



FRENCH COLONIAL  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SOCIÉTÉ D'HISTOIRE  
COLONIALE FRANÇAISE

# The FCHS NEWSLETTER

[www.frenchcolonial.org](http://www.frenchcolonial.org)

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## Autumn 2019 Newsletter

Welcome to the updated newsletter!

From this point forward, the newsletter will follow the seasons, giving all of us more time to get the most up-to-date information to you.

A reminder to please take a moment if you haven't followed us on Facebook and Twitter to do so. Our followers are up a hundred-fold! Up-to-date information will always be there, as well as on our Society webpage. In addition, please send pedagogy/ research resource suggestions to Katie Edwards via [webmaster@frenchcolonial.org](mailto:webmaster@frenchcolonial.org).

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1627205484163791/?ref=bookmarks>

**Twitter:**

[@FrenchColonial](https://twitter.com/FrenchColonial)

Robin Mitchell

## President's Message, Autumn 2019

I will begin by saying, as I have many times in the past, what a pleasure it is being a member of this scholarly society. Our most recent annual meeting, in Montreal in June, was a powerful reminder of this for me, and no doubt for many others. Patrick Dramé, Benoît Grenier, and the rest of the team from the Université de Sherbrooke that hosted us did a wonderful job providing many plentiful and pleasant opportunities for us to share our research, stimulate new ideas, reconnect with old friends and make new ones, and to enjoy one of the events that above all others reminds me every year just how fortunate I am to be in this line of work. So, once again, I will express on behalf of the entire membership sincere thanks to our hosts, who I hope spent at least part of the rest of the summer enjoying well-earned rest and recuperation. Highlights of the conference included outstanding presentations by the gratifyingly increasingly large contingent of graduate students and recent graduates who participate in our conference and in the life of the Society, a round table collaboration between the FCHS/SHCF and the Société d'histoire des outre-mers on historiographies on both sides of the Atlantic and beyond, plenary sessions devoted to fascinating discussions of brilliant, prize-winning works by our colleagues Sue Peabody and Christopher Church, a panel honoring the pioneering, inspiring, and continuing life's work of our colleague Pierre Boule, and much else. We are looking forward to an equally wonderful gathering for our next annual meeting in Buffalo, New York, where we'll be hosted by Ken Orosz and Buffalo State College. Please see our web site for details and the call for papers, and submit proposals by 1 November to [Frenchcolonial2020@gmail.com](mailto:Frenchcolonial2020@gmail.com).

Speaking of conferences, I'd like to announce, first, that a selection committee has reviewed submissions for this year's Eccles Prize, which is now awarded annually to the graduate student judged to have presented the best paper at the annual meeting. We had a large number of outstanding submissions, and congratulate winner Joseph la Hausse de Lalouvière, as well as honorable mention awardees Deirdre T. Lyons and Jakob Burnham (please see below here in the newsletter for more details). My second announcement is that we have secured a site for the 2021 conference: we'll be hosted by the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program (CLAW) at the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina. We have not yet set a date, but we are very excited about the opportunities for productive interactions at this ideal site. Special thanks to Vice President Jennifer Palmer for helping to make this possible.

An update on our journal, *French Colonial History*: the latest issue is in press, and should be available very soon. We remain a bit behind schedule bringing out issues, but under the excellent leadership of editor Ken Orosz and associate editor Caroline Herbelin, we have made steady progress in righting the ship. We are on track to be caught up and current during the next 1-2 years. Please do your part to help, and submit your articles to be considered for publication, maintaining the reputation of FCH for publishing the best work in our field. See <https://frenchcolonial.org/journal/> for details and procedures.

Speaking of the web site, you may have noticed that we have a brand new, totally redesigned web presence. Please explore it, using it as a resource to renew your membership and much else. You may notice that we have a new logo as well. We unveiled it at the conference in June, and believe it presents the FCHS/SHCF in an attractive, modern, and inclusive manner. For the web site redesign, we all owe Webmaster Katie Edwards a gargantuan debt of gratitude for her

tireless efforts and amazing wealth of technical expertise. And thanks also to Vice President Jennifer Palmer for taking the lead in enlisting professional graphic designers to revamp our logo.

I will conclude with a characteristic nod to the contemporary relevance of our work. The capitals of a number of former and current imperial metropolises are in more or less deep crisis as I write this message. London is roiled by the strains and drama of Brexit, which may break up the United Kingdom less than a quarter of a century after the handover of Hong Kong—itsself currently suffering the deep turmoil of political uncertainty and long-running street protests—arguably marked the final breakup of the British empire. The strife over Brexit also, of course, disrupts European politics in Brussels and beyond. Perpetual scandal, dishonesty, chicanery, and violent rhetoric profoundly disfigure politics Washington DC and national life in the United States more generally. In all of these situations, it is not hard to find connections to the questions of empire, race, economics, international relations, political culture, and many more, that scholars of France's colonial and postcolonial histories study.

