

CHRONOS

2019 Undergraduate History Conference

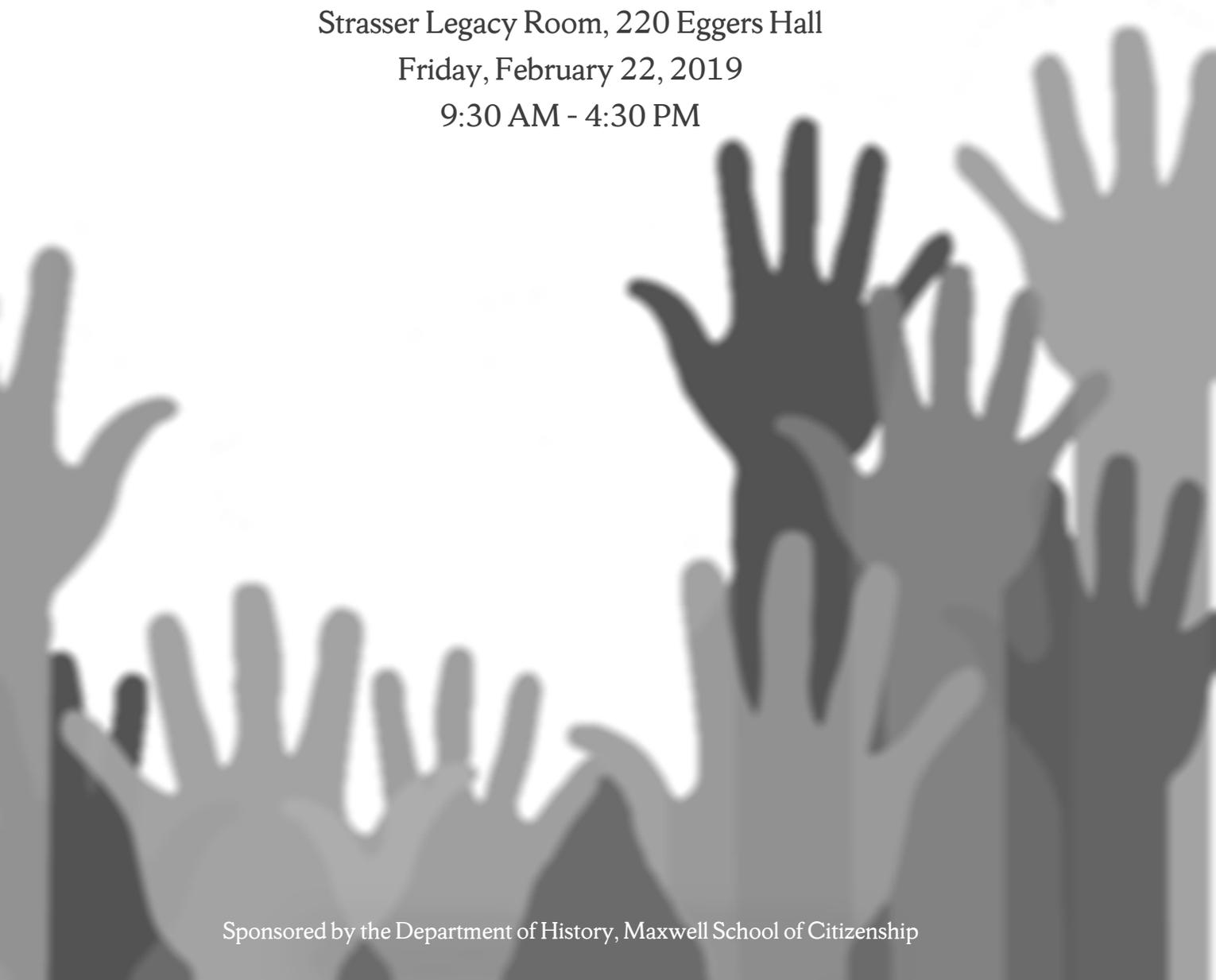
Democracy Transformations and Subversions

With Panel Discussion: "Whither Democracy?"

Strasser Legacy Room, 220 Eggers Hall

Friday, February 22, 2019

9:30 AM - 4:30 PM



Sponsored by the Department of History, Maxwell School of Citizenship

PROGRAM

9:30 - 9:45.....Craig Champion: Welcome

Locating Democracy in Academic Discourse

9:45 - 10:40.....First Panel

Ben Field: *Inspired Democratic Spirits and Active Citizenship: The Establishment of the Maxwell School in a Time of Global Transformation*

Susan Branson: *Democracy for All? Phrenology and the Science of Race in Antebellum America*

10:40 - 10:50.....Coffee Break

10:50 - 11:50.....Second Panel

Amy Kallander: *Democracy or Social Justice? Insights from the Middle East*

Grishma Ghelani: *Democracy and the Rohingya of Myanmar*

11:50 - 12:45.....Lunch

Break

12:45 - 2:15.....Third

Panel

Vincent Wilkens: *On the Meaning of Technology within History: Spengler, Carlyle, and Heidegger*

Joseph Pucciarelli: *Suppressed Voices in the Public Sphere: Republicanism, Ratification, and the Pennsylvania Convention*

Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn: *Beyond Happy*

2:15 - 2:30Coffee Break

2:30 - 3:30.....Fourth Panel

Sarah Piraino: *Stereotypes and Double Standards: Gregory of Tours and Female Violence*

Albrecht Diem: *Democratic Monasteries? On Hierarchy and Equality in Early Medieval Monastic Communities*

3:30 - 3:45.....Coffee Break

3:45 - 4:30.....Panel Discussion

Whither Democracy? Participants: Craig Champion, Ben Field, Grishma Ghelani, Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn; moderated by Albrecht Diem

OPENING REMARKS

CRAIGE CHAMPION

“LOCATING DEMOCRACY IN ACADEMIC DISCOURSE”

PANEL ONE

BEN FIELD

Inspired Democratic Spirits and Active Citizenship: The Establishment of the Maxwell School in a Time of Global Transformation

The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs marked a crucially important moment in American higher education. This paper places the school’s inspiration and goals within the contexts of the emergence of the United States as a world power in the twentieth century, political apathy and isolationism in America at the time, and the “Teapot Dome” scandal.

