PERSPECTIVES ON CROSS-CULTURAL HISTORY

A Conference at Saint Louis University

March 19-20, 2010
About the Department of History at SLU

SLU’s history department has provided a solid undergraduate education for more than a century and a half. The graduate program began in 1915 and within a few decades had become one of the preeminent Ph.D.-granting programs in the country. Under the chairmanship of John Francis Bannon, S.J., SLU’s history department acquired a worldwide reputation in the field of Borderlands history. Today, SLU History continues the work of Fr. Bannon by focusing on cross-cultural history, promoting dialogue that spans cultural and academic divides.

About Saint Louis University

Saint Louis University was founded in 1818. The Society of Jesus (Jesuits), who were already running a school for Native American boys in nearby Florissant, took over the college in 1826. By 1832 SLU had become the first chartered institution of higher education west of the Mississippi River. In 1944, SLU admitted African American students -- the first university in any former slave state to do so. During the 1950s, SLU developed its unique Vatican Film Library with the cooperation of the Holy See. Saint Louis University’s ongoing presence in downtown St. Louis has provided an important anchor for a revitalized urban environment.
The Study Group on Cross-Cultural History aims to advance scholarship and discussion on cross-cultural interactions, and to promote an international perspective in research and teaching of history. Our meetings consist of a presentation followed by a discussion. We welcome participants from other disciplines who are interested in this field of inquiry. Cultural history is today the most vibrant and intellectually exciting area of history as a discipline, producing much innovative scholarship. It is also one of the most thought-provoking as it calls for interdisciplinary perspectives and novel methodologies. While historically cultures do not grow and change in isolation but through contact with one another, they also resist such change because of the vital role they play in making sense of the world for their members. The study of encounters between cultures presents us with a profound challenge, both in attempting to understand the past anew, and in facing today’s expanding globalism accompanied by a communications revolution.

Prof. Katrina Thompson of SLU’s Department of History presents to the Study Group on Cross-Cultural History, Fall 2009.
Perspectives on Cross-Cultural History
Conference Program
Friday, March 19, 2010

All sessions meet in Pere Marquette Gallery, DuBourg Hall, Second Floor

12:00 pm  Registration  Pere Marquette Gallery

1:00 pm  Welcome  Michal Jan Rozbicki, chair
Department of History
Saint Louis University

1:15-3:00 pm: Session 1. Recovering Hidden Identities: Moriscos and Conversos

Chair and Comment: Julia R. Lieberman, Saint Louis University

The Converso Phenomenon and the Issue of Spanish Identity
Kevin Ingram, Saint Louis University, Madrid Campus, Spain

Christians, Heretics, Jews? Jewish Converts and Inquisitors Across the Early Modern World
Gretchen Starr-Lebeau, University of Kentucky

Disappearing Moriscos
William Childers, Brooklyn College and City University of New York Graduate Center
Friday, March 19, continued

3:00-3:15 pm  Coffee Break

3:15-5:00 pm:  Session 2.

“Missionaries As Cultural Brokers”

Chair and Comment:
Gerald McKevitt, S.J.
Santa Clara University

Adapting Language to Culture:  Translation Projects of the Jesuit Mission in Japan and China
William LaFarge, S.J., Loyola University, New Orleans

Jesuits in the United States Southwest during the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries:  Agents and Chroniclers of Cross-Cultural Ministry and History
Eduardo Fernandez, S.J., Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University and the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California

The Task of Gender Role Differentiation in Foreign Missions:  The Case of American Methodists in Rosario, Argentina, 1870-1880
Mark McMeley, Texas A&M University, Commerce

5:30-7:00 pm  Welcome Reception, Saint Louis University
Museum of Art, 3663 Lindell Boulevard
Conference Program
Saturday, March 20, 2010

Sessions meet in Pere Marquette Gallery, DuBourg Hall, Second Floor

8:00 am Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30-10:15 am: Session 3.

“Negotiating Culture: The Local and the Foreign”

Chair and Comment: John Carroll
University of Hong Kong

Cherokee Conjuring: How Circuitous the Journey within an Early Nineteenth Century Christian Moravian Community
Rowena McClinton, Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville

The Local As Cross-Cultural Process in Hawai‘i
Christine Skwiot, Georgia State University

La Miskitia: A Struggle for Indigenous Identity in Revolutionary Nicaragua, 1980-1990
John-Paul Wilson, St. John’s University

10:15-10:30 am Coffee Break
Saturday, March 20, continued

10:30 am-12:15 pm: Session 4.

“Africa: Agency, Contestation, and Acculturation”

Chair and Comment: Sylvia Macauley
Truman State University

Conflict and Compromise: Western Biomedicine, African Healing, and Colonialism in Africa
George Ndege, Saint Louis University

The Creation and Evolution of the Pioneer Corps in Kenya: African Agency at the Start of the Second World War
Meshack Owino, Cleveland State University

Africanizing Christianity: Conceptual Ways Forward
Paul Kollman, CSC, University of Notre Dame

12:30-1:30 pm Lunch -- Refectory Hall
DuBourg, Room 157

Saturday, March 20, continued


1:45-3:30 pm: Session 5.