But what of Paris? Over the summer the so-called Loi Blanquer introduced educational reforms that strengthen the place of republican symbols in France's schools—the tricolor, the tripartite motto of the republic, the words of the Marseillaise—but also mandate explicit acknowledgement of France's connections to the larger world—the flag of the EU, maps of France that must include the overseas territories as well as the hexagon. Connections to the republicanizing measures of the Third Republic that some of us study are interesting, measures named after another education minister, Jules Ferry. And of course Ferry was also famous as an architect of France's modern, republican colonial empire. And now, just a few days ago, current education minister Jean-Michel Blanquer revived debates over the presence of headscarves associated with Muslim observance in educational settings....

I am sure I am not alone in thinking that our work has important things to say today, about things that are important today.

Rick Fogarty

University at Albany, SUNY

## Colleagues at Work / Book Announcements

We want to promote your latest works. Please send them to me at [media@frenchcolonial.org](mailto:media@frenchcolonial.org) for inclusion in the next newsletter.

The latest issue of the French Colonial Society journal (volume 18) is now published!

Ken Orosz published an online essay entitled “Literature (Africa)” in 1914-1918  
Online: International Encyclopedia of the First World War. [https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/literature\\_africa](https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/literature_africa)

Patricia M. E. Lorcin has published the edited volume, *A Cultural History of Western Empires, Vol. 6: In the Modern Age* (London: Bloomsbury, 2018), which also includes the chapter, “War,” by Richard S. Fogarty (pp. 26-59).

Jennifer Sessions authored the chapter on “Resistance” in vol. 5, *The Age of Empire*, of the *Cultural History of Western Empires*, edited by Kirsten McKenzie. This volume also includes contributions by fellow French colonial historians Robert Aldrich and Miranda Spieler.

Katie Edwards and Eric Jennings published “An Indochinese Vichy Syndrome? Remembering and Forgetting World War II Indochina,” *French Politics, Culture & Society* 37 no. 2, 27-55.

## Announcements

The new FCHS website has launched! You'll find our new logo and a new aesthetic on [frenchcolonial.org](http://frenchcolonial.org), along with some new features: an integrated Twitter feed, rolling announcements, and a membership directory. We encourage you to login to your account to reset your password (instructions are below) as soon as you can. And going forward, if you forget your password, you can now reset it yourself!

If you have any trouble accessing your account, have feedback about one of the site pages, or have questions, please contact Katie Edwards at [webmaster@frenchcolonial.org](mailto:webmaster@frenchcolonial.org).

Instructions for setting a new password for your new account:

1. Click on “Member login” at the top right of the home page
2. Click on “Forgot password?” underneath the login form. You will be asked to enter your email address, and you will then receive a new password via email.
3. Go back to the login form and log in with your email address and the temporary password.
4. Once you are logged in, click Profile on the upper right hand menu. You can reset your password from there. You will also have the opportunity to opt in to the member directory and

## Announcements (Continued)

select the most relevant research fields. The directory will make it easier to find colleagues based on their research interests; it is accessible only to other members.

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Back in 2017 the society's journal switched over to an online submission system that enables us to more efficiently process and track manuscripts as they go through peer review and move on to copy editing and assignment to a future issue. While the system works well, we have had some problems with incorrect or outdated email addresses as well as incomplete user profiles that do not indicate reviewing interests. The editors ask all members to log in and update their profiles at <http://ojs.msupress.msu.edu/index.php/FCH/login>. Once logged in you should see links under My Account to edit profiles and update passwords. If you are unsure if you have a profile and/or cannot remember your user name and password please contact us at [FCH@frenchcolonial.org](mailto:FCH@frenchcolonial.org) or directly at [oroszkj@buffalostate.edu](mailto:oroszkj@buffalostate.edu). Although overdue, Volume 18 will enter production as soon as we receive revisions on a final article. Plans are already underway for volumes 19 and 20, but we still have plenty of room in both, so please send us article submissions as soon as you can. Generally speaking, it takes 9 months from submission before an article appears in print; that timeframe may be shorter or longer depending on the peer review comments and the extent of requested revisions.