SUSAN BRANSON

Democracy for All? Phrenology and the Science of Race in Antebellum America

The circumstances of the *Amistad* launch this discussion of phrenology and race in antebellum American society. The trial of the *Amistad* captives in 1840-1841 occurred at a time when opinions about racial differences were evolving into scientific theories about racial hierarchies. Phrenology was a popular science disseminated through publications, itinerant practitioners, and visual exhibits that reinforced long-held beliefs about race.

PANEL TWO

AMY KALLANDER

Democracy or Social Justice? Insights from the Middle East

Frequently Western notions of democracy have ostensibly been rooted in commitments to liberal values and parliamentary government, but opportunistic European powers often preferred and supported authoritarian regimes throughout the Middle East in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Focusing on Tunisia, this paper explores questions of social justice from revolutionary movements in the Middle East.

GRISHMA GHELANI

Democracy and the Rohingya of Myanmar

The Rohingya of Myanmar, a Muslim minority community in the northwestern region of Rakhine, have intermittently faced persecution ever since independence from Britain in 1948. This paper considers how and why the strongly nationalist Buddhist Baman have escalated marginalization of the Rohingya at a time when Western powers are celebrating the country's "democratization."

PANEL THREE

VINCENT WILKENS

On the Meaning of Technology within History: Spengler, Carlyle, and Heidegger

Scholars have written a great deal in recent years about the advances of technology and their impact upon democratic societies. This paper takes up the question through the perspective of Oswald Spengler, supplemented by the ideas of Thomas Carlyle and Martin Heidegger. It views the crisis of technology—including climate change and ecological destruction—through the prism of a pre-ordained stage in the history of western civilization.

JOSEPH PUCCIARELLI

Suppressed Voices in the Public Sphere: Republicanism, Ratification, and the Pennsylvania Convention

This paper raises questions about the public sphere and the early American republic, with a focus on the Convention of 1787. Various moves of the Federalists muted opposition through violence, threatened violence, and suppression of the press.

ELISABETH LASCH-QUINN

Beyond Happy

Recent U.S. history yields new institutions, personality types, and practices that seem to fulfill the founding principles of a new republic famously devoted to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Our times seem to embrace a kind of New Epicureanism. This talk juxtaposes passages from ancient philosophy with a contemporary feature film to see if we can hear the echoes of a persistent intellectual counter tradition as an alternative basis to what passes for our current democratic public philosophy.

PANEL FOUR

SARAH PIRAINO

Stereotypes and Double Standards: Gregory of Tours and Female Violence

In his *History of the Franks*, Gregory of Tours depicts the Merovingian queen Fredegund as an extremely violent and aggressive woman, even towards her friends and family. Scholars have interpreted Gregory's portrait of Fredegund in various ways, but the overwhelming fact in his narration is that Fredegund's behaviors are quite typical and commonplace for Gregory's male figures, and Fredegund's actions would have been passed over without comment, had she been male.

ALBRECHT DIEM

Democratic Monasteries? On Hierarchy and Equality in Early Medieval Monastic Communities

Late antique monastic life is characterized by a transition from ascetic egalitarian communities to increasingly authoritarian and hierarchical ones. Submission and obedience became normative behaviors, but this paper contests a smooth transition, arguing for traces of "democratic" elements in pre-Benedictine monastic communities.

PANEL DISCUSSION

WHITHER DEMOCRACY?

Participants: Susan Branson, Ben Field, Grishma Ghelani, Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn; moderated by Albrecht Diem



CHRONOS
THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY JOURNAL

SPEAKERS: Susan Branson, Professor of American History, Albrecht Diem, Associate Professor of Medieval History, Ben Field, Department of History, Grishma Ghelani, Department of History, Amy Kallander, Associate Professor of Middle Eastern History, Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn, Professor of American History, Sarah Piraino, Department of History, Joseph Pucciarelli, Department of History, Vincent Wilkens, Department of History

CHRONOS was founded in 2005 and annually publishes a selection of the best research papers in history written by SU undergraduate students.

We take pride in the essays chosen for publication because we believe that they offer unique and critical insight to the Department of History of Syracuse University as well as to academia at large.

All CHRONOS issues are available online on our website at chronos.syr.edu.

Since 2017, CHRONOS also organizes an annual conference. We are planning to organize more conferences in the future that feature the best of our student and faculty research and foster discussion on contemporary approaches to historical studies and the importance of history to our society today.

The 2019 Chronos Editorial Team:

Yi Cao - Craige Champion - Ben Field - Gennady Matyushov - Joseph Pucciarelli -
Kevin Treadway - Vincent Wilkens

For submissions, or if you are interested in joining the CHRONOS Editorial Team,
contact chronos@maxwell.syr.edu.