

The Urban History Association

Urban History News - September 2022 edition

Conversations on the Academic Job Market (Virtual Event): Join three scholars who have recently secured academic positions in history and architecture. They will share their experiences and offer tips for navigating the often difficult terrain of the academic job search. There will be ample time for conversation so bring any and all questions! There's still time to register [HERE](#) for the Zoom link. **Meeting Date: October 1, 2022 at 2pm Eastern**

UHA 2023 Conference Dates: The 2023 UHA Conference will be October 26th - 29th, 2023 in Pittsburgh, PA. A Call For Papers will be circulated in September. We will continue adding to the new conference site so please [check here for the most up-to-date information!](#)

UHA Online Program Interest: The Programming Committee is working on creating new online programs and would like your input! Please fill out [this form](#) to help them determine where they can be most useful.

Spring UHA bibliographies: Our spring 2022 bibliographies are now available! Click [here](#) for German articles and books, [here](#) for Canadian articles and books, [here](#) for U.S. books, and [here](#) for U.S. articles. If you are interested in contributing a bi-annual bibliography for a subject area we don't yet cover, or if you want to let us know about an article or book we missed in our spring 2022 bibliographies, please email us at info@urbanhistory.org. The next set of bibliographies is coming soon!

Open calls

OAH International Residencies: The Organization for American Historians will offer residencies in Germany and Japan in 2023. [Click here](#) for more information. **Deadline: October 1, 2022.**

Call for Papers: Rochester and the Mid-sized American City in the 21st Century: A Conference and Conversation, April 21-22, 2023. For CFP and more info on how to submit [click here](#). **Deadline: October 15, 2022.**

Registration open for SACRPH 2022 Harlem: The Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH) is pleased to announce its 19th National Conference on all aspects of urban, regional, and community planning history and their relationship to urban and metropolitan studies. **Conference dates: October 20-21** [Click here for more information](#)

2022 New Deal Book Award: *The Living New Deal* has opened submissions for their 2022 New Deal Book Award. [Click here](#) for more details about how to submit. **Deadline: November 14, 2022.**

News from *The Metropole*

The official blog of the Urban History Association

In anticipation of the UHA's 2023 conference, our **January theme for 2023 will be Pittsburgh. March 2023's theme will be the Scientific City**, focusing on the intersection of science and the metropolis. We welcome pitches from authors for both theme months, and can offer compensation for those selected thanks to the generous sponsorship of Penn State's Department of History.

New Workshop! The founding editors of *The Metropole* are offering a free, 90 minute virtual, interactive workshop to graduate programs or student groups. In History Blogging 101, participants learn what makes public-facing history writing appealing to readers, and the mechanics of how to write and publish compelling blog posts on historical topics. Please email themetropole@urbanhistory.org for more information and to schedule a workshop for your history graduate program or student group.

Featured Content from *The Metropole*

The Metropole spent September exploring the history of the legendary city of Istanbul publishing six posts on the city throughout the month:

- [City of Empire: An Overview and Bibliography of Istanbul](#)
- [Counterinsurgency and Insurgency Safety in Istanbul](#)
- [Istanbul Under Allied Occupation: Venues of Resistance](#)
- [Visibility and Power: The Changing Nature of Public Space in the Beyoğlu District of Istanbul](#)
- [Once Upon a Time in Istanbul: The City of Melancholy as Remembered by Orhan Pamuk](#)
- [For Whom The Clock Ticks? Cannon Balls, Cruise Ships And Capital Accumulation On The Bosphorus](#)



For a full list of *The Metropole*'s editorial team members, [click here](#).

For blog submission guidelines, [click here](#).



Meet Madeline Webster!

Dissertation:

"A Usable Past: Black Bostonians' Adaptive Reuse of their City, 1876-1976" explores Black Bostonians' historic preservation efforts over time. The four case studies reveal how Black men and women ensured the longevity of historic sites and leveraged their resonances for racial justice activism by adapting them to new uses. These efforts were subsequently belittled or recast as blight by the white mainstream preservation movement.

Your current position:

Program manager with the Boston Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics, the City's civic research and design lab. I'm currently working on a slate of projects spanning from mapping the city's areaways (privately-owned vaults underneath the sidewalks that pose numerous accessibility issues), to bringing real-time transit information to public library branches, to exploring what an indigenous history trail (think Freedom Trail but anti-colonial) might look like.