## Call for Papers

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### Annual Meeting of the French Colonial Historical Society

Buffalo, NY  
28-31 May 2020

The 46th annual meeting of the French Colonial Historical Society (FCHS) will take place in Buffalo, NY, from Thursday, May 28 to Sunday, May 31, 2020, on the campus of SUNY Buffalo State College. The conference hotel is the Hotel Henry, a historic site built in 1870 as the State Asylum, which recently

opened after a multimillion-dollar renovation as Buffalo's premier resort and conference center. The campus and the hotel are situated at the north end of Elmwood Avenue, a vibrant, historic neighborhood and commercial district, with lots of restaurants and local shops. The conference venues are also in the heart of the museum district, near the Albright Knox Art Gallery and the Buffalo Museum of History. Both are located in Delaware Park—an Olmsted Park that also served as the grounds for the 1901 Pan American Exposition.

This year's theme will be « Francophone Borderlands», which invites participants to consider the peripheries of the French Empire as central to understanding the French colonial empire and the people who inhabit it, as well as the ways zones and points of contact are particularly revealing of imperial and colonial experiences. However, as usual, proposals on all aspects of overseas France and its legacies will be considered.

The Society encourages students, scholars, and educators from all disciplines to submit proposals. Papers may be delivered in English or French.

Individual paper proposals should include a 100-200 word summary with the title of the paper, name, institutional affiliation, e-mail address, and phone number, and a brief curriculum vitae, all integrated into a single file, preferably in MS-Word.

Proposals for complete panels or round tables will contain the same information for each participant, as well as contact information and a short C.V. for the moderator if one is suggested. The program committee can help find moderators, if necessary.

Please indicate in your proposal whether audiovisual equipment is required.

Individuals wishing to moderate a session should send a statement of interest, contact information, and a brief c.v. as well.

Individual or panel proposals will be accepted between late September and November 1, 2019. Detailed instructions for submission, including specific deadlines, will be circulated to the Society's membership and posted on the FCHS website over the summer. We encourage full panel submissions, as well as single papers. Please email your submission to the Program committee here: [Frenchcolonial2020@gmail.com](mailto:Frenchcolonial2020@gmail.com).

The FCHS depends on membership dues. All conference participants must be or become members at the time of acceptance (January 2018). Unfortunately, the FCHS does not have funds to subsidize scholars' participation at the meeting. Graduate students, however, may apply for the Shorrock Travel Award; details are provided on the FCHS website (the application must be sent with the proposal).

Additional information about membership in the Society, its scholarly activities, prizes, and past conferences is available at [www.frenchcolonial.org](http://www.frenchcolonial.org).



## Congrès annuel de la Société d'Histoire Coloniale Française

**Buffalo, NY, Etats-Unis**

Le 28 au 31 mai 2020

Le 46e congrès annuel de la Société d'histoire coloniale française (SHCF) se tiendra du 28 au 31 mai 2020 à Buffalo, NY, États-Unis, sur le campus de SUNY Buffalo State College. L'hôtel du colloque est l'Hôtel Henry, un site historique construit en 1870 comme asile, et ouvert récemment, après avoir été considérablement rénové, pour devenir le premier centre de conférence à Buffalo. Le campus et l'hôtel sont situés sur la partie nord de l'avenue Elmwood, un quartier historique animé avec des petits commerces et restaurants. Le centre de conférence se trouve également au cœur du quartier des musées, à proximité de la galerie d'art Albright Knox et du musée d'histoire de Buffalo. Les deux sont situés dans Delaware Park, conçu par Frederick Law Olmsted et le site de l'Exposition panaméricaine en 1901.

Le thème de cette année portera sur « les frontières francophones », ce qui permettra de considérer les périphéries de l'Empire français comme les éléments essentiels pour comprendre l'empire colonial français et ses habitants ; les zones et les points de contact sont également révélateurs des expériences coloniales. Cependant comme tous les ans, les propositions de communication sur d'autres aspects de l'histoire coloniale française seront également prises en considération.

La Société encourage les enseignants, chercheurs et étudiants de toutes disciplines à soumettre des propositions de communication. Les communications peuvent être effectuées en anglais ou en français.

Les propositions individuelles doivent indiquer le titre de la communication, le nom de l'intervenant, son institution de rattachement, ses coordonnées (e-mail, téléphone) et comprendre un résumé de 100 à 200 mots et un bref curriculum vitae, dans un seul document, de préférence en MS-Word.

Les propositions de sessions complètes ou de tables-rondes doivent contenir ces éléments pour chacun des participants, de même que pour le président/modérateur (le comité scientifique peut aussi aider à trouver un président/modérateur).

Merci d'indiquer d'emblée si vous avez besoin d'équipements audiovisuels.

Les personnes souhaitant présider une séance sont priées d'envoyer une déclaration d'intérêt, leurs coordonnées ainsi qu'un bref CV.