“Cultural Exchanges: Resistance and Adaptation”

Chair and Comment: Angelyn Dries, O.S.F., Danforth Chair in the Humanities, Saint Louis University

Protestant Reflections on the Virgin of Guadalupe: Cultural Symbol or Theological Locus?
Ruben Rosario-Rodriguez, Saint Louis University

Lessons in Whiteness: German Immigrants and Racial Ideology in Nineteenth Century America
Kristen Anderson, Webster University

Lori Watt, Washington University in St. Louis

3:30-3:45 pm Coffee Break
Saturday, March 20, continued

3:45-5:30 pm: Session 6.

“Patterns of Cross-Cultural Interaction”

Chair: Lorri Glover, John Francis Bannon, S.J. Chair in History, Saint Louis University

Across the Alps: Italian Religious Culture in French Translation
Thomas Worcester, S.J., College of the Holy Cross

Cross-Cultural Interactions in History: Some Theoretical Reflections
Michal Jan Rozbicki, Saint Louis University

Comment and Discussion: The Audience

6:00-6:30 pm Cocktails, Sinuefield State Room
DuBourg Hall, Room 409

6:30 pm Dinner, Sinuefield State Room
DuBourg Hall, Room 409
Keynote Address (see next page)

“The Queen’s Indian troops (Sikhs) on grounds of summer palace near Peking, China, “ 1902. Courtesy Library of Congress.
Keynote Address, March 20, 2010, 6:30 pm

“Crossing Cultures and Expectations”
James Axtell
Kenan Professor of Humanities Emeritus
College of William and Mary

We are honored to welcome James Axtell, one of the most distinguished scholars of the encounter between Europeans and Native Americans, as our keynote speaker. Dr. Axtell recently retired as the Kenan Professor of Humanities in the Department of History at the College of William and Mary. His books include After Columbus: Essays in the Ethnohistory of Colonial North America (Oxford, 1988); Beyond 1492 (Oxford, 1992); and Natives and Newcomers: The Cultural Origins of North America (Oxford, 2001).

Art Exhibit: “Crossing the Divide:
Jesuits on the American Frontier”
Saint Louis University Museum of Art
3663 Lindell Boulevard

We are also pleased to announce a special art exhibit in conjunction with the Perspectives on Cross-Cultural History Conference, entitled “Crossing the Divide.” This exhibit focuses on art works and other artifacts relating to the Jesuit presence in the American West. Pierre-Jean de Smet, Pierre Verhaegen, and Charles van Quickenborne of the Society of Jesus were keen observers of the native peoples they encountered, creating grammars of Indian languages, drawing maps, and describing geological wonders. The museum will be open from 11 am to 8 pm Friday and 11 am to 4 pm Saturday.
Transportation and Directions

We are happy to offer rides to and from the airport. Public transportation is also available via Metrolink, St. Louis’ light rail system (Central West End stop). Presenters will stay at Hotel Indigo, 4630 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63108. Shuttle transportation will be provided to the Saint Louis University campus from the Hotel Indigo throughout the conference.

Arriving by car: Saint Louis University and the Hotel Indigo are located just off Interstate 64.

To Saint Louis University: Eastbound or westbound on I-64: take Grand Avenue exit. Turn right (north) onto Grand Avenue. Turn left (west) onto Laclede Avenue. Turn left into the parking garage entrance (B on map). Take a ticket and park in Visitor Parking to the left. Parking rates are $1.50 per hour and $5 for an entire day. If the Laclede garage is full, you may continue north on Grand Avenue to Lindell Boulevard. Turn right on Lindell, which will become Olive Street. The Olive garage is located on the right side of the street, at the corner of Lindell and Compton (C on map).

To Hotel Indigo: Eastbound or westbound on I-64: take Kingshighway exit and head north. Drive past Barnes-Jewish Hospital complex and turn right on Lindell Boulevard. Hotel Indigo will be on your right.

To DuBourg Hall: (A on map) DuBourg is next to the College Church, which is on the corner of Lindell and Grand. It is just south of the church.
General Information

There is no registration fee for the conference. Please register prior to the conference by email to Kathy Bonsack at kbonsack@slu.edu. If you are unable to register by email, please be sure to stop at the registration table on the day of the conference. If you plan to join us for lunch and/or dinner on Saturday, March 20th, register for meals by March 10, 2010. Please indicate your meal choice: meat, chicken, or fish. Your cost will be $25 ($5 lunch, $20 dinner). Checks should be made payable to “The History Department” and mailed to Kathy Bonsack, History Department, 3800 Lindell Boulevard Room 137, St. Louis, MO 63108.

Thanks to our Sponsors

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The Lubin-Green Foundation of St. Louis

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The John Francis Bannon, S.J. Chair in History, Saint Louis University

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