How did urban history/UHA inform your career pursuits?

I was really excited about the prospect of inviting urban historians who had found jobs working in local government when I participated in putting together a panel for Urban History Month last year with the early career committee. **As an historian studying Boston who loves expanding what it means to be a public historian to its broadest application, I had been considering a career working for the City for some time before the panel, though I was in need of a big push to get myself on the job market.** We invited Meagan Elliott, who currently works for the City of Detroit as Chief Parks Planner, to be on panel, and she reminded me about all the federal funds being pumped into cities as the federal government helps the country rebound from the pandemic, and how now was an exciting time to seek a job with a municipality (plus, Mayor Michelle Wu was elected a few days after this panel took place, so that was the final push I needed!). I was holding Meagan's words in my head when I saw the posting for my current job on the City's website.

Any future plans?

Luckily, the New Urban Mechanics were willing to take me on as a bit of an experiment to see how an urban historian skillset can be applied to solving contemporary urban problems. I'm still figuring this out. Stay tuned for the results! I am also in the process of figuring out how to finish up my dissertation while working a full-time job. It's a challenge, but taking this position has been well worth it.

If you have any questions for Madeline, or want to learn more, contact her here: webstemf@bu.edu

Are you a grad student or early career professional working on a new scholarly/public/digital project you'd like featured in our next newsletter? Have you recently started a new job? Completed a dissertation chapter? Published research? **We want to share your work!**
Please send your news here: dsheinin@urbanhistory.org



News from UHA Members

Andrew Wiese and **Becky Nicolaides** are part of a transnational group of scholars awarded a 3-year EU Erasmus+ Grant, titled "**Urbanization and Suburbanization in the EU Countries and Abroad: Reflections in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts.**" The goal of this project is to promote comparative understanding of urban and suburban history and contemporary challenges. Along with scholars from Palacký University Olomouc in the Czech Republic, Universität Duisburg-Essen in Germany, and Université Clermont Auvergne in France, Andy and Becky will participate in a series of conferences, meetings, and collaborative projects, culminating in a final conference at Palacký University in 2024. San Diego State University is the host institution in the U.S. Public programs associated with this grant will take place September 7 and 8, 2023, at San Diego State and the Huntington Library in Los Angeles.

Stephen Pascoe's article, **Melbourne's Aesthetic Turn: Coffee Culture, Industrial Chic and Global-City Elites** is published in *Arena*. [Read it here!](#)

The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded a grant to a digital humanities team at the USC Libraries and UHA member **Becky Nicolaides** to support [Understanding Change: The Los Angeles County Demographic Data Project](#), which will preserve and make accessible a dataset tracing in granular detail numerous social changes in L.A. County from 1950 to 2010. It includes demographic information, voter registration, poverty, and economic data for Los Angeles and 86 nearby suburban municipalities including places in the Inland Empire, the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys, and South L.A. The dataset was gathered over a ten-year period from U.S. Census and State of California data by Nicolaides and a team of researchers, for her forthcoming Oxford University Press book, *The New Suburbia: Life in L.A. Suburbs Since 1945*.

New Book now available from Temple University Press: [If There is No Struggle There is No Progress: Black Politics in Twentieth-Century Philadelphia](#). Edited by **James Wolfinger**, with a Foreword by **Heather Ann Thompson**.

Coming Soon: Cambridge Scholars Publishing will be offering **UHA members a 25% discount** on their upcoming publication [Urban Histories in Practice: Morphologies and Memory](#). The code will be available at login when it is released.

Current UHA Members: Do you have professional news you'd like to share? Email it to info@urbanhistory.org for inclusion in the next e-newsletter. **Not a member or need to renew?** Visit our membership page here: urbanhistory.org/membership.

Join the UHA today!

Not a member? We hope you'll join today. Membership dues support all regular UHA programs and projects and are critical to our continued operation. UHA members receive free online access to the *Journal of Urban History*, as well as substantially discounted rates for physical copies of the *Journal of Urban History* (\$40.50 a year) and *Urban History* (\$58.00 per year for U.S. or international subscribers), discounted registration rates for the UHA conference, and invitations to luncheons at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians. We also do sponsored memberships, so faculty can sponsor a graduate student and pay their membership fee!

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