History

Macalester’s History Department covers a full spectrum of periods and areas including new scholarship relating to gender, race, class, ethnicity, and culture. Students encounter a multiplicity of perspectives and a diversity of teaching styles. Students may major or minor in history.

Faculty

**Linda Sturtz**, professor and chair, researches the history of early North America and the British Caribbean within an Atlantic world context. She has taught courses on the early modern Atlantic world, music as history, and public history. Her current research focuses on the ways that African-Caribbean women sought to cultivate an expressive culture within a slave society and how their tactics adapted to new forms of social control in the aftermath of abolition.

**Ernesto Capello**, associate professor, teaches courses on Latin American cultural and social history, comparative urban history, and transnationalism. He has written a book on the impact of early twentieth-century constructions of collective memory on the spatial and social map of his hometown of Quito, Ecuador. His current research concerns the history of geographic science in Ecuador, Latin American visual culture, and transnational imaginaries in the Cold War.

**Crystal M. Moten** is an assistant professor of African American history. Her research examines the intersection of race, class, and gender, and specifically, she writes about black women’s economic activism in civil rights-era Milwaukee. She teaches courses on modern African American history with particular emphasis on civil rights, economic justice, women and gender, intellectual history, and public history.

**Jessica Pearson** is an assistant professor of European history. Her research uses global public health as a lens to explore the intersection of internationalism and imperialism in francophone Africa in the 1940s and 1950s. She teaches courses on women and gender, race and immigration, empire and decolonization, public health, and contemporary Europe in global perspective.

**Katrina Phillips**, assistant professor, teaches courses related to numerous facets of American Indian history. Her current research analyzes how American Indian historical pageants function in regional tourism economies. She examines the historic and economic impetus behind several pageants and explores the contemporary diversification of tourism and the participation (or lack thereof) of local American Indians.


**Karin Vélez**, associate professor, teaches courses on world history, popular religion, and comparative Atlantic empires. Her research and teaching interests also include first contact at frontier zones, the spread of religion, transoceanic exchange, and the communal formulation of myth.

**Chris Wells**, professor, is an environmental historian whose research focuses on twentieth-century U.S. environmental history. His research and teaching focus on the ways that technology and technological systems have reshaped the American environment, mediating and structuring people’s relationships with the natural world.

Recent Topics Courses

- Blood Diamonds and Black Gold: Resource Wars in Africa
- Bold Heroes and Worthy Deeds: Chivalry in the Later Middle Ages
- Chicana/o History
- Decolonization
- First Encounters
- The Holocaust
- Latin America’s Age of Revolution
- Medieval Mediterranean
- Museums and Memory: American Indians in Public History
- Power, Authority, and the Legacy of Rome in Europe and the Middle East, 400–1700
- Public Health in Africa from Empire to Ebola
- Reinventing the Middle Ages: From Dante to Hitler and Beyond
- Resettling the Plains: Homesteading and Data Visualization
- Uses and Abuses: History of Drugs, Addiction and Recovery in the U.S.
- Women, Gender, and the Family in Contemporary Europe
Honors Projects
Brian Fox ’18 (Helena, Mont.), “A Pirate, A Cowboy, and A Bank Robber Walk In To A Bar...And Undergo a Study in Historical Romanticization”
Sarah Kolenbrander ’18 (Belmont, Mass.), “Pain Had a Face, Indignity Had a Body, Suffering Had Tears: Evaluating the Role of Colonial Williamsburg in Portraying Narratives of Enslavement”

Awards
Russell Fillmore-Brady ’18 (Evanston, Ill.) received a Fulbright Award to teach English in Germany.

Internships and Special Opportunities
The Twin Cities are a valuable resource, and students work in many local archives, including the Minnesota Historical Society, Immigration History Research Center, Social Welfare History Archives, YMCA National Archives, and Jewish Historical Archive. Students also intern at sites such as the state legislature and the Minnesota Historical Society.
Keaton Belbas ’20 (Minneapolis), Rondo Avenue Inc., commemorative plaza panel creator
William McMahon ’20 (Milwaukee), G Strategies, political consultant fellowship
Zhantao Luo ’19 (Yiwu Zhejiang, China), Office of Congressman Keith Ellison, campaign intern
Kasia Majewski ’19 (Oregon, Ill.), American Swedish Institute, archives intern
Rachel Ault ’18 (Larchmont, N.Y.), Clear Talent Group, theatrical intern
Ernest Jefferson ’18 (Chicago), Rondo Avenue Inc., research intern

After Macalester
Russell Fillmore-Brady ’18 (Evanston Ill.) has been awarded a Fulbright fellowship to teach English in Germany.
Sarah Kolenbrander ’18 (Belmont, Mass.) is at Harvard University, Graduate School of Education.
Mara Steinitz ’18 (Arlington, Mass.) is on a Repair the World Fellowship as a Food Justice fellow in Detroit.
Samantha Aamot ’17 (Bloomington, Minn.) is a preservation project worker for the Minneapolis Central Public Library.
Elena Friedman ’16 (Brookline, Mass.) is a research assistant at the Minnesota Center for Twin and Family Research located at the University of Minnesota.
Angela Clem ’15 (Overland Park, Kan.) is a financial aid coordinator (Compliance & Regulations) at Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, Kan., and online editor and social media coordinator for The Ogilvie, founded by graduates from the University of Edinburgh.
Elizabeth Allen ’13 (Nashville, Tenn.) is a talent acquisition and development coordinator at global law firm Paul Hastings in Washington, D.C., having earned a master’s degree in the history of art from the Courtauld Institute of Art in London.
Katherine Donaldson ’12 (Portland, Ore.) is a social science/education librarian at the University of Oregon.
Maya Lindberg ’12 (Stockholm) is a special assistant, Dean’s Office, at Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Mass.
Slaviša Mijatović ’12 (Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina) is an advisor in community relations and issues management for the City of Toronto.
Doris Zhao ’12 (Jericho, N.Y.) is curatorial assistant at The Studio Museum in Harlem.