Les propositions pour des sessions complètes ou communications individuelles seront acceptées à partir de la fin du mois de septembre 2019, jusqu'à la date limite du 1er novembre 2019. Le détail des modalités de soumission sera communiqué aux membres de la Société et affiché sur le site web de la SHCF au cours de l'été. Nous encourageons les soumissions complètes, ainsi que les communications individuelles.

Veuillez envoyer votre soumission au comité du programme par courriel à l'adresse suivante :

[Frenchcolonial2020@gmail.com](mailto:Frenchcolonial2020@gmail.com).

La SHCF est une association indépendante, sans autre source de financement que les cotisations de ses adhérents. L'adhésion à l'association est obligatoire pour participer au congrès. L'adhésion doit donc être effective pour tous les participants au moment de l'acceptation de leur proposition (janvier 2018). Malheureusement la Société n'offre de pas de financement pour participer au congrès. Les doctorants peuvent cependant concourir au prix Shorrock. Les modalités sont indiquées sur le site de la FCHS (la demande doit être faite au moment de l'envoi de la proposition de communication).

Des informations complémentaires sur les activités de la Société d'histoire coloniale française, les prix, et les précédentes conférences sont disponibles à l'adresse: [www.frenchcolonial.org](http://www.frenchcolonial.org).

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### **General Ongoing CFP: Journal of West African History (JWAH)**

by Caitlin Barker

GENERAL ONGOING CALL FOR PAPERS, JOURNAL OF WEST AFRICAN HISTORY

Founding Editor-in-chief: Nwando Achebe

Editors: Trevor Getz, Saheed Aderinto, Harry Odamtten, and Vincent Hiribarren

Book Review Editors: Mark Deets and Ndubueze Mbah

The [Journal of West African History \(JWAH\)](#) is an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed research journal that publishes the highest quality articles on West African history. Located at the cutting edge of new scholarship on the social, cultural, economic, and political history of West Africa, JWAH fills a representational gap by providing a forum for serious scholarship and debate on women and gender, sexuality, slavery, oral history, popular and public culture, and religion. The editorial board encourages authors to explore a wide range of topical, theoretical, methodological, and empirical perspectives in new and exciting ways. The journal is committed to rigorous thinking and analysis; is international in scope; and offers a critical intervention about knowledge production. Scholarly reviews of current books in the field appear in every issue. And the publication is in both English and French; an abstract in both languages is provided. Michigan State University Press publishes JWAH.

The editorial board invites scholars to submit original article-length manuscripts (not exceeding 10,000 words including endnotes, 35 pages in length) accompanied by an abstract that summarizes the argument and significance of the work (not exceeding 150 words). Please see [submission guidelines](#) for detailed expectations. Review essays (not exceeding 1,000 words) should engage the interpretation, meaning, or importance of an author's argument for a wider scholarly audience. See what we have available for review on our [Book Reviews page](#). Please contact our Book Review editors Mark Deets [mark.deets@aucegypt.edu](mailto:mark.deets@aucegypt.edu) and Ndubueze Mbah [ndubueze@buffalo.edu](mailto:ndubueze@buffalo.edu) for more information.

Manuscripts submitted to the Journal of West African History should be submitted online at <http://ojs.msupress.msu.edu/index.php/JWAH/about/submissions>. In order to submit an article, you will have to create an account. The site will guide you through this process.

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## **Prizes and Awards**

### **The Mary Alice and Philip Boucher Book Prize**

### **The Alf Andrew Heggoy Book Prize**

The French Colonial Historical Society awards two book prizes annually for the best volumes published in the preceding year.

- The Boucher prize is awarded in honor of long time members and active supporters Mary Alice and Philip Boucher, and recognizes the best book dealing with the French colonial experience from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to 1815.
- The Heggoy prize is awarded in honor of one of the Society's founding members, Alf Andrew Heggoy, and recognizes the best book dealing with the French colonial experience from 1815 to the present.

For both prizes, books from any academic discipline will be considered, providing that they approach the French colonial experience from an historical perspective.

The deadline for this year's submissions is March 1, 2020. Questions about the submission process should be addressed to Dr. Charles Keith, Chair of the FCHS Book Prize Committee, at [ckeith@msu.edu](mailto:ckeith@msu.edu).

Applicants or their publishers should submit four copies of books published in 2018 (date of publication is determined by the copyright page of the book), one to each of the book prize committee members (addresses listed below). Please make sure to indicate clearly that the submission is for the Boucher or the Heggoy.

