	PL	☑
6522391	717_7	Slechauwe	PL	☑
6522392	717_8	Danssijc	PL	☑
6522393	717_9	Ffridelant	PL	☑
6522394	717_10	Sabevijts	PL	☑

Below the table, there is a 'Parent(s)' section with a detailed description in Dutch: 'Dit sijn die steden ende sloten die aenden Coninck van polen mit horen hulperen aen die pomersche sijde gebleuen sijn;'. It also includes a 'Description' and 'When' field (earliest: 1480; latest: 1491). Navigation controls at the bottom show 'Showing 1 to 10 of 181' entries with page numbers 1 through 19 and 'Next'.

Fig. 2 - Datasets can be viewed, shared with collaborators, and enhanced via reconciliation to Wikidata and/or Getty TGN

Appendices

Appendix A: Images of the World Historical Gazetteer Project

The screenshot shows the 'World Historical Gazetteer' interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo, version 'v1.2', and links for 'guide', 'contact us', 'Search', 'API', 'Tutorials', 'About', 'Data', and 'Logout'. Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Utrecht Chronicle of the Teutonic Order > Metadata > Browse > Reconciliation > Sharing > Log & Comments'. The main content area is titled 'Reconciliation Tasks' and contains two task cards. The first card is for task 'align_wdlocal' (ID: 16717fc5-774d-4609-9ba9-af510a75ab98), initiated on 17-Feb-2021. It shows a result of 170 records (of 181) with a total of 295 hits. The 'Remaining to review' section lists 'Pass 1: 0 review' and 'Pass 2: 29 review'. The second card is for task 'align_tgn' (ID: 8b572aa0-c743-47cf-b2c2-0cc2a6a9e380), initiated on 22-Aug-2020. It shows a result of 114 records (of 181) with a total of 152 hits. The 'Remaining to review' section lists 'Pass 3: 0 review'. Both cards include links to 'Delete task & hits, clear matches' and 'Delete geometries added so far'. Logos for 'LOCAL WIKIDATA' and 'GITY' are visible on the right side of the task cards.

Fig. 3 – Reconciliation tasks initiated and display of their review status

The screenshot shows a detailed view of a reconciliation review. The top navigation bar is identical to the previous screenshot. The main content area is titled 'Reconciliation Review: croniken > wdlocal' and includes a 'PASS 2' dropdown menu and a 'task id: 16717fc5-774d-4609-9ba9-af510a75ab98 (+links+geom)' label. Below this, there are navigation controls: 'Undo last save', 'Save', and a record navigation bar showing 'Record 3 of 29'. The left side of the review displays the details for the uploaded record 'Stroeyborch', including its WHG place ID (6522421), source ID (718_7), name variants ('Brodnica; Strasburg in Westpreußen; Stroeyborch;'), modern countries (Poland (Polska)), place type (town), and various links (wp:Brodnica, loc:n96062724, viaf:126833992, gnd:126647-0, gn:3102627, wd:Q690030, tgn:7007621). A map of the region around Brodnica is shown below the text. The right side of the review displays candidate matches. The first match is for 'Brodnica County' (Wikidata ID: Q552043), with a 'no match' selection. The second match is for 'Gmina Brodnica, Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship' (Wikidata ID: Q2108657), also with a 'no match' selection. Both matches include their titles, preferred names, Wikidata IDs, and lists of variants in various languages.

Fig. 4 – Review of reconciliation results presents deep context for both uploaded record (left) and all candidate matches discovered (right). Matches asserted in this step enhance/augment user datasets.

