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Contributors


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Rob Boddice (PhD, FRHistS), is Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellow, Department of History and Cultural Studies, Freie Universität Berlin and Department of Social Studies of Medicine, McGill University. Boddice has published extensively in the fields of history of medicine, history of science and the history of emotions. His recent books include A History of Feelings (Reaktion, 2019), The History of Emotions (Manchester University Press, 2018), Pain: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford University Press, 2017), The Science of Sympathy: Morality, Evolution and Victorian Civilization (University of Illinois Press, 2016), and (as editor), Pain and Emotion in Modern History (Palgrave, 2014). In 2020 he will take up a position as University Researcher at the Centre for the History of Experience at Tampere University, Finland. He has two forthcoming books with Cambridge University Press: Emotion, Sense, Experience (with Mark Smith), and Heart Work: Defending Experimental Medicine in an Age of Progress.

Born on windswept grasslands of Colorado, Carolyn Brown’s work is a document to some of the world’s most beautiful scenery and sacred architecture. Her work has taken her throughout Central America, Mexico and the Southwestern United States as well as throughout the Middle East in search of the ancient. She has also documented great sites in Texas such as her beloved Fair Park, Cadbo Lake and the Fort Worth Stockyards. “The experience of photography has transformed my life,” said Brown. “These ancient sites are especially fascinating, because they are steeped in rich history and often reflect the patina of unbroken use through the centuries. The photographs of sweeping landscapes and small places of devotion—all portraying God’s handiwork—are my attempt to depict, in the most beautiful way I know, those places belonging to historic lands.”

Guy Chet was raised in Ness Ziona, Israel. He earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of Haifa, and his MA and PhD at Yale University. He lives in Plano, Texas, and serves as Professor of History at the University of North Texas, teaching classes on early American and military history. His first book (Conquering the American Wilderness: The Triumph of European Warfare in the Colonial Northeast) is a study of English and American military culture. Addressing narratives of Americanization and Anglicization, it points to trends of cultural continuity between the Old World and the New. This theme of transatlantic cultural cohesion also informs his second book, on Atlantic piracy and illegal trade (The Ocean is a Wilderness: Atlantic Piracy and the Limits of State Authority, 1688-1856), and his latest book on the American Revolution (The Colonists’ American Revolution: Preserving English Liberty, 1688-1856). Although a specialist in early-modern history, Chet’s first love was and still is Roman history.

James Elkins teaches at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago. His writing focuses on the history and theory of images in art, science, and nature. Some of his books are exclusively on fine art (What Painting Is, Why Are Our Pictures Puzzles?). Others include scientific and non-art images, writing systems, and archaeology (The Domain of Images, On Pictures and the Words That Fail Them), and some are about natural history (How to Use Your Eyes). Recent books include What Photography Is, written with Roland Barthes’s Camera Lucida; artists with PhDs, second edition; and Art Critiques: A Guide, third edition. Beginning in 2015, impelled by the general lack of experimental writing in art history, he has been working on an experimental novel with images.

Brian Fagan is Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He received his degrees at Cambridge University, then worked in Central and East Africa on early farming villages and became one of the pioneers of multidisciplinary African history. Since arriving in California in 1967, he has focused on communicating archaeology to general audiences. He is regarded as one of the world’s leading archaeological writers and lectures about the past, especially ancient climate change, all over the world. Fagan’s many books include seven university texts, also general books on the history of archaeology, ancient climate change, and, most recently, histories of water, ancient seafaring, rising sea levels, and the changing relationships between humans and animals. His latest book is Fishing: How the Sea Fed Civilization (Yale University Press, 2018). Brian is an enthusiastic bicyclist and cruising sailor, who has sailed thousands of miles in different parts of the world. He lives in Santa Barbara, California, with his wife Lesley, 6 to 24 rabbits, three cats, 7 turtles, and some goldfish.
David A. Gerber is a social historian with a long-time interest in American immigration law and policy and the experience of European immigration and assimilation in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His recent works include Authors of Their Lives: The Personal Correspondence of British Immigrants to North America in the Nineteenth Century (2006) and Pathways of Unity: A Very Short Introduction (2015), a CNN “Book of the Week” in June, 2018. With Alan M. Kraut, he is coeditor of American Immigration and Ethnicity: A Reader (2009) and Ethnic Historians and the Mainstream: Shaping America’s Immigration Story (2013). With Suzanne M. Sinke and Bruce S. Elliott, he coedited Letters across Borders: The Epistolary Practices of International Migrants (2006). He is Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus and Senior fellow in History at the University of Buffalo (SUNY), where he continues to teach a seminar on the First Amendment. Active in a number of public history endeavors, he has served on the History Advisory Committee for the new Statue of Liberty Museum, which is scheduled to open in 2019.

Steven Crosby is Professor of Religion at Clemson University. His areas of scholarship are the Hebrew Bible, ancient Israel and the ancient Near East, nationality and religion, and social philosophy. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago and has taught on Social Thought of The University of Chicago under the supervision of Edward Shils. He is the author, editor, or translator of eight books, including Nationalism: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford) which has been translated into six different languages; and has published more than 60 articles, one book-length chapter, and review essays. He is currently finishing the manuscript Hebrewism in Religion, History, and Politics: The Third Culture, under contract with Oxford University Press.

Allan C. Guelzo is the Henry L. Ruce Professor of the Civil War Era, and Director of Civil War Era Studies at Gettysburg College. He is the author of Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President (1999), Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America (2004), Lincoln and Douglas: The Debates That Defined America (2008) and Pathways of Light: A New History of the Civil War and Reconstruction (2012). His book on the battle of Gettysburg, Gettysburg: The Last Invasion was a New York Times best seller in 2013. He has produced six lecture series for The Teaching Company, on topics ranging from Mr. Lincoln to The American Revolution to (most recently) America’s Founding Fathers. He has served as a member of the National Council for the Humanities, and been designated as a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians. He is the author and editor of The Emancipation Proclamation: A Concise History (Oxford University Press, 2018) and he is currently at work on a biography of Robert E. Lee. His website is www.allencuelzo.com.

Jesse Kauffman holds a BA in history from UCLA, and an MA and PhD from Stanford, and is currently associate professor of history at Eastern Michigan University. His area of research and teaching is modern European political, military, and cultural history. He is the author of a book on the German occupation of Poland in World War I, Elusive Alliance, published by Harvard University Press, and he has written a broader surveying history of the Eastern Front in World War I, which is under contract with Harvard and will be published in 2022.

Katy Kelleher is a writer, editor, and teacher who lives in the woods of Dallas, for the past three years, she has been researching and writing about highly specific colors. She’s tracked the cultural history of various hues, from jonquil to Prussian blue, for The Awl (a now defunct website) and the Paris Review (online). She’s also written about color trends for the New York Times magazine. She currently writes a column for Longreads about the ugly history of beautiful things. So far, this series has focused on tears, perfume, angora wool, and mirrors. She’s also currently working on a book about aesthetics and why we’re drawn to “unappealing” experiences, including horror movies and gore. If she’s not writing or reading, she can be found hiking in the mountains of New England, camping in Canada, or paddleboarding off the Atlantic coast.

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Popular Music of the Jewish Immigrants. His most recent book (2018) is Motor City Music: A Detrotter Looks Back. He has been President of the Society for Ethnomusicology and the Society for Asian Music and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Allison V. Smith worked as a photojournalist for 7 newspapers over 15 years after graduating from SMU with a degree in journalism. In 2014, Allison left the Dallas Morning News to pursue freelance photography for editorial clients and fine art photography. Some of Allison’s regular clients include the New York Times, Nasher Sculpture Center and Texas Monthly. Her fine art projects include exploring the landscape and personality of Marfa, Texas and Rockport, Maine using a medium format camera and Kodak color film to document it all with a journalistic style. Allison is in the permanent collection at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Dallas Museum of Art and Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. She is represented by the Barry Whistler Gallery in Dallas and Hiram Butler Gallery in Houston. In addition to photography, Allison and her mother published a book of Stanley Marcus’s photography in 2008 called Reflection of a Man. www.allisonvsmit.com

Robert J. Stern is Professor of Geosciences and has been a UT Dallas faculty member since 1981. Most of his scientific career was spent studying modern and ancient plate tectonic processes and products, especially the active Mariana arc system in the Western Pacific and ancient (800-550 million year-old) crust exposed in the Arabian-Nubian Shield of Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel. He has made important contributions to the geology of Iran, the Caribbean, and the Gulf of Mexico. Geodynamic contributions include ideas about how new subduction zones form and the evolution of new subduction zones. He has held fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson College, and Florida International University. He has held fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the National Endowment for the Humanities (1985) and the Mellon Foundation, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and All Souls College, Oxford. He has written numerous papers and articles on Byzantine history from the University of Melbourne and served as associate professor from 1974 to 1980. Both an Australian and an American citizen, he is Associate in Research at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard and an occasional Visiting Professor at the University of Texas at Austin. His eight books on China include China in Our Time, Madame Mao, 800,000,000, Flowers on an Iron Tree, and Mao. His The New Chinese Empire won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. He is a many-time contributor to Atlantic Monthly, Foreign Affairs, New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Miami Herald, New Republic, National Geographic, Weekly Standard, and the Wall Street Journal. His prizes include the National Magazine Award and the George Polk Award for International Reporting.

Liz Tropper is an artist, educator and curator living and working in Dallas. She has an MFA from UT Dallas and was a graduate resident at CentralTrak: The UT Dallas Artists’ Residency from 2013 to 2015. Tropper’s artwork is represented by Barry Whistler Gallery in Dallas, and her work has been shown in art spaces such as The Wilcox Space, Bernice Cooter Templeton Gallery at Texas Wesleyan University, CentralTrak, The Dallas Contemporary, Lavandale Art Center, Richland College, UT Dallas, Academic Gallery in New York and many other galleries and exhibition spaces. Troper is fine art faculty at The Hockaday School focused on painting, digital imaging and video instruction.

Frederick Turner’s science fiction epic poems led to his being a consultant for NASA’s long-range futures group, through which he met Carl Sagan and other space scientists. He received Hungary’s highest literary honor for his translations of Hungarian poetry with the distinguished scholar and Holocaust survivor Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, won Poetry’s Levinson Prize, and has often been nominated for the Nobel Prize in literature. Born in England, raised in Africa by his anthropologist parents Victor and Edie Turner, and educated at Oxford University, he is also known as a Shakespearean scholar, a leading theorist of environmentalism, an authority on the philosophy of Time, and the poet laureate of traditional Karate. He is the author of about 40 books, ranging from literary criticism through cultural criticism and science commentary to poetry and translations. He has taught at UC Santa Barbara and Kenyon College, edited the Kenyon Review, and is presently Founders Professor of Arts and Humanities at the University of Texas at Dallas. Recent publications include Light Within the Shadows of Human History: The 2,000 Years of Human Observation (2013) translated and edited by Frederick Turner and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, Syracuse University Press, 2014; The Byzantine State (2013) translated and edited by Frederick Turner and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, Syracuse University Press, 2014; More Light: Selected Poems, 2004-2016, Mundus Artium Press, 2017.

David Weir is Professor Emeritus of Comparative Literature at the Cooper Union in New York City, where he taught literature, linguistics, and cinema. He has published books on Jean Vigo, James Joyce, William Blake, orientalism, and anarchism, as well as three books on decadence. Those books have had a major role in the development of decadence as an academic field of study, beginning with Decadence: A Very Short Introduction (1995), Decadent Culture in the United States (2000), and, most recently, Decadence: A Very Short Introduction (2018), the latter together with his transatlantic colleague Jane Desmarais of Goldsmiths, University of London, he has edited the Cambridge Critical Concepts volume Decadence and Literature (forthcoming, 2019). His current project, also with Desmarais, is another edited collection, The Oxford Handbook of Decadence. His own contributions to both the Cambridge and Oxford collections concern the relationship of cinema to the culture of decadence. He now lives in a Hudson Valley village in upstate New York, where he spends his time writing, fly fishing, and drinking wine.