#### **Dr. Charles Keith**

Department of History  
Michigan State University  
211 Old Horticulture Hall  
506 E. Circle Drive  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
USA

#### **Dr. Ellen Amster**

Department of History  
McMaster University  
Chester New Hall Room 616  
1280 Main Street West  
Hamilton, ON L8S 4L9  
Canada

#### **Dr. Robert Michael Morrissey**

Department of History  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
309 Gregory Hall  
810 Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801  
USA

This year's awards will be announced at the annual conference of the French Colonial Historical Society in Buffalo.

## **W. J. Eccles Prize, 2019-2020**

### **Announcing the Winner of the 2019 Eccles Prize**

The FCHS/SHCF is pleased to announce the winner of this year's W. J. Eccles Prize, awarded annually to the graduate student judged to have presented the best paper at the Society's Annual Meeting. The Prize honors the memory of William John Eccles (1917-1998), a distinguished historian of French Canada and an outstanding supporter of graduate students. The Prize was created by Bill Eccles's FCHS colleagues to continue his work by encouraging those at the beginning of their careers in our field. From 2000 to 2018, the Prize was awarded to the best article published in *French Colonial History* by a graduate student or recent post-graduate scholar.

From among the many outstanding submissions (almost two dozen in all, eloquent testimony to the vibrancy of emerging scholarship in our field and the commitment of the Society to nurture new researchers and their work), the selection committee judged "Re-enslavement within family in post-revolutionary French Guiana," by **Joseph la Hausse de Lalouvière** of Harvard University, as most worthy of the honor. In the words of the committee, this paper "pieces together a case study in which some family members owned others as slaves. The author's interpretation offers a sweeping challenge to prevalent historiography that conceptualizes ownership of family members as a benign strategy that generally benefitted the enslaved. Paying close attention to family relationships and the intertwined nature of patriarchal and slave owner authority, Joseph la Hausse de Lalouvière suggests instead that some family ties could actually strengthen the bonds of slavery."

The selection committee was also pleased to award Honorable Mentions to two additional exemplary submissions:

"Frenchmen Don't Marry Slaves: Social Ordering and Archival Disparities in Colonial Pondichéry," by **Jakob Burnham**, Georgetown University: "In an exemplary work of archival investigation, Jakob Burnham pieces together profiles for two Indian servants belonging to Marie Cuperly, the wife of the first French governor of Pondichéry, and examines their ambiguous status. Were Anne-Françisca and Marie-Françoise slaves or were they 'apprentices'? And why did Cuperly marry them off to French employees of the Compagnie des Indes? This paper sheds significant light on the intersections of servitude and family in the early modern French empire."

"'We are Free, We Marry,' They Say:" Republican Emancipation and Marriage in the Nineteenth-Century French Antilles," by **Deirdre T. Lyons**, University of Chicago: "Deirdre

Lyons examines the family as a site where meanings of republican citizenship were contested in post-emancipation Martinique. She argues that freed people had visions for their future that clashed considerably with those held by white administrators and planters. Notably, she argues that former slaves, especially women, challenged the state's right to interfere in their private lives. For women, different types of intimate relationships offered various pathways to autonomy. However, formerly enslaved women's defiance of republican ideals of marriage prompted administrators to label them as insubordinate. Lyons draws on an impressive array of archival and published sources to excise the relationship between gender, marriage, and conflicting views on the role of the newly free."

### **Application Procedures**

Graduate student presenters at the meeting in Buffalo in 2020 should submit an electronic copy of their paper to the editor of *French Colonial History*, Dr. Kenneth Orosz [oroszkj@buffalostate.edu](mailto:oroszkj@buffalostate.edu) immediately following the meeting. Session chairs are urged to encourage graduate student members of their panels to submit their papers.

### **Invitation to submit papers or articles for publication in FCH**

*French Colonial History* is the official journal of the French Colonial Historical Society. *FCH* publishes peer-reviewed research articles, review essays, forums, and reflections addressing all aspects of the history of French colonization and of the French colonies, reflecting the temporal span, geographical breadth, and diversity of subject matter that characterize the scholarly interests of the Society's members. Submissions are welcome in English or French concerning any geographical area or chronological period of French overseas expansion, including the metropole and the postcolonial.

*FCH* especially encourages submissions by junior scholars and members of groups underrepresented in History. Graduate students and recent post-graduates (within one year of degree conferral) who publish their work in *French Colonial History* are eligible for the [W. J. Eccles Prize](#).

*FCH* also welcomes proposals for special issues or forums of several articles around a theme. Potential guest editors should contact the Journal Editor to discuss their proposals. Submission guidelines can be found at <http://www.frenchcolonial.org/index.php/journal>.