Appendices

Appendix B: Global Indigeneities Series (all events) Attendance Information

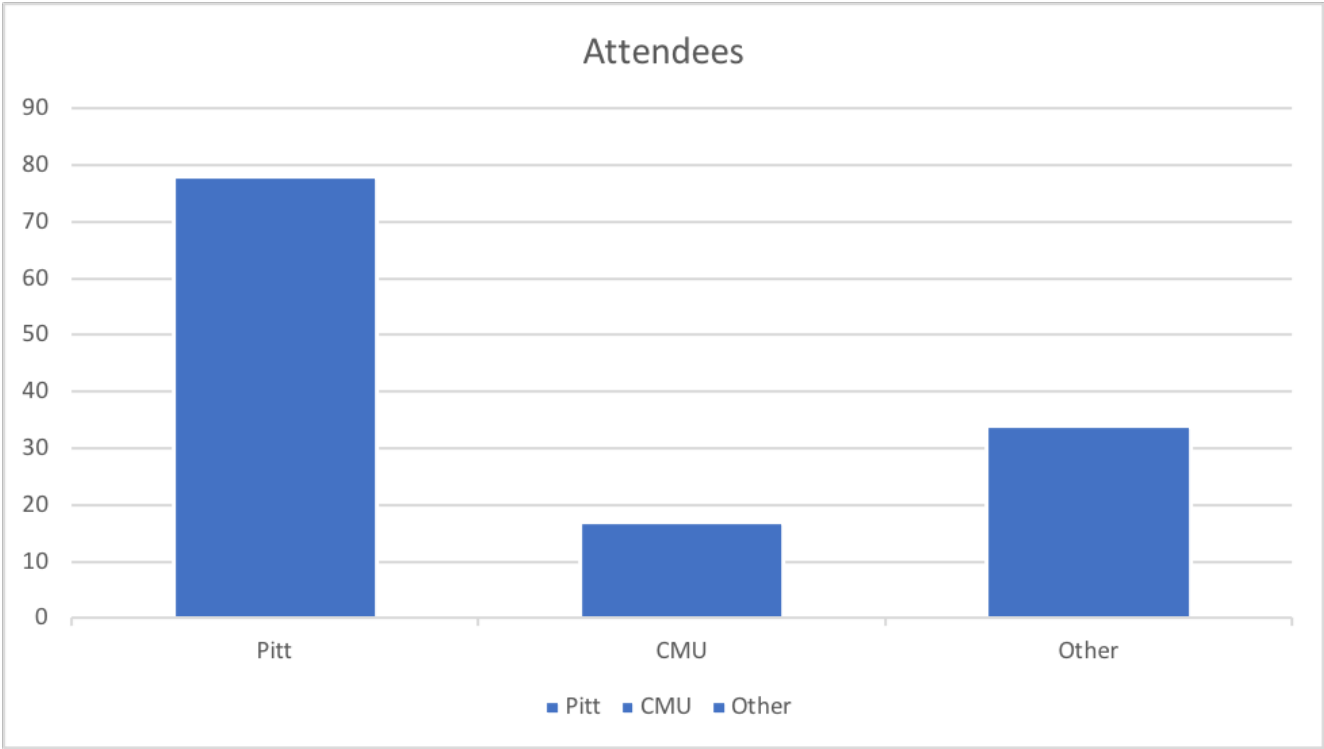


Fig. 5 - Representation of all attendees by institution

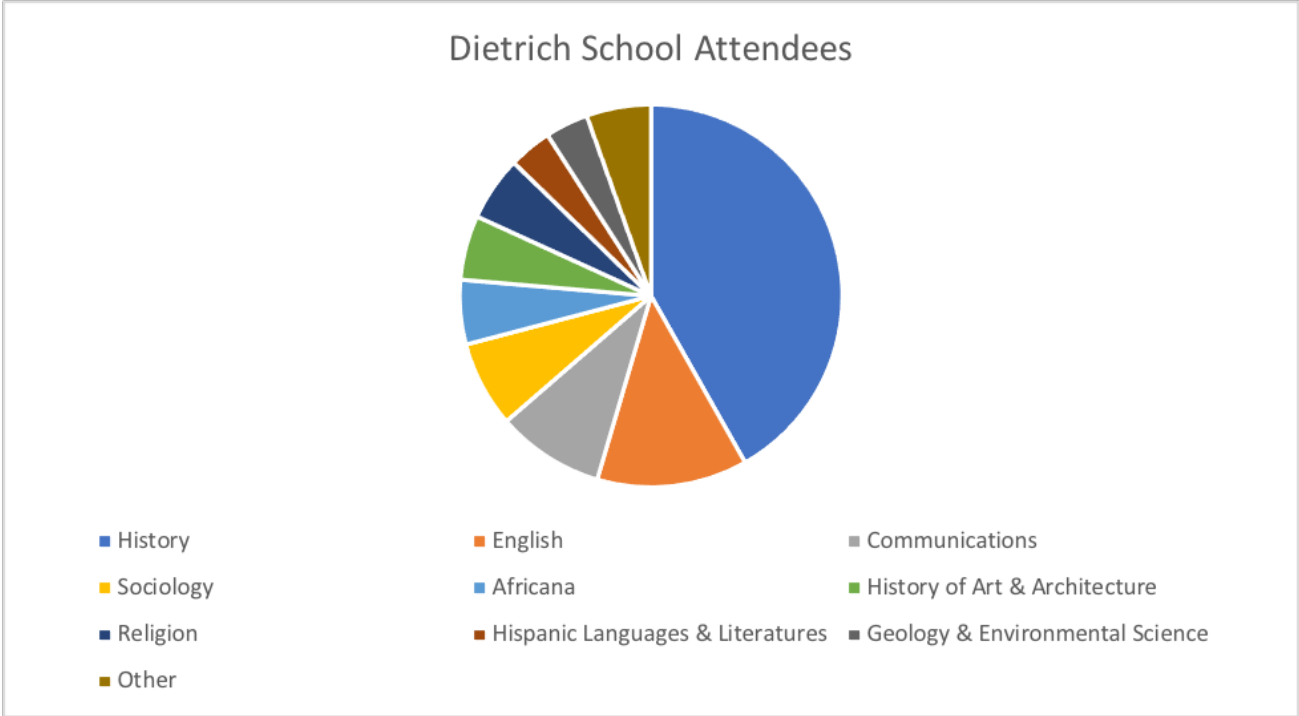


Fig. 6 - Representation of all Dietrich School attendees by department

Appendix C: Digital Atlas Design Projects AY 2020-2021

Intern Name	Department	Term	Project Title	Project URL
Peter Busscher	Political Science	Fall 2020	The Rise and Fall of the "Kyakhta System"	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9480b70e06314c1eac5757fdb470f1e1
Justin Jones	History	Fall 2020	Exodus from St. Domingue	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/5e51c2a794f44b45a4d7fc3e1b835539
Nicholas Koussis	Architectural Studies, Urban Studies	Fall 2020	Roman Temples across the Empire	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/0326d70796f044aea05fa7c346e523b0
Robby Merkov	History	Fall 2020	Balkan Border Changes 19th Century to Present	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7c2c808349974b3d88a8add1640aa385
Phoebe Romano	History	Fall 2020	Railroads and Coalfields in Europe	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/eed744a17bc14875a53b7fd1245bc3f7
Rachel Walker	Global Studies	Fall 2020	The Silent Death	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/adc4bb25c820478785bfd636e741849d
Seth Kornbau	Economics	Spring 2021	French Colonial History and Healthcare Workforce Migration	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/fc25435eabb3468aacbc34162ffc7fb2
Samuel O'Connor	Geology	Spring 2021	The Inca Road System	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f918e494ca3a435ab4198fe7583b0ac1
Lawson Pace	History	Spring 2021	Britain's Informal Empire in the Gulf, 1822-1914	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/859eb8afb8de4bb1a52caf2a4c1d2dc3
Anna Schanne	Geology	Spring 2021	Marian Apparitions	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7d6389d4aefa4c73a3670bd46e04e275
Vidya Surti	Neuroscience	Spring 2021	Reducing Harm from Pediatric Opioid Use in Allegheny County	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a4724db476e84cfdbf353ff2ef158a4e
Sophie Tayade	Chemistry	Spring 2021	Increased Mobility and Innovation in Emergency Medicine	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a60cceb95124608b05cdeb7557c31434
Evan Witman	Political Science	Spring 2021	Arc of Repression	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f0c4df313084420bb2a5fd5421e3f48b
Philippa Zang	Africana Studies	Spring 2021	Geographies of Racial Capitalism	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/ab5610bf3dec4301bc6731615e57390d
Huating Liu	Art History	Fall 2020	Xiaohe Cemetery	Note: MA/PhD Student in Art History. Project not published to protect her research.



RED AND BLACK ALCHEMIES OF FLESH: OFF THE SHORES OF WORK

Dr. Tiffany King
Georgia State University



This public talk will come from Dr. King's second book project tentatively titled, *Black and Red Alchemies of Flesh: Conjuring Black and Native Feminist Abolitionist and Decolonial Presents and Futures*.

Thursday, February 11

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Visit the WHC events page to register:

https://calendar.pitt.edu/department/world_history_center

Moderated by Dr. Alaina E. Roberts, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Pittsburgh and author of the forthcoming book *I've Been Here All the While: Black Freedom on Native Land* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021).



This talk part of a series sponsored by the Pitt World History Center titled "Global Indigenities: Parallels and Intersections in the Global Fight for Reparations and Treaty Rights." Use the QR code or visit the webpage [here](#) for more information.



Dr. Tiffany King is an Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Georgia State University. Her research is situated at intersections of slavery and indigenous genocide in the Americas. King's book [*The Black Shoals: Offshore Formations of Black and Native Studies*](#) (Duke University Press, 2019) argues that scholarly traditions within Black Studies that examine Indigenous genocide alongside slavery in the Americas have forged ethical and generative engagements with Native Studies—and Native thought—that continue to reinvent the political imaginaries of abolition and decolonization. King is also co-editor of an anthology titled [*Otherwise Worlds: Against Settler Colonialism and Anti-Black Racism*](#) (Duke University Press, 2020).

New Approaches to Political Ecology

Current graduate students present their research in a
lightning round discussion

This event is part of [Environmental-History Week](#) Week 2021, sponsored
by the American Society for Environmental History

monday
april
26
@ 10 -
11:30AM
via Zoom

Discussant

DR. MARY DRAPER

Midwestern State University

Moderator

VICKY SHEN

University of Pittsburgh

Presenters

KYUHYUN HAN

UC Santa Cruz

MATT PLISHKA

University of Pittsburgh

EMILY HUTCHESON

University of Wisconsin

ANIL ASKIN

Brown University

EMILY WEBSTER

University of Chicago

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ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY WEEK
2021



For more information and to
register visit:

[calendar.pitt.edu/departments/
world_history_center](http://calendar.pitt.edu/departments/world_history_